

Disney FILES

MAGAZINE



WELCOME HOME



Forecasts are calling for an unseasonably frigid summer at Disney Parks, as new *Frozen* experiences crystalize like an icy blast in Southern California and Central Florida (pages 3-4). No longer shrouded in “don’t let them in, don’t let them see” secrecy, these headline-grabbing new additions to the Disney California Adventure and Epcot landscapes have *Frozen* fandom flurrying “through the air into the ground,” sending spirits “spiraling in frozen fractals all around!” (For the record, it’s exceedingly hard to type while throwing my hands in the air.)

You don’t have to be a six-year-old girl to appreciate the *Frozen* phenomenon. Whether your world includes a kid singing “Let it Go,” a loved one describing you as “a bit of a fixer-upper” or good-natured grandparents sweating profusely with the grandkids in line to meet Anna and Elsa – all the while insisting that “some people are worth melting for,” it’s safe to say a Disney film hasn’t left this big a mark on your family’s lexicon since Timon taught the world to speak Swahili.

Of course, there’s plenty more to share in the pages ahead beyond the kingdom of Arendelle, including a Disney Vacation Club 25th anniversary timeline of Membership milestones (pages 5-8) a reawakening of The Force at Disney’s Hollywood Studios (page 19) and at sea (page 22), a new way to experience Central Florida through Adventures by Disney (page 20), and a summer movie slate that includes such highly anticipated releases as the *Finding Nemo* follow-up *Finding Dory* (page 23) and the bold re-imagination of the 1977 classic *Pete’s Dragon* (page 24) – the first Disney film I saw in theaters.

Yes, interns and young readers, I’m old enough to have gone to the movies in 1977. Go ahead and laugh – your time will come. Besides, as Elsa herself sang so proudly, “being old never bothered me anyway.” (At least that’s how I heard it. My ears aren’t as good as they used to be.)

Welcome home,

Ryan March
Disney Files Editor



Humiliating illustration by Keelan Parham

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Use your smartphone's QR code reader to enjoy a video recap of the "Disney Vacation Club 25 and Beyond Bash."



Our most eventful year yet

By Ken Potrock, Senior Vice President and General Manager, Disney Vacation Club and Adventures by Disney

I've noted on numerous occasions that few challenges we tackle at Disney Vacation Club are as rewarding as those inspired by Member feedback. Whether we're enhancing our services, refurbishing our resorts, reimagining our events or dreaming up an unprecedented array of new offerings for 2016 as part of our milestone 25th anniversary, we take enormous pride in granting Member wishes.

Your feedback inspired us to make a particularly big "splash" last summer as we took a fresh look at Member events, beginning with the debut of "Disney Vacation Club Neighborhood Beach Bash" parties at Disney's Typhoon Lagoon Water Park. These complimentary, after-hours events for Members and their Guests answered Members' call for grander Walt Disney World gatherings and represented a game-changing shift from intimate "Welcome Home Wednesday" meet-ups that served hundreds to signature celebrations designed to serve thousands.

The "bigger, better" approach continued earlier this year when nearly 20,000 Members and Guests turned Magic Kingdom lands into their own private playground for two unforgettable nights during the "Disney Vacation

Club 25 and Beyond Bash." Seeing once again the special kind of magic that happens when Members gather has further elevated our excitement for signature celebrations still to come, including the return of the "Neighborhood Beach Bash" to Disney's Typhoon Lagoon Water Park this summer, the debut of the new "Disney Vacation Club Safari Spectacular" event at Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park this fall and the always popular Merry Member Mixer at Epcot this holiday season.

And these signature celebrations are just the beginning, as Members will gather for an expanding variety of events throughout the year in Florida, California, South Carolina, Hawai'i, at sea and even in New York City as a Member Cruise sails for the first time from the Big Apple.

To help you plan accordingly, this edition of *Disney Files* Magazine introduces a recurring "Community Calendar" feature (page 10) that highlights upcoming Member gatherings, from signature celebrations to ongoing offerings. It's part of the magazine's commitment to continuous improvement and, like the events it outlines, it was an idea born from Member feedback.

I can tell you that my calendar – and that of my leadership team – is filled with Member events, which we see not only as enjoyable celebrations, but also as great listening posts. We hope to visit with you and receive *your* feedback at an upcoming event, and we look forward to making memories together for decades to come.



Organizational update from Ken: The Cast and Guests of Disney's Coronado Springs Resort are enjoying a gift that Disney Vacation Club enjoyed for decades – the extraordinary leadership of Sonya Deese-Byrnes. The longtime General Manager of Disney Vacation Club Resorts and a cherished part of the Disney Vacation Club family, Sonya recently became General Manager of Disney's Coronado Springs Resort as part of broader Walt Disney World organizational changes. While I'll miss having Sonya on our team, I'm pleased to have her just down the road and am equally pleased to share that many of her former responsibilities have transferred to Member Experiences Vice President Shannon Sakaske. Shifting these responsibilities to Shannon allows us to take an even more holistic approach to continuously enhancing the Member experience, from the incredible resorts you call "home" to the many offerings that make up what we call Membership Magic.

FROZEN THINGS DUE IN SUMMER

New experiences set to debut at Disney California Adventure Park and Epcot

Disneyland Resort: Set to debut this summer is “*Frozen - Live at the Hyperion*,” an all-new theatrical production custom-created for Disney California Adventure Park.

“It’s not easy translating the lightning in a bottle that is *Frozen*,” Walt Disney Imagineering Creative Entertainment Portfolio Executive Dana Harrel told *Disney Files Magazine*. “It truly is a phenomenon ... We decided to really hone in on some key goals for this adaptation, asking ourselves, ‘What could we do with a live experience that would stay true to the film?’”

To answer that question, the creative team focused on three guiding principles: (1) deliver on the emotional strength of the film through an experience that you can only have inside a theater, (2) stay true to the magic of the film by paying off at least three “wow moments” through a combination of new technology and time-honored tricks of the theatrical trade, and (3) create an experience that the audience will want to repeat again and again.

Among the show’s many “tricks” are those executed in collaboration with master puppet designer Michael Curry, whose distinguished Disney resume includes the Broadway production of *The Lion King*, *Finding Nemo: The*

Musical and the new Rivers of Light production at Disney’s Animal Kingdom Theme Park, and the new *Tangled* production that recently premiered aboard the Disney Magic cruise ship.

“Olaf is going to be wonderful,” Dana told us, giving a nod to one of the *Frozen* production’s key Curry elements.

While casting the right performers is critical to the success of any show, Dana acknowledged that the Elsa role presented a particular challenge.

“We auditioned hundreds of talented performers,” Dana recalled. “It’s a hard role to cast because you have to have that amazing voice and the skills to play this really complex character.”

With opening day fast approaching, Dana expects to feel a wide range of emotions as the

curtain rises.

“You’ll usually find me pacing in the back row,” she admitted. “The great thing about this show is that we have the amazing Liesl Tommy directing. She is a force of nature, and when she’s in charge, everyone is that much calmer.”

Equally calming is the comforting knowledge that the show will introduce new generations to the magic of live theater.

“I’m the mother of two small girls, so this is very important to me,” Dana said. “I took this position working for Disney because I knew that we would be giving children of all ages their first taste of the performing arts. We get to do something very special here with this show – and we know how important it is.”



Frozen in France: The *Frozen* Sing-along returns to the Chaparral Theater in Frontierland at Disneyland Paris this summer, with performances scheduled to take place from June 4-Sept. 18.



Walt Disney World Resort: Connecting audiences to real places and ideas through imagined stories and characters has become something of a tradition at Epcot, where pavilions invite Guests to Journey Into Imagination with Figment, navigate The Seas with Nemo and Friends, embark on a Gran Fiesta Tour with The Three Caballeros and more. The newest – and “coolest” – renewal of that tradition is set to debut this summer, as Anna, Elsa and friends join the landscape of the Scandinavian world that inspired the makers of *Frozen*.

Walt Disney Imagineers have elegantly expanded the Norway pavilion to include a charming Royal Sommerhus in which Guests will hold court with the royal sisters, and have replaced the former Maelstrom attraction with *Frozen Ever After*, a musical voyage through the kingdom of Arendelle.

Set after the events of the film, *Frozen Ever After* finds Queen Elsa embracing her magical powers and playfully frosting over the kingdom – creating a “summer snow day.” Guests visit Elsa’s Ice Palace and the ice-blue world of the North Mountain before returning to the Bay of Arendelle. Imagineers have weaved memorable music and moments from the film into this new *Frozen* story, which features a familiar cast of characters from the feature film and even an appearance by the Snowgies from the animated short “Frozen Fever.”

Bringing cinematic characters to life in the attraction continued the evolution of the Audio-Animatronics art form, blending cutting-edge figures with new animation from Walt Disney Animation Studios to create the most advanced Audio-Animatronics figures to date.

“It’s been so exciting for us to get to see into the filmmakers’ world, and I can tell you they’ve been just as excited to see into ours,” Walt Disney Imagineer Wyatt Winter (who

better for this project than an Imagineer named Winter?) told *Disney Files* Magazine, adding that Imagineers quite literally followed the path of *Frozen* filmmakers.

“The film was heavily influenced by Norwegian culture, and filmmakers conducted extensive research in Norway,” Wyatt said. “Our team was lucky enough to begin our process in the same manner, visiting places in Norway that heavily influenced our work ... While there’s clearly a *Frozen* twist to our story, honoring the culture and traditions of Norway was always among our guiding principles.”

From architectural styles inspired by the team’s historic Oslo hotel to decorative details sparked by their study of rosemaling (a traditional Norwegian folk art), the designs within the Royal Sommerhus in particular read like a travel journal to Imagineers and aim to inspire Guests to learn more about Norway.

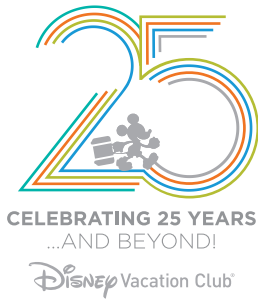
Asked to reveal the project’s greatest creative challenge, Wyatt spoke of a climactic scene in the Ice Palace as Elsa unleashes her powers in a sparkling showcase of special effects, saying, “Making that magic feel real required us to blend practical effects and virtual media in a new way, and the result is truly spectacular!”



Artist Rendering – Proposed



Trip tip: To add more *Frozen* fun to your Walt Disney World vacation beyond Epcot, look for Anna and Elsa at Magic Kingdom Park in the new “Mickey’s Royal Friendship Faire” Cinderella Castle stage show (see details on page 21) and in the Festival of Fantasy Parade. At Disney’s Hollywood Studios, give Olaf a warm hug at the new Celebrity Spotlight meet-and-greet location in the Park’s Echo Lake district, and be sure to catch “For the First Time in Forever: A Frozen Sing-Along Celebration” in the nearby Hyperion Theater. And at Disney’s Blizzard Beach Water Park, take part in friendly competitions as Olaf and Kristoff host “The Frozen Games.”



MEMBERSHIP MILESTONES

As we continue celebrating 25 years and beyond, *Disney Files* Magazine presents a Membership milestone from each year in our community's storied history, along with sentiments shared by Members on Facebook (Facebook.com/DisneyVacationClub). All of us at Disney Vacation Club hope you enjoy this little stroll down Memory Lane, and we look forward to celebrating new milestones with you for decades to come.

1991

The first Members check into – and hear “welcome home” at – the resort known today as Disney’s Old Key West Resort.



“Our first ‘Welcome Home’ was at Old Key West when I was a college student ... Now I have a college student of my own and high school boys that still love to go to Disney. They have basically grown up going there, and the good times and memories made are too many to count.” – *Member Mary Beth Kowalski Mascari*

1992

Members’ flagship resort earns “Best Overall Resort” honors from the American Resort Development Association, the first of many awards to come to the neighborhood.



1993

Members enjoy accommodations at Disneyland Resort in California and Disneyland Paris (then Euro Disney Resort) in France as the variety of Disney Resorts available as exchange options grows beyond Florida.



1994

Members see their home resort in primetime as the ABC sitcom “Step by Step” is among the TV shows to film episodes at the resort known today as Disney’s Old Key West Resort.



1995

Members make themselves at home along Florida’s Treasure Coast as Disney’s Vero Beach Resort opens as the first Disney Vacation Club oceanfront property.



1996

Members’ vacation options expand with an unprecedented two Disney Vacation Club Resort openings in the same year – Disney’s BoardWalk Villas at Walt Disney World Resort and Disney’s Hilton Head Island Resort in South Carolina – and the addition of the Concierge Collection to the Member Getaways program.



“Arriving after a long journey from Scotland and hearing [welcome home] at the BoardWalk as we checked in, I could feel tears in my eyes and a feeling of pride that, instead of being visitors, we BELONGED!” – *Member Rita Finlay*

1997

Members look to the seas as they begin making reservations for Disney Cruise Line voyages, an experience that would become Members' favorite exchange option.



1998

Members log onto the first Disney Vacation Club website - known then as DVCMagic.com.



1999

Members begin enjoying more of Disney's Old Key West Resort than ever as construction wraps on the resort's final phase.



"My son took his first steps and celebrated his first birthday ... at Old Key West." — Member Jennifer West Signs

2000

Members venture "into the woods" with the opening of The Villas at Disney's Wilderness Lodge.



2001

Members celebrate their magical community's milestone 10th anniversary.



2002

More Members wake up within walking distance of Epcot as Disney's Beach Club Villas opens.



2003

Members begin adding Disney's Saratoga Springs Resort & Spa to their families' collection of Disney Vacation Club Resorts. (The resort would open in 2004.)



"My husband had to answer him for me because I was speechless." — Member Regina Jordan Hopper, recalling the first time a Cast Member greeted her with the words "welcome home"

2004

Members' growing influence "drives" a Walt Disney World roadway name change as Community Drive becomes Disney Vacation Club Way.



"The first time our son heard [welcome home] he was 3 years old and with his little knowledge of English (Spanish is our native language), he understood and embraced those words to the letter, and ever since [has] called DVC resorts 'our Disney home.'" — Member Katty Alvarado

2005

Families begin discovering the magic of Membership on the West Coast through a Disney Vacation Club Preview Center that debuts at Disneyland Resort as part of the Happiest Homecoming on Earth.



2006

Members celebrate their magical community's milestone 15th anniversary and begin enjoying guided vacations through Adventures by Disney as the newest exchange options.



2007

Members go "wild" as Disney's Animal Kingdom Villas opens with accommodations in Jambo House (followed by Kidani Village, completed in 2009).



2008

Members tune in for the first dedicated Disney Vacation Club TV special as "Disney's Best Kept Secret" airs on Travel Channel.



2009

It's a bi-coastal celebration as both Bay Lake Tower at Disney's Contemporary Resort and The Villas at Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa welcome their first Members home, and Members go "glamping" as Disney's Saratoga Springs Resort & Spa adds Treehouse Villas.



"My family says that I gave a loud 'whoop' and ran to the balcony, jumping over the coffee table like a champion hurdler ... I had always wanted to see the Electrical Water Pageant but was never in the right place at the right time. Watching the floats go by that evening from the balcony of my new 'home' was truly magical." — Member Sarah-Jane Downing, recalling her first stay at Bay Lake Tower

2010

Members enjoy Walt Disney Studios' *Secretariat* aboard a Member Cruise voyage weeks before the film opens in theaters, paving the way for subsequent Member Cruise advance screenings ranging from Tim Burton's *Frankenweenie* to Disney•Pixar's now Academy Award-winning *Inside Out*.



2011

Members celebrate their magical community's milestone 20th anniversary and head to paradise as Aulani, Disney Vacation Club Villas, Ko Olina, Hawai'i, opens.



"Arriving at ... Aulani for our first stay, we walked through the lobby and got our first panoramic view of Waikolohe Valley. The trade winds whispered, 'Welcome home.'" — Member Helga Bergthold

2012

Members begin making Disney Vacation Club Resort reservations online for the first time. (Today, more than half of Members' Disney Vacation Club Resort reservations are made online.)



2013

Mary Poppins' penguins are among the "grand" details Members discover as The Villas at Disney's Grand Floridian Resort & Spa opens.



2014

Members begin enjoying "Membership Magic," a wide range of offerings designed to continually enhance the value, flexibility and special extras of Membership.



2015

Members add a "third jewel" to their "monorail crown" with the opening of Disney's Polynesian Villas & Bungalows, and a neighborhood tradition sails into uncharted waters with the first Member Cruise to Alaska.



"When the heart [shaped] firework exploded, she said 'Minnie must have sent that one.' No matter what age she is, she'll always be the sweet angel on that balcony." — Member Otis Johnson, recalling the first time he watched the "Wishes" fireworks spectacular on his balcony with his 5-year-old niece

2016

Members discover a vast array of new offerings, from in-Park events to the first Member lounge in a Disney Park, as Disney Vacation Club celebrates 25 years...and beyond!



"My favorite will always be my next visit!" — Member Jacquelyn Mallen Law

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS
...AND BEYOND!

Disney Vacation Club®

WHERE TO NEXT?

Rooted in tradition

Members leave a legacy during tree-planting ceremonies

Disney Vacation Club Resorts: Like a deeply rooted tree that grows to become more beautiful over time, the magic of Membership is designed to be enjoyed not just today, but for decades to come. So when Disney Vacation Club looked to commemorate 25 years and beyond with a symbol that would endure long after 2016 comes to an end, the answer was simple: plant a tree.

Celebrating Earth Day, Disney's commitment to conservation and their own magical community, Members gathered at many Disney Vacation Club Resorts on April 22 for the planting of trees (each considerably larger than the seedling shown here for dramatic effect).

The new trees are marked with

commemorative plaques, celebrating our community's milestone anniversary and making the trees easy to find as Members return year after memorable year.

Participating Resorts' concierge Cast Members are happy to share the trees' locations, allowing Members to make these majestic symbols part of their family photos. Who knows, maybe the trees will spark a new tradition of families engaging in friendly games of "what grows faster - kids or trees?" (Please, kids, no wagering.) However you enjoy these new additions to your neighborhood, all of us at Disney Vacation Club hope they remind you to celebrate your roots and grow your traditions.





Community Calendar

Disney Files Magazine is pleased to highlight Member events* on tap for the season ahead and beyond. Please note that event dates, locations and other details are subject to change, and that you can access complete information (including pricing and registration information if applicable) through the Event Calendar online at disneyvacationclub.com. Located under the site's Plan Vacations tab, the calendar allows you to browse all events, sort by destination or event type, and more.

*With the exception of the Condominium Association Meeting, the events listed here are considered "Membership Extras," and eligibility restrictions apply. For details, please see the important information at the bottom of page 1.



AROUND THE CORNER

Disneyland Resort

- July 17: Disney Vacation Club summer event (name in development at press time), Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa

Walt Disney World Resort

- June 23 and 29, and July 6 and 13: Disney Vacation Club Neighborhood Beach Bash, Disney's Typhoon Lagoon Water Park
- July 3: Disney Vacation Club Independence Day Dessert Party, Disney's Contemporary Resort
- Sept. 6, 13, 22 and 27: Disney Vacation Club Safari Spectacular, Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park



DOWN THE ROAD

Disneyland Resort

- Oct. 31: Disney Vacation Club Halloween Event, Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa
- Dec. 24: Disney Vacation Club Grand Californian Holiday Dinner, Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa

Walt Disney World Resort

- Oct. 31: Disney Vacation Club Halloween Event, Disney's Contemporary Resort
- Nov. 24: Disney Vacation Club Thanksgiving Dinner, Disney's Contemporary Resort
- Nov. 25, and Dec. 2, 9, 16 and 23: Disney Vacation Club Merry Member Mixer, Epcot
- Dec. 24: Disney Vacation Club Holiday Dinner, Disney's Contemporary Resort
- **Condominium Association Meeting:** Watch disneyvacationclub.com for time and location details for the annual condominium association meeting for all condominium associations, currently scheduled to take place on Dec. 8 at Walt Disney World Resort. Also note that, as part of its commitment to conservation, Disney Vacation Club offers Members the option of receiving email communications from their condominium association(s) instead of traditional mail. Simply update your contact preferences online at disneyvacationclub.com (look for the Condo Association News section within the My DVC Membership tab).



ONGOING

Disneyland Resort

- A variety of Member events take place at, or begin from, Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa, including Disney Vacation Club Fitness in the Park sessions most Tuesday mornings from March-November and the Disney Vacation Club Neighborhood Powerwalk (weather permitting) on most Thursday mornings.

Walt Disney World Resort

- Bowl with your neighbors during Disney Vacation Club Member Night at Splitsville, at Disney Springs West Side on most Wednesday evenings, compete for the best catch during the Disney Vacation Club Member Fishing Tournament at Disney's Contemporary Resort Marina on most Thursday mornings and enjoy the Disney Vacation Club Member Magic Kingdom Fireworks Cruise from Disney's Contemporary Resort Marina on most Wednesday evenings.
- **Plan your pool time:** Visit disneyvacationclub.com for complete details about Members' ability to "hop" to other eligible pools at select Walt Disney World Resorts during their vacation. While a variety of important rules and restrictions are listed on the website, Disney Files Magazine can report that pool hopping won't be available May 27-30, June 26-July 9, Sept. 2-5, and Nov. 21-26, 2016, and Dec. 23, 2016-Jan. 2, 2017.

Aulani

- Member offerings at Aulani include the Member Maka'ika'i: Art & Nature Walking Tour of Aulani, beginning in the Maka'ala Lobby on most Wednesday and Sunday afternoons; and the Disney Vacation Club Member Culinary Dessert Demonstration at Makahiki – The Bounty of the Islands restaurant on most Thursday afternoons.

Disney Vacation Club®

MEMBERSHIP



Off through the waves they roll

Members enjoy extras on Walt Disney World waterways

Walt Disney World Resort: A wise crab once said (or sang), “The seaweed is always greener in somebody else’s lake.” Fortunately, Members seem pretty content with their own lakes, as they happen to be two of the most magical on earth.

With Cinderella Castle on their collective horizon and four Disney Vacation Club Resorts along their sweeping shores, Bay Lake and Seven Seas Lagoon are refreshing staples of the Member experience. And with marina boat rentals only scratching the surface of the waterways’ special Membership Extras, there are plenty of reasons for Members to spend this summer out on the lakes. Here are just two of the *Disney Files* staff’s favorite offerings designed to have Members “devotin’ full time to floatin.”

Disney Vacation Club Largemouth Bass Tournament*: Held most Thursdays from 10 a.m.-noon, this weekly tournament invites Members and their Guests to put their tackle to the test as they vie for prizes awarded for the largest and heaviest bass. Participants start their day with a continental breakfast - included in the cost of the experience - before setting sail on Bay Lake and Seven Seas Lagoon to compete for the biggest or heaviest catch. (And don’t worry about snagging Flounder. He prefers salt water.)

Magic Kingdom Fireworks Cruise: Serving sweet treats with stunning views on most Wednesday evenings, this night-capping experience invites Members and their Guests to enjoy a champagne toast and chocolate-covered strawberries before departing the Disney’s Contemporary Resort marina and sailing the Seven Seas Lagoon, where they’re treated to unobstructed views of the Wishes Nighttime Spectacular in the Magic Kingdom sky, complete with onboard music from the show’s stirring soundtrack. When the timing and weather are right, Members may even enjoy an up-close view of the Electrical Water Pageant - a cherished Walt Disney World tradition since 1971.

Learn more in the My News, Offerings & More section of disneyvacationclub.com before calling Member Services to book these experiences. Note that space is limited for both events and reservations are required.

As our friend Sebastian would say, “Such wonderful things surround you. What more is you lookin’ for?” (Easy on his grammar - crab schools are woefully underfunded.)

*Please see important eligibility information at the bottom of page 1. Note that all recreational offerings are subject to change without notice. Advance registration is required, and booking is subject to availability. The Disney Vacation Club Bass Tournament and Magic Kingdom Fireworks Cruise experiences are not subject to additional discounts.





Wear your pride on your sleeve (or wrist)

25th anniversary merchandise debuts, with more on the way

Disney Vacation Club: Limited edition MagicBands, specially designed Dooney & Bourke handbags and commemorative T-shirts are among the latest merchandise offerings created with Members in mind as part of the 25th anniversary of Disney Vacation Club.*

The milestone merchandise collection debuted in February with an online “flash sale” of the first 25th anniversary-themed shirt, paving the way for subsequent releases of additional apparel items and instantly popular, limited-edition MagicBands that actually offer Members a warm “welcome home” as they tap to enter the Walt Disney World Theme Parks.

While the spring edition of *Disney Files* Magazine announced initial plans for the new MagicBands to be concealed behind select merchandise counters and available only upon request, we’re pleased to report that those plans have since broadened to allow Members

to not only find these must-have accessories on the shelves of participating Walt Disney World stores, but also through the Disney Vacation Club Member online marketplace (DisneyStore.com/DVCMemberMarketplace) and the Shop Disney Parks App. (Remember that Members enjoy a 10 percent discount** at select Disney Parks merchandise shops, as well as through the Disney Vacation Club Member online marketplace and the Shop Disney Parks App.)

More 25th anniversary merchandise items are on tap for the months ahead, from a Tommy Bahama camp shirt (scheduled for release June 23) to a commemorative ear hat and trading pin (both scheduled for release this summer). So whether you prefer to show your Membership pride with a new bag or a new band - on your shirt or atop your head - Disney Vacation Club has you covered.

To learn more about what’s “in store” (see what we did there?) for the new line, visit disneyvacationclub.com/25years.



*Merchandise offerings are subject to availability and not all items are available in all outlets.

**See important eligibility information at the bottom of page 1.





my Disney home

Where Members Live

Disney Files Magazine proudly presents photos and stories from Members who have made Disney part of their home decorating. This edition's submission comes from the Sheer family of Pennsylvania, Members since 2001.

Walt Disney World settings have inspired numerous spaces in the Pennsylvania home of Susan and David Sheer, where wall colors borrow from those at Disney's Beach Club Villas and Disney's BoardWalk Inn, textures honor those within Gaston's Tavern at Magic Kingdom Park and Tutto Italia Ristorante at Epcot, and accessories celebrate everything from the Epcot International Food & Wine Festival to the Carolwood Pacific Room at The Villas at Disney's Wilderness Lodge. The *Disney Files* staff's favorite detail in the Sheer family home mimics our favorite detail in the Disney Vacation Club neighborhood - a Mickey hidden in the lobby woodwork of The Villas at Disney's Wilderness Lodge. The Sheers added a similar Mickey to their own woodwork after an actual mouse ate a hole through their wall. Some may call this repair solution a sign of strong "character." We call it "Sheer" genius.



The Villas at Disney's Wilderness Lodge



Sheer family home

Do you have a Disney home? Whether it's an expansive collection of Disney memorabilia or your own Disney-inspired space, we'd like to see it. Send your photos (keeping copies for yourself as we won't return ours), along with a letter containing your Member Since year and describing your unique Disney style, to Disney Files Magazine's "My Disney Home," Disney Vacation Club, 1390 Celebration Blvd., Celebration, FL 34747. Remember to include a signed release form, available for download and printing online at disneyvacationclub.com/releaseform.

picture this

The Dominican Republic is the kind of place our cover model dreams about. Envisioning a drink in his hand, his snow up against the burning sand, Olaf longs to get gorgeously tanned in summer. It's with that ~~delusional~~ delightful dream in mind that we challenge you to spot the seven things we've altered in this alluring photo of Punta Cana, one of the many slices of paradise Members can enjoy through our friends at RCI*. Visit disneyvacationclub.com to learn more about the thousands of exchange options at your fingertips as part of Membership Magic.

*Resort options in all destinations are limited and subject to availability. Note that vacation destinations offered through exchange opportunities require a fee and may be modified or withdrawn at any time without notice. RCI and related marks are registered trademarks and/or service marks in the United States and internationally. All rights reserved.



original



altered

ANSWERS: (1) A cloud in the top-center of the photo now looks like our favorite mouse, (2) a palm frond to the right of that cloud is now shorter, (3) on the left has disappeared, (4) that same boat appears to be sinking, (5) a pier beam between the two palm trees on the left has grown a taller mast, (6) that same boat appears to be sinking, (7) the lounge in the lower-left chair back has reappeared and (8) a slat missing from the lower-left chair back has disappeared, (9) a slat missing from the lower-left chair back has reappeared and (10) the lounge in the lower-right corner has lost its shadow.



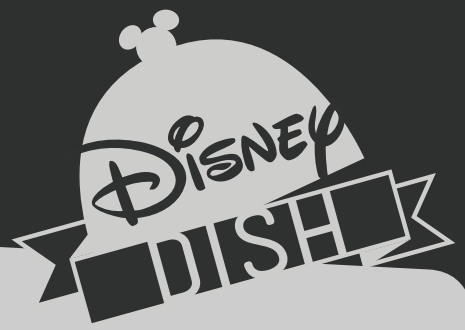
▲ **Disneyland Park:** River Belle Terrace recently transitioned from quick service to table service, debuting a lunch and dinner Southern barbecue menu that features ribs, chicken, sustainable seafood, signature desserts and more. For those who share the *Disney Files* staff's affinity for the restaurant's departed breakfast menu, have no fear: the famed Mickey Mouse pancakes (pictured above) are among the former River Belle Terrace favorites that have joined Mexican-inspired breakfast entrees on a new morning menu (available until 11:30 a.m.) at the nearby Rancho del Zocalo Restaurante, which also serves lunch and dinner.

Disney's BoardWalk Entertainment District: Whether you're ordering a cone or churning your own batch on a bicycle, a visit to the new Ample Hills Creamery shop on Disney's BoardWalk puts an Atlantic spin on the ice cream experience. Opening this summer in the space formerly occupied by the game arcade at ESPN Club, the Disney-owned-and-operated shop was developed in collaboration with the New York-based Ample Hills Creamery. The new Disney's BoardWalk location turns farm-fresh, responsibly sourced ingredients into 15 creative flavors enjoyed by fans (Disney CEO Bob Iger among them) of the creamery's New York shops (including the standout "Salted Crack Caramel," a salted-butter-caramel ice cream with crackers coated in butter, sugar and chocolate), along with a 16th flavor developed by Disney's BoardWalk chefs exclusively for this location.

Disney Springs: Gourmet burgers and twisted milkshakes are among the latest additions to the culinary scene at Disney Springs, where D-Luxe Burger is scheduled for a May opening at Town Center. The Disney-owned eatery serves a variety of burgers on freshly baked buns (including our favorite - El Diablo - featuring a chorizo-and-signature-beef-blend patty, fried banana peppers, pepper jack cheese, lettuce, tomato and chipotle mayo), fresh-cut fries with your choice of dipping sauces, artisanal gelato shakes (including adult "shakes with spirits"), floats, draft beer and cider. The restaurant offers seating in a western-inspired interior and in a covered outdoor area overlooking the springs.



▲ **Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park:** Scheduled to open shortly after this magazine mails is Tiffins, a new signature-level, table-service restaurant at Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park. Inspired by the adventurous travels of the visionaries who helped bring the Park to life and sharing its name with both the Indian word for "midday meal" and a type of container used to carry food while traveling, the restaurant serves globally inspired fare for both lunch and dinner. Menu highlights range from a European marinated-grilled octopus to an African Berber-spiced lamb chop (pictured here) to a South American Wagyu strip loin and braised short rib. Attached to Tiffins but also featuring its own entrance is The Nomad Lounge, serving up waterfront views and small-plate foods with specialty cocktails handcrafted with African, Asian and South American flavors, along with African, Asian and South American brews, and South American wines.



S.E.A. Shu Mai, The Jungle Navigation Co. Ltd. Skipper Canteen

When your drink options include a Schweitzer Slush (named, of course, in honor of noted explorer and humanitarian Dr. Albert Slush), your entrée selections feature a chicken dish dubbed “Tastes Like Chicken” and your dessert menu revives the word “Kungaloosh,” you’re destined to delight legions of Disney fans. Among those faithful followers are *Disney Files* staffers who’ve quickly fallen in love with the “World Famous Jungle Cuisine” at The Jungle Navigation Co. Ltd. Skipper Canteen, a table-service lunch and dinner restaurant situated just beyond the gateway to Adventureland at Magic Kingdom Park in Florida. Playfully celebrating the bold flavors of Africa, Asia and South America, the exotically detailed restaurant welcomes hungry travelers into The Jungle Navigation Company’s eclectic home offices, where the Falls family always enjoys having you (and hopes you enjoy being had). To celebrate the best eatery this side of Schweitzer Falls (named after the slush?), *Disney Files* Magazine is pleased to present the recipe for the restaurant’s S.E.A. Shu Mai appetizer, a legendary blend of pork, shrimp, beans and spices steamed in little pouches of joy. (Note: if reading “Boston butt” atop the ingredients list makes you giggle like a preschooler, you may want to consider a career as a Jungle Cruise skipper...or *Disney Files* Magazine writer.)

Makes: 16 dumplings

Ingredients:

- 1/2 pound Boston butt (a cut of pork shoulder)
- 1/4 pound shrimp pieces
- 1/4 cup water chestnuts
- 2 tablespoons chopped shallots
- 2 tablespoons mung beans or edamame
- 1/4 cup tightly packed arugula
- 1/2 teaspoon fish sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon Sriracha
- 1/4 teaspoon coarse salt
- 1/8 teaspoon black pepper
- 16 wonton wrappers



Steps:

1. Grind Boston butt (again, funny), shrimp, water chestnuts, shallots, mung beans (or edamame), fish sauce, Sriracha, coarse salt and black pepper in a meat grinder or food processor.
2. Place 2 tablespoons of this filling into the center of each wonton wrapper.
3. Fold the sides of each wonton wrapper up and gently crimp, leaving the top of the meat mixture exposed.
4. Steam in a steamer basket over a pot of boiling water for 8-10 minutes until center of shu mai reaches 145 degrees Fahrenheit.

Chef's notes: For a nice dipping sauce, combine lower sodium soy sauce with sambal oelek (a spicy Southeast Asian chile sauce found in Asian markets and in Asian sections of many grocery stores).

This recipe has been converted from a larger quantity in the restaurant kitchens. The flavor profile may vary from the restaurant's version. All recipes are the property of Walt Disney Parks and Resorts U.S., Inc., and may not be reproduced without express permission.



neighborhood notes

new or noteworthy in our magical community



▲ **Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge:** Members and Guests staying at Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge (including Disney's Animal Kingdom Villas) are connecting with the animals and culture of Africa through a new program called Sense of Africa*. The multisensory experience, which takes place on most Tuesdays and Saturdays from 7-10:30 a.m., begins with an introduction to the resort's art, architecture and people, continues with an exclusive, authentically prepared African breakfast at Boma - Flavors of Africa and culminates with a private safari journey that leads the small group (12 or fewer) behind the scenes for a series of up-close encounters with some of Africa's most beloved animals. As part of Membership Magic, Disney Vacation Club Members enjoy a 15 percent discount** off the tour's price of \$249 per person. Advance reservations are required and are available through Member Services.

*Check-in begins at 6:45 a.m. at the Sunset Lounge inside the resort's Jambo House building. Guests must be 10 years old or older, and Guests younger than 18 must be accompanied by a paying adult age 18 or older. For safety reasons, Guests must be able to fully understand English. Hiking boots or closed-toes shoes with a back strap are required for entry into backstage animal areas (no flip-flops or open-back sandals allowed). While photography is encouraged in onstage areas, no cameras, video equipment or cell phones may be used backstage. Tour occurs rain or shine, with the exception of severe weather or lightning. Failure to cancel your reservation within two days of your tour will result in a forfeit of the entire tour price. No same-day bookings accepted.

**See important eligibility information at the bottom of page 1.

Disney's Polynesian Village Resort: The newly opened Oasis Pool on the east side of Disney's Polynesian Village Resort features a zero-depth-entry pool, a whirlpool spa, the Oasis Pool Bar & Grill and more, all inspired by the look and feel of midcentury-modern tropical resorts.

Disney's Polynesian Village Resort and Disney's Yacht & Beach Club Resort: A new wave of children's programming has rolled into Lilo's Playhouse at Disney's Polynesian Village Resort and Sandcastle Club at Disney's Yacht & Beach Club Resort. Available nightly to children ages 3-12, the supervised experiences let kids prepare and enjoy treats at the "Ratatouille Cooking School," learn the laws of physics by building and erupting volcanoes, and more. Reservations are available as many as 180 days in advance (based on availability) through Member Services, who will apply your 15 percent Member discount off the regular price of \$55 per child per evening.

Calling Member Services from outside the United States: Note that international phone numbers for Member Services are available online at disneyvacationclub.com. Simply look for the Contact Us section within the site's Help & Contact drop-down menu, select your home country, and the website will serve up the appropriate toll-free phone number to help you reach Member Services.

Vacation points charts: As a reminder, disneyvacationclub.com offers a variety of tools designed to help you manage your Membership, including the most updated vacation points charts. A review of the recently updated vacation points charts online for Disney's Saratoga Springs Resort & Spa, for example, reveals a reallocation of Vacation Points for 2017 and new room categories. The shift takes into account the pattern of Member usage and should provide a more even distribution of use throughout the year, using the following categories: "Preferred

Pardon Our Pixie Dust



Refurbishment news from around the neighborhood*

Disney's Animal Kingdom Villas: Crews began a soft goods refurbishment (updating and refreshing fabrics and décor) within Disney's Animal Kingdom Villas accommodations at Jambo House in January, aiming to complete that work at or near the time this magazine mails. Similar refurbishments are scheduled to begin at Kidani Village later this summer, continuing through the end of the year.

Bay Lake Tower at Disney's Contemporary Resort: A soft-goods refurbishment of Bay Lake Tower accommodations is scheduled to have begun by the time this magazine mails and is scheduled to continue through this fall.

Disney's Beach Club Villas: The first wave of accommodations underwent refurbishment in January, receiving refreshed décor and fabrics, updated bathrooms, larger televisions, a second queen bed in the second bedroom of two-bedroom villas (replacing that bedroom's sleeper sofa, based on Member feedback) and more. The addition of a new fifth sleeper in Deluxe Studios also is part of this project, slated to continue through the summer.

Disney's BoardWalk Villas: Work continues throughout 2016 on the refurbishment project showcased in the Fall 2015 edition of *Disney Files Magazine*, with crews replacing fabrics and flooring, updating kitchen backsplashes, refreshing artwork, adding new bunk-size, pull-down beds and more.

The Villas at Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa: A soft-goods refurbishment of villa accommodations is scheduled for this fall, with plans calling for work to take place in waves beginning as early as this fall.

Treehouse Villas at Disney's Saratoga Springs Resort & Spa: Treehouse living began taking on a brighter, updated look in February, with crews refreshing fabrics and décor. Work is scheduled to continue into the summer.

Disney's Vero Beach Resort: Work began in January on a variety of accommodations enhancements, refreshing fabrics and décor, updating bathrooms, installing larger televisions, replacing select furniture and more. Plans call for the work to continue in waves through the summer.

*Due to the nature of construction, plans and schedules are subject to change.

accommodations" (The Springs and Congress Park areas of the Resort) and "Standard accommodations" (The Grandstand, The Carousel and The Paddock areas).

Concierge Collection*: From tropical getaways to ski vacations, the destinations available to Disney Vacation Club Members continues to evolve. Most recently, the Concierge Collection's portfolio of hand-selected resorts expanded to include three new vacation options: the Hyatt Regency Maui Resort and Spa in Maui, Sirena del Mar by Welk Resorts in Cabo San Lucas and Northstar Lodge by Welk Resorts in California. Learn more about these and other exchange options online at disneyvacationclub.com.

*See important eligibility information at the bottom of page 1.

Website shortcut: Members may access disneyvacationclub.com on their mobile devices more easily by creating a shortcut. Simply navigate to the page you want to bookmark, click on the action button (for iOS devices) or menu button (for Android devices) and choose the "add to home screen" option to create a shortcut icon. Your device can create shortcuts to the site's Homepage, Digital Membership Card, Member Benefits & More section, Resort Availability Tool and Last Minute Magic page.

Resort parking: Please remember that Resort parking lots are reserved for the respective Resorts' registered Members and Guests, as well as those with qualifying dining reservations. Parking at a Resort to access a Theme Park is not permitted.

Updating your contact information: As a reminder, keeping your contact information updated helps ensure that you receive important information from Disney Vacation Club. Simply log into disneyvacationclub.com and click the Profile button on your Member Dashboard to view and update your information.

The Force Re-awakens

New entertainment jumping to light speed at Disney's Hollywood Studios

Walt Disney World Resort: Fueled by moviegoers' extraordinary response to the record-breaking *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, Disney's Hollywood Studios is rolling out the red carpet for an expanding lineup of epic *Star Wars* experiences, including one of the most elaborate fireworks and projection shows in the Park's history.

Dubbed *Star Wars: A Galactic Spectacular* and scheduled for launch this summer, this next generation of the previous *Star Wars*-inspired fireworks show lights up the sky with *Star Wars*-themed music and fireworks, state-of-the-art projections on the Chinese Theatre and other surrounding buildings, lasers and other special effects. From the twin suns of Tatooine to the trenches of the Death Star, the show's intergalactic settings span a series of distinctive acts, punctuated by a tower of fire and beams of light creating "lightsabers in the sky."

The nighttime spectacular follows the April debut of a new stage show called *Star Wars: A Galaxy Far, Far Away* – performing multiple times daily on the Park's Center Stage, and a new "stormtrooper march" that finds Captain Phasma

leading a squad of stormtroopers from the *Star Wars* Launch Bay to the Center Stage area for an intimidating demonstration of the First Order's strength.

These new experiences continue the recent wave of *Star Wars* enhancements to the Theme Park, from the *Star Wars* Launch Bay to the re-imagined Jedi Training Academy: Trials of the Temple and a *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* journey at the Star Tours – The Adventures Continue attraction.

And as if these new offerings aren't enough to have fans' midi-chlorians jumping off the scale, work continues on the previously announced *Star Wars*-themed lands at both Disney's Hollywood Studios and Disneyland Park. The new lands – unprecedented in scale at 14 acres each – will transport Guests to a remote trading port on planet never-before-seen in the *Star Wars* universe. Guests will pilot the Millennium Falcon, find themselves in the middle of a tense battle between stormtroopers and Resistance fighters, sample the native cuisine in an eclectic marketplace, mix and mingle at a cantina, dine in a local supper club and more.



Did you know? Adventures by Disney is the *Travel Weekly Readers Choice Awards*' reigning "Top Adventure Tour Operator."

To Walt Disney World...and beyond!

Adventures by Disney exploring Central Florida this summer

Adventures by Disney*: "Walt Disney World Resort and Central Florida," the newest itinerary from Adventures by Disney, invites families to enjoy the vacation kingdom they love – and the sun-splashed region it calls home – like never before.

The six-night adventure led by two Adventure Guides peels back the curtain to reveal backstage magic, rolls out the proverbial red carpet for exclusive Walt Disney World experiences and travels beyond the Parks to explore everything from natural Florida to the outer reaches of space. Here's a look at just some of the highlights of the new itinerary.

The experience begins with private transportation from Orlando International Airport to Disney's Polynesian Villas & Bungalows (the itinerary's "home" base) before continuing with a welcome dinner in the chef's kitchen at Disney's Contemporary Resort and a reserved-seating nightcap at Trader Sam's Tiki Terrace back at Disney's Polynesian Village Resort, with optional lakeside viewing of the "Wishes" fireworks spectacular in the Magic Kingdom sky.

The experience moves the next morning to Magic Kingdom Park for a day that features a special breakfast at Tony's Town Square Restaurant, a Walt Disney Imagineer-led tour of the Park, lunch at the new Jungle Navigation Co. Ltd. Skipper Canteen restaurant and VIP viewing of the Festival of Fantasy Parade, with plenty of on-your-own time to enjoy the Park along the way.

Travel "To the Moon and Beyond!" on day three as the 'Ohana Best Friends Breakfast fuels the group for a trip east to Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex in Cape Canaveral, where a real astronaut joins families for a VIP tour, an

exhilarating shuttle-launch simulator experience, a private lunch overlooking the Saturn-V rocket and more.

Day four is "Wild by Design" as the adventures continue at Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park, where highlights range from a privately guided Kilimanjaro Safaris experience and a privately catered breakfast at the new Tiffins restaurant to an animal encounter with an animal expert, a private dinner at Rafiki's Planet Watch and a behind-the-scenes look at the new Rivers of Light nighttime show (where the group returns later that night for a VIP viewing).

Old Florida steps into the sunlight on day five as the group kayaks Shingle Creek, traverses Lake Toho by airboat, enjoys a Cowboy BBQ lunch and chooses how they further explore natural Florida – on horseback, aboard swamp buggies or from high above by zip line.

The trip's final full day spotlights Epcot and Disney's Hollywood Studios, where the group enjoys backstage tours of popular attractions (peeking behind-the-scenes at The American Adventure show at Epcot – one of Disney's most ambitious and beloved Audio-Animatronics productions – and "dropping in" for an in-depth look at the lobby, library and gardens of that foreboding Hollywood Tower Hotel at Disney's Hollywood Studios) and such memorable dining experiences as lunch with an Imagineer in the VIP lounge at The Seas with Nemo and Friends pavilion, a private dinner at the Imagination! pavilion and a memorable dessert-party viewing of Illuminations: Reflections of Earth.

Call Member Services to book your family's "Walt Disney World and Central Florida" adventure.

*See important eligibility information at the bottom of page 1.





BUZZWORTHY

9 stories • 2 pages • 1 space ranger



▲ **Disneyland Resort:** The recently opened Luigi's Rollickin' Roadsters attraction in Cars Land has Disney California Adventure Guests "dancing" on four wheels. Presented at Casa Della Tires, the attraction invites Guests to ride along as miniature Italian roadsters (Luigi's cousins) perform the traditional dances of their homeland (Carsoli, Italy), gliding and spinning across a trackless "dance floor." And here's a little trip tip: each vehicle has its own unique personality and signature moves, allowing you to enjoy a different experience depending on which car you board.

Disneyland Resort: During your next visit to Disneyland Park, be sure to spend a few minutes enjoying the Emporium shop's Main Street Enchanted Windows, including new displays created as part of the Disneyland Resort Diamond Celebration. Celebrating great moments from *Aladdin*, *Cinderella*, *Frozen*, *Peter Pan*, *The Princess and the Frog* and *Toy Story*, the six new displays employ the most sophisticated animation and programming systems ever seen in the Park's enchanted windows. Use your smartphone's QR code reader to meet the team behind these charming works of art.



Walt Disney World Resort: The recent announcement of 30 new tenants continues the headline-grabbing momentum at Disney Springs, where the springs themselves are bubbling to life in spectacular fashion through Walt Disney Imagineers' painstaking attention to detail. Located in the former Downtown Disney area's rapidly materializing Town Center neighborhood, the springs are at the heart of richly layered back story that begins more than a century ago, with the water source attracting early Florida settlers. The town of Disney Springs is said to have developed around the springs over time, eventually growing to comprise four distinctively charming neighborhoods: The Landing, Marketplace, West Side and the aforementioned Town Center. Use your smartphone's QR code reader to enjoy an inside look at the making of the springs, and stay up to date on the latest Disney Springs news by following @DisneySprings on Twitter.

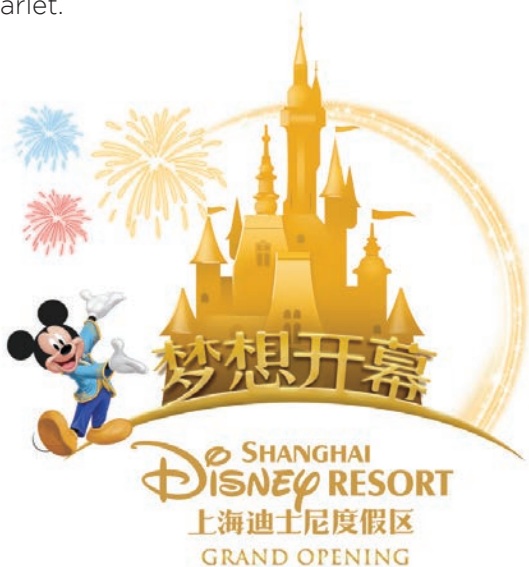


Walt Disney World Resort: Tiana and Rapunzel will make their first appearances in a Cinderella Castle stage show when "Mickey's Royal Friendship Faire" debuts this summer at Magic Kingdom Park. The new show, which finds Mickey Mouse and his troupe of Merry Makers inviting friends from other lands to join their celebration, features a colorful cast of characters that includes stars from the modern animated classics *The Princess and the Frog*, *Tangled* and *Frozen*. The production features an original song, along with memorable music from the movies.

Walt Disney World Resort: Crews recently broke ground at ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex on the world's first athletic venue designed specifically for cheerleading and dance competitions. The venue will include a flexible design that can accommodate more than 8,000

Guests in one large competition space or be divided into as many as four separate competition areas. Additional spaces will include warm-up and practice facilities, along with dedicated areas for judges and officials. While tailor made for cheerleading and dance, the multi-use venue also will accommodate basketball and volleyball competitions, concerts and more. Construction is scheduled for completion in mid-2017.

Walt Disney World Resort: Scheduled to open at or near the time this magazine mails is “Mickey and Minnie Starring in Red Carpet Dreams” near the Sci-Fi Dine-In Theater Restaurant at Disney’s Hollywood Studios. This new meet-and-greet locations allows Guests to walk the red carpet and meet with Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse in A-list settings, with Mickey as the Sorcerer’s Apprentice and Minnie as a classic Tinsel Town starlet.



Shanghai Disney Resort: The expansive Shanghai Disney Resort, detailed in the winter 2015 edition of *Disney Files Magazine*, is scheduled to host a multi-day grand-opening celebration culminating with a welcoming ceremony for its first official Guests on June 16. Located in the Pudong District of Shanghai, Disney’s first destination resort in mainland China includes Shanghai Disneyland (a world-class Theme Park with six themed lands), the Shanghai Disneyland Hotel and Toy Story Hotel, Disneytown (an international shopping,

dining and entertainment district) and Wishing Star Park (a 40-hectare recreation area featuring gardens and a walking path along a glittering lake).

Disneyland Paris: Walt Disney Studios Park at Disneyland Paris is scheduled to debut its new stage show Mickey and the Magician on July 2. Presented in the Toon Studio area’s Studio 2 (former home of “Animagique”), the live production is set in the atelier (French for “workshop” or “studio”) of a great magician, who leaves Mickey to clean up the place. The Mouse, of course, has bigger ideas, and his dreams of becoming a magician himself prove too strong to resist. Joining Mickey for the ensuing adventure is a cast of characters that include such fan favorites as Genie from *Aladdin*, Cinderella and her Fairy Godmother, the stars of *Beauty and the Beast*, and Rafiki from *The Lion King*.

Disney Cruise Line: While plans for new ship launches in 2021 and 2023 have dominated recent Disney Cruise Line headlines, closer plans have Disney Cruise Line Guests making early entries on their 2017 calendars. The smash-hit *Star Wars Day at Sea* will return for a limited time, bringing *Star Wars* character photo opportunities, movie screenings and other intergalactic experiences to select early 2017 Disney Fantasy sailings. In summer 2017, Disney Fantasy voyages will include unprecedented 10- and 11-night Southern Caribbean itineraries visiting such standout destinations as Curacao and Aruba. Summer 2017 highlights for select Disney Dream departures, meanwhile, include 4- and 5-night sailings that feature two visits to Disney’s private island paradise, Castaway Cay. Seekers of cooler waters are studying Disney Wonder itineraries that add new 5- and 9-night sailings to Alaskan options, while Disney Magic tours of Europe feature limited engagements in the Baltic, Norwegian Fjords, Iceland, British Isles and the Mediterranean, as well as first-time visits to Portland, U.K. (allowing Guests to visit nearby Stonehenge) and Amsterdam, Netherlands. Learn more about these and other available itineraries online at disneycruise.com before calling Member Services to book your voyage.

The quest to find Dory

How a forgetful but unforgettable sidekick swam into the spotlight

“I have waited for this day for a long, long, long, long, long, long time,” comedian Ellen DeGeneres said back in 2013, when Pixar Animation Studios announced *Finding Dory*, the long-awaited follow-up to 2003’s Oscar-winning *Finding Nemo*. “I’m not mad it took this long. I know the people at Pixar were busy creating *Toy Story 16*. But the time it took was worth it. The script is fantastic. And it has everything I loved about the first one. It’s got a lot of heart, it’s really funny, and the best part is – it’s got a lot more Dory.”

According to producer Lindsey Collins, the decision to give this highly anticipated film “a lot more Dory” stemmed from *Finding Nemo* and *Finding Dory* director Andrew Stanton’s lingering concern for the character long after production wrapped on the first film.

“He worried, for instance, that if Marlin and Nemo disappeared after the last scene in *Finding Nemo* and Dory was left alone, she could be lost forever,” Lindsey told *Disney Files Magazine*. “Eventually, he started writing these things down, and it really took off from there.”

Finding Dory picks up a year after the events of *Finding Nemo*, and while Marlin and Nemo haven’t disappeared as Andrew once feared, Dory is, in fact, lost in a figurative sense, driven by an emotional memory she can’t quite decipher and embarking on a search for her family and, in the process, herself.

Filmmakers’ own quest to “find Dory” involved the daunting challenge of scripting a personal-discovery adventure for a character plagued by memory issues.

“I remember Andrew saying, ‘I want to strangle whoever decided to give this character memory loss, because it’s making this really hard,’” Lindsey recalled. “And I sat there thinking, ‘That was you.’ But our breakthrough came when

we reminded ourselves that, while she may not realize it, Dory never forgets who she loves. In the first film, for example, she never forgets that she wants to be with Marlin, even if she can’t remember why. So our film became not only about her search for her family and the details behind an emotional memory, but also about her finding faith in her own ability to not forget who she loves.”

Critical to Dory’s deeper development was the aforementioned Ellen DeGeneres, warmly regarded by filmmakers as being more than just Dory’s voice.

“Ellen is this weirdly perfect combination of strength and optimism and vulnerability and humor and self-deprecation and warmth,” Lindsey said.

“She’s everything Dory is at her core, and she brings that to every read. All of a sudden, even the most basic line imbues so much depth and charm into the character.”

The “Ellen effect” even extended – albeit indirectly – to the casting of new voices in the film (a star-studded cast that includes Diane Keaton and Eugene Levy as Dory’s long-lost parents), as filmmakers used footage from Ellen’s hit daytime talk show as a “chemistry test.”

“She’s interviewed seemingly every star on the planet, so we had a wealth of material,” Lindsey said. “Everyone knows, for example, that Diane Keaton is an extraordinary actor, but it was seeing her off-the-charts chemistry with Ellen on the show that made us immediately think of her for this role.”

What exactly does Dory learn about her parents, her history and herself? Find out when *Finding Dory* opens in U.S. theaters on June 17.



Find Dory at Epcot: Dory and her co-stars from Disney•Pixar’s *Finding Dory* will interact with Epcot Guests in the “human tank” this summer as a special enhancement to the Turtle Talk with Crush experience in The Seas with Nemo and Friends pavilion.

Disney PETE'S DRAGON

Clearing the slate

A filmmaker's fresh approach to re-imagining *Pete's Dragon*

Like most kids of his generation, David Lowery grew up watching Disney movies on VHS. He was the eldest of nine children, and his family's movie collection contained plenty of familiar favorites – each packaged like cinematic pearls in those vinyl clamshell cases that still clutter the closets of countless Disney fans.

But Lowery was particularly drawn to the more offbeat releases that preceded his birth – films like *Bedknobs and Broomsticks*, *The Watcher in the Woods* and a 1977 gem called *Pete's Dragon*.

"These didn't feel like other Disney movies I knew," Lowery told *Disney Files Magazine*. "*Pete's Dragon* in particular felt like a wonderfully ramshackle adventure that took you far off the beaten path, and I loved that."

Fast-forward to 2015, and the now successful filmmaker finds himself on the set of a completely new *Pete's Dragon*, directing a cast that includes Oscar winner Robert Redford and Golden Globe nominee Bryce Dallas Howard, and tackling the creative challenge of honoring the off-the-beaten-path film he loved without beating the same path. (Lowery also wrote the film's screenplay with Hal Holbrooks, based on the screenplay by Malcom Marmorstein.)

"I thought the best approach was to start with a blank slate," Lowery said. "We essentially took the title and that core idea of a boy and his dragon, and we set out to tell a brand new story ... That, to me, is the best way I can honor the 1977 film – by not trying to remake it. I wanted to create something that would feel as fresh to today's audience as the original felt to me."

Set in the not-so-distant past in the Pacific Northwest, the new film begins as a forest

ranger named Grace (Howard) finds a boy named Pete (Oakes Fegley) living alone – or so she thinks – in the woods. It seems the boy has survived in those woods for years, aided he says by a dragon he simply calls Elliott. Increasingly convinced by the boy's claims, Grace embarks on an adventure to unravel the mystery of Pete's dragon.

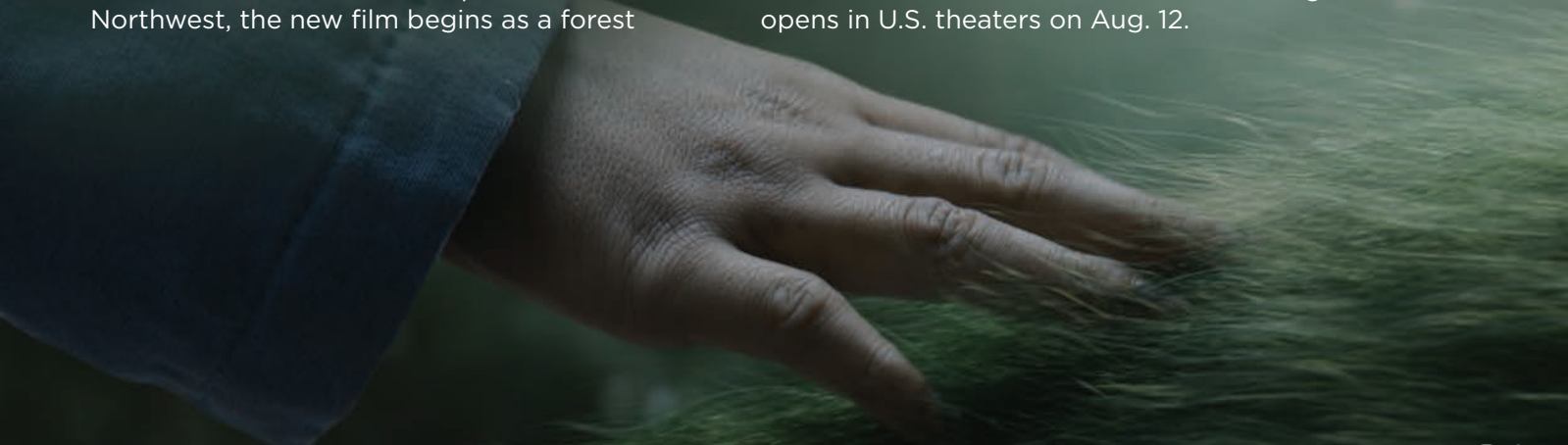
Equally untethered to the original film is Elliott himself, still big and green but now a strikingly photorealistic, extraordinarily expressive, fur-covered friend.

"When I first pitched this film to the studio, I started with this concept of a furry dragon," Lowery recalled. "I was hooked on this idea of a dragon that was cuddly – not scaly or monstrous the way we commonly think of dragons. I'm a big animal guy who loves his pets, and I wanted to create the ultimate pet. One of my favorite things to do is snuggle up with my cats, and I thought, 'What if my cat was 25 feet tall?'"

Working with his illustrator brother, Lowery began putting his vision to paper, ultimately shaping a character with whom he believes moviegoers will quickly fall in love.

"I know I have," Lowery told us, adding that the experience of directing a computer-generated character who wouldn't appear until post-production wasn't nearly as difficult as one might think. "Call it an active imagination, but for me and the cast, it really felt like he was there. He has the ability to camouflage himself in the film, so it felt like he was with us on set but just invisible."

See Elliott materialize when *Pete's Dragon* opens in U.S. theaters on Aug. 12.





A milestone in great company A silver-anniversary look back to 1991

By Tim O'Day



Silver anniversaries are always a time of celebration, but they also provide the perfect opportunity to reflect and look back on where we started. As Disney Vacation Club continues celebrating 25 years and beyond, I thought it might be fun to re-wind our Mickey Mouse watches and

take a look at 1991, not only the launch year of Disney Vacation Club but also a seminal year in the history books for The Walt Disney Company.

I'll always remember 1991 for the "Surprise Celebration" 20th anniversary of Walt Disney World Resort. I

was working as an "Imagineer" at the time, handling media relations for Walt Disney Imagineering and having the good fortune to accompany numerous Disney Legends to the October kick-off festivities, including Marty Sklar, John Hench, Bill Evans, Claude Coats, X Atencio, Ward Kimball and Tony Baxter.

I especially remember receiving a tour of something that wasn't quite yet ready at the time of the anniversary press event. It was described as an "innovative concept in family vacationing offering unique flexibility" and called Disney Vacation Club. At opening in December 1991, spacious accommodations overlooking the Lake Buena Vista Golf Course featured a distinct



Florida Keys theme.

To this day, every time I visit Disney's Old Key West Resort (as the original Disney Vacation Club Resort is now known) I can easily recall walking the unfinished resort with hard-hat firmly in place and thinking to myself, "Hmmm, this is the start of something special." No one on that site walk-through a quarter of a century ago (did I just write that?) could have imagined then what Disney Vacation Club would be like today. There's just one word to describe the growth and progress that have taken place since - "Wow!"

The Walt Disney World Resort 20th anniversary was also marked by the Magic Kingdom premiere of the Mardi Gras-style "Surprise Celebration Parade" (prominently hosted by Roger Rabbit) and the glittering nighttime spectacular "SpectroMagic." The then Disney-MGM Studios Theme Park (now Disney's Hollywood Studios)

welcomed Jim Henson's Muppet*Vision 3D, stage adaptations of *The Little Mermaid* and *Beauty and the Beast*, and the unique Sci-Fi Dine-In Theater Restaurant. Other 1991 debuts included the opening of Disney's Port Orleans Resort, Disney's Dixie Landings Resort (now Disney's Port Orleans Resort Riverside) and

the premiere of the "Surprise in the Skies" show over World Showcase Lagoon at EPCOT Center (now simply Epcot).

While much of the focus of the year was on the 20th anniversary of Walt Disney World Resort, the Walt Disney Studios in California experienced one hit film release after another, and in the process made history. Upon its release

on November 13, 1991, the animated feature *Beauty and the Beast* became an instant Disney classic, capturing the hearts of audiences around the world and eventually becoming the first animated feature in history to be nominated for the Best Picture Academy Award (eventually winning for Best Original Score and Best Song for its title song). The film was the basis for a hit Broadway stage musical adaptation and inspired the upcoming live-action film version due in theaters next year.

Two other 1991 film releases were not only box-office hits but have become perennial favorites with audiences. *Father of the Bride*, starring Steve Martin and Diane Keaton, was an updating of the classic 1950 Spencer Tracy-Elizabeth Taylor film comedy of the same name. The 1991 film is noted not only for its many fine comedic performances but also for its film score and songs, especially the classic standard “The Way You Look Tonight” as performed by singer Steve Tyrell.

The Rocketeer, based on the popular comic book character created by Dave Stevens, was another 1991 release from Walt Disney Pictures that has continued to add fans long after its initial theatrical release. The film seemed to capture the imagination of every fan who ever dreamed of flying and fighting bad guys.

Noted for its spectacular art design and memorable soundtrack by legendary film composer James Horner, *The Rocketeer* lives on with subtle salutes to be found on Buena Vista Street at Disney California Adventure Park (check the mailboxes) and Disney’s Hollywood Studios (some of you may even remember when the Rocketeer himself briefly took flight over the park’s Chinese Theater). Other 1991 movie releases from Walt Disney Pictures and Touchstone Pictures included *White Fang*, *The Doctor*, *The Marrying Man* and *What About Bob?*

The 1991 hits were rolling on the small screen as well, with the premiere of the popular, long-

running ABC comedy “Home Improvement,” starring comedian (and now Disney Legend) Tim Allen as the host of the fictional cable show “Tool Time.” Allen would soon go on to star in Disney’s hit movie comedy *The Santa Clause* and gain even greater fame as the voice of Buzz Lightyear in all of the *Toy Story* films. The year also saw the debut of such Disney-produced TV series as “Blossom,” “Nurses” and “The Torkelsons,” plus a collaboration between Disney and The Jim Henson Company resulting in the hit TV series “Dinosaurs.”

Over on The Disney Channel, the critically acclaimed and popular series “Avonlea” premiered, based on the stories by Lucy Maud Montgomery, author of *Anne of Green Gables*. For those of you who were kids (or kids at heart) in 1991, you might also remember the series launch of “Darkwing Duck” on The Disney Channel. (The series later moved to ABC as part of “The Disney Afternoon” programming block, which would be celebrated in 1991 along a new “Afternoon Avenue” at Disneyland Park.)

Elsewhere in 1991, Disney Consumer Products launched its publishing company, Hyperion, in New York City. For Disney history fans, this new publishing imprint was a true gift as they released many impressive books detailing Disney’s rich heritage, including a series of beautiful “Art of” coffee-table books showcasing various Disney animated features, such as *The Lion King*, *Pocahontas*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Mulan*, *Tarzan* and *Fantasia 2000*.

Lastly, 1991 marked a true milestone for The Walt Disney Company as it joined the prestigious financial ranks of the Dow Jones Industrial Average, cementing Disney’s place as one of America’s great companies. Not bad for an enterprise that started with just a mouse 68 years earlier.

So as you celebrate this milestone year in the storied history of your magical community, know that you’re in great company.



SUMMER MAGIC on Main Street

By Jim Korkis

When I moved to Orlando, I discovered that Main Street, U.S.A. at the Magic Kingdom was filled with year-round summer magic that went unnoticed by many Guests.

The clever Walt Disney Imagineers included several hidden references in the turn-of-the-century location to Disney's 1963 live-action film *Summer Magic*, which starred one of my childhood crushes, Hayley Mills (who received a Golden Globe nomination for her performance).

For those unfamiliar with the film, *Summer Magic* recounts the story of Boston widow Margaret Carey (Dorothy McGuire) who around 1910 moves her family of two young sons and an exuberant teenage daughter Nancy (Mills) to a house in Beulah, Maine. Nancy has written to Osh Popham (Burl Ives), the caretaker of an absent millionaire's abandoned big yellow house.

The headstrong and imaginative daughter writes such an exaggerated tale of heartbreaking white lies that Osh lets the family rent the house for a pittance and contributes labor and material to refurbish it. Complications ensue with the arrival of the Carey's snobbish, orphaned cousin Julia (Deborah Walley) and the return of the unsuspecting owner of the house. Of course, this being a Disney film, it all gets worked out and everything turns out swimmingly.

Amazingly, the film was shot almost entirely on the backlot of the Disney Studios in Burbank. In fact, the exterior of the house was located on one of the berms with Disney Legend Peter Ellenshaw's always outstanding matte work providing the illusion of the turn-of-the-century Maine area.

Walt decided that there should be a song or two for folksinger Burl Ives to sing. The Sherman Brothers were brought aboard and ended up composing seven songs, including "Ugly Bug Ball." Walt disliked the song because he didn't like using the word "ugly." The Sherman Brothers convinced him that, to another bug, even an ugly bug is beautiful. The song went on to become a hit for Ives.

Songwriter Robert Sherman regarded another of this film's songs - "On the Front

Porch" - as his all-time favorite Sherman Brothers song.

So how does all of this relate to Main Street, U.S.A. in Florida?

Let's begin with the aforementioned Sherman Brothers songs. For about 20 years, three of those songs - "Flitterin'," "Beautiful Beulah" and the title tune "Summer Magic" - were part of the Main Street, U.S.A. "BGM" - show business speak for "background music."

Several "Summer Magic" tributes remain today, including a window at the southwest-corner entrance to the Emporium shop, which lists Osh Popham" as proprietor. Osh, as mentioned earlier in this column, was the shopkeeper, constable, carpenter, postmaster and good-natured storyteller of the small East Coast town of Beulah, Maine in the movie. The Magic Kingdom version of Main Street, U.S.A. was designed to represent the East Coast of that time period, with the train station modeled after a similar one in early 1900s Saratoga Springs, N.Y. (a town that would later inspire the Disney Vacation Club neighborhood with the creation of Disney's Saratoga Springs Resort & Spa).

The Chapeau, the nearby hat shop in Town Square, is said to be owned and operated by the two Carey girls. The sign outside lists its street address as "No. 63," which was the year *Summer Magic* was released.





According to the shop's Imagined back story: "Bowlers and bonnets are all the rage during Ragtime, and it's getting to the point where it feels like every day is a veritable Easter parade on Main Street, U.S.A. It's a good time to be a milliner, and no one knows that better than Nancy Carey, proprietress of The Chapeau, the finest hat shop—for both ladies and gentlemen—in town.

"Nancy moved to Main Street after spending many happy years with her family in the 'yellow house' in beautiful Beulah. She had set out to seek her fortune, but she wanted to do something artistic, something that would bring happiness to people. And at the height of Ragtime and hometown Easter parades, nothing could compare to fine headwear!

"So Nancy enlisted her notoriously fashion-conscious cousin, Julia Carey, and opened a small millinery and hat shop, where together they would design, make and sell hats of all sorts for the ladies and gentlemen of Main Street. They dubbed their new venture The Chapeau, a suitably highbrow name reflecting the time Julia spent in the fashion capital of the world, Paris. The word 'chapeau,' of course, is French for 'hat.'

"Nancy and Julia found a quaint Victorian house located right on Town Square and set up their millinery and shop on the first floor. A tasteful brass plaque in front of the house announces the address: 'N. Carey, Milliner, No. 63 Main Street.' A small sign hangs above the front door, 'The Chapeau', identifying the residence as a place of business.

"Inside, it's clear that what was once a foyer and sitting room has been converted into a workshop and display space. Patrons browse through the headwear, and workers can often be found in the workshop, embroidering names onto hats. And lest anyone forget that this is also a residence—and a family-run business to boot—Carey family photographs cover the walls and mementos line the shelves.

"The Chapeau was such a success that the Careys had to expand into the building next door, converting the entire first floor into their main

showroom. The cousins have tried to further ease the transition between the two spaces by connecting them with a slight ramp that takes patrons through an archway that has been cut into the shared wall. And it all seems to work. Patrons can easily pass from the showroom into the adjacent workshop and back again.

"With their expansion of The Chapeau, the Careys have proved themselves to be 'thoroughly modern merchants' with a commitment to providing their patrons with the very latest in fashionable headwear. But no matter how much it may have to expand or change to keep up with the rapidly changing times, The Chapeau will always lay at the heart of Main Street, U.S.A."

The inside of the shop also houses the old fashioned phone that had been located at the Market House store on Main Street, U.S.A. since the Park opened in 1971. Lifting the receiver allows Guest to eaves drop on a conversation between a mother and her daughter, just like another snoopy listener on the party line.

Here's something else I love about The Chapeau: the hatbox-shaped sign outside the shop looks just like the hatbox that housed a gifted

Lady in the 1955 animated classic *Lady and the Tramp*, making the sign a perfect fit between The Chapeau and its neighbor - the *Lady and the Tramp*-themed Tony's Town Square Restaurant.

If you haven't seen *Summer Magic*, I highly recommend it. And if you haven't noticed these *Summer Magic* details on Main Street, U.S.A., take a moment to seek them out during your next Walt Disney World vacation. However you spend the months ahead, I hope enjoy a little summer magic!





1. While all of our avid readers are big Disney fans, the stylish Desmon, part of the Dagraca family of Rhode Island, Members since 2009, may be a “cut” above. (We assume that the other side of his head reads “isney Files.”)

2. Reverend Richard Gonzales of Texas, Member since 2001, takes *Disney Files* Magazine to Vatican City for an Audience with Pope Francis.

3. The eternally young Mary, part of the Popelak family of New Jersey, Members since 1995, celebrates her 91st birthday with 28 friends and relatives (including two other Member families) at the world-famous Hoop-Dee-Do Musical Revue.

4. Alex Brice of Arizona, Member since 2010, stays connected while diving along the Great Barrier Reef.

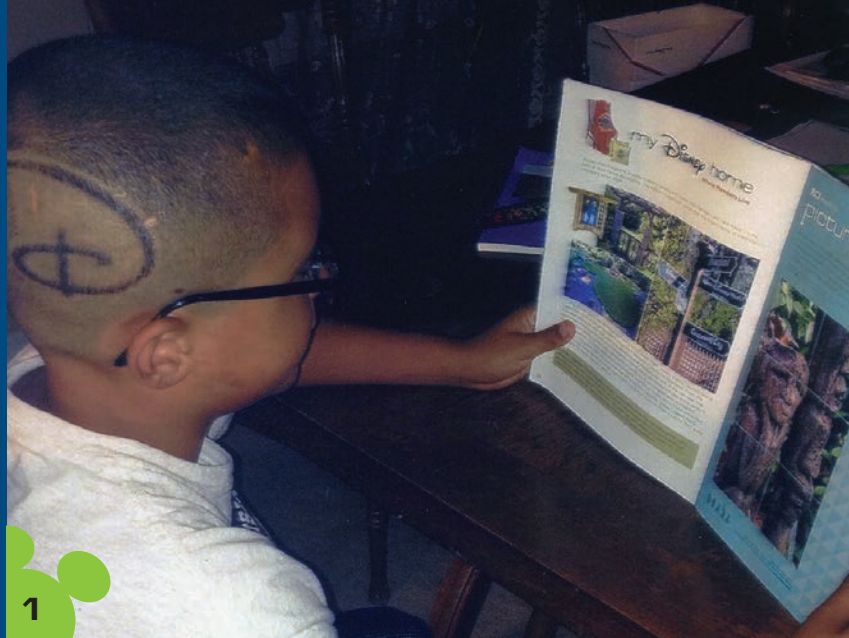
5. Michelangelo’s masterpiece poses for an uncharacteristically modest photo with help from Joe and Brenda Lee of California, Members since 2005.

6. Three of the four pictured Delgados of Texas, Members since 2011, appear to be excited about their dapper manner of dress during their Walt Disney World vacation.

7. Samara, part of the Watson family of Illinois, Members since 2013, reads to a future employee of Zootopia’s DMV.

Send your photos (keeping copies for yourself as we won’t return ours) to Disney Files Magazine, Disney Vacation Club, 1390 Celebration Blvd., Celebration, FL 34747. Remember to include your name, hometown and “Member Since” year, along with a signed release form for each person pictured. The release form is available for printing online at disneyvacationclub.com/releaseform.

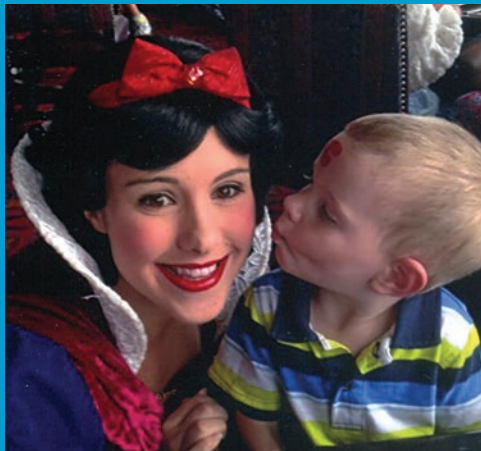
Better your chances of seeing your family in the magazine by capturing compelling, candid moments, which almost always beat posed photos. We do, however, enjoy when you pose with the magazine, particularly when you do so in exotic locations beyond the Disney Parks.





THE LAST WORD.

Disney Files Magazine is pleased to dedicate its back cover to the playful purpose of turning Member memories into editorial exclamation points, with each installment celebrating moments that we think are worthy of having the last word.



Olaf isn't the first Disney star to dazzle on screen with skin white as snow. (Okay, so Olaf doesn't technically have skin...or bones...but you get the idea.) That distinction belongs, of course, to Snow White, whose groundbreaking role in 1937's *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* paved the way for every animated feature in the decades since. To honor feature animation's "snowy" legacy, the *Disney Files* staff is pleased to present this cozy collection of photos from the Fitzgerald family of Illinois, Members since 2007. These endearing images of young Danny swapping smooches with the fairest one of all are fitting symbols of our love for the entire Member community as we continue celebrating 25 years and beyond! (We considered personally delivering this issue to your door and kissing each of you ourselves, but that would be illegal in some places and frowned upon just about everywhere.)