



*Where Flowers Bloom
And Friendships Grow*

Published by: Scenic Hills Community Association for its Residents and Homeowners
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SCENIC HILLS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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Greg Sebold	President
David Prestridge	Vice President
Sandy Hovatter	Secretary
Jerry Sparenberg	Treasurer

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David Prestridge, Vice President judyndavid@earthlink.net	2025
Sandy Hovatter, Secretary sandyhovatter@gmail.com	2026
Brad Weberg, Director 69weebs_bd@att.net	2027
Dana Giggy, Director danagiggy98@gmail.com	2027
Grady Haddox, Director ghaddox58@gmail.com	2026

Lodge Manager of Daily Operations

Jerriann Hamilton (830) 626-7548

EDITORIAL POLICY FOR THE SCENE:

The Article deadline is no later than 15th of each month at 12 p.m.

EDITORS NOTE: The accuracy of the dates and times of activities and meetings which appear in *The Scene* and on the monthly Calendar are the sole responsibility of the chairperson or organizer of that event. Make sure the office has any changes by the deadline for *The Scene* each month.

**Please submit articles via email to jerriann@scenichillstx.com
All items need to be emailed.**

Articles by residents and Letters to the Editor will be subject to editing or revision by the Editor to comply with the rules established by the Scenic Hills Board of Directors.

SCENIC HILLS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Committee Chairs

Activities	Christine Taylor	210-722-5586
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Social	Craig Taylor	210-710-0007
<i>Board Rep: Dana Giggy</i>		
Welcome	Patti Crawford	217-493-6656
<i>Board Rep: Sandy Hovatter</i>		

**Scenic Hills Website
scenichillstx.com**

Jerriann Hamilton	Website Owner
Betsy Berg	Website Manager
Grady Haddox	Contributor

**SAFETY FIRST:
CALL 911 IN EMERGENCIES**

At Scenic Hills Community Association, your safety is our top priority. We want to remind all residents that in any situation where you feel threatened, or if there is a risk to your property, your first call should always be to 911.

Recently, we had an incident involving one of our residents whose home backs the old golf course. On a Saturday night, she heard unfamiliar voices on her back patio. Concerned for her safety, she decided to call our gate guards. While it's understandable to reach out to the guards, they are not equipped to handle these types of emergencies and are not the first responders in situations where safety is at risk.

The policy is, if you see someone walking through the neighborhood you do not know and is not demonstrating a threatening manner, please call Gary Ensminger at 210-834-7356.

Our gate guards are here to support and monitor access through the gate to the community, helping to maintain a safe environment. However, if you ever feel threatened, if there is suspicious activity, or if your property is at risk, please remember:

Call 911 immediately.

The police are trained to handle emergencies and can respond quickly to ensure your safety. By calling 911 first, you'll receive the fastest, most effective assistance. After contacting 911, feel free to notify the gate guards as an additional measure, but they should not be your primary call for emergencies.

Your quick action could make a critical difference. Stay safe and remember that help is always just a 911 call away.

THE GARDEN SCENE
BY SUZANNE DIETZEL

It is December. Can you believe it? We have experienced shorter days as it gets dark by 5:30 p.m. with the setting of the sun. We have also experienced cooler mornings and days that have certainly been lovely after the heat of the long summer. Which plants enjoy this kind of weather and are perfect for the season? Christmas cactus.

Discovered in the early 1800s in southeastern Brazil, the original plant was named the Thanksgiving cactus, since it bloomed in October and November. A second cactus was found, and it was named the Easter cactus, because you guessed it, it bloomed in March and April. A French botanist combined those two cacti and called it the Christmas cactus—it blooms in December. In addition to the different blooming times, each cactus also has a slightly different shaped leaf. The Christmas cactus leaf has rounded tips, as opposed to spiky tips and “hair” at the ends of the joints.

The Christmas cactus is actually a misnomer, because it is not a real cactus. Since its native habitat is Brazil, this cactus prefers humid weather and requires cold and darkness to bloom—think rain forest, where the cactus grows on the barks of trees or on the ground, beneath the wide canopy. Very different from other cacti which prefer low humidity and require lots of sunshine—think desert. You might find Christmas cactus bloom in varying shades of crimson red, vibrant pink, or snow white. If you ever see an orange or purple bloom, scoop it up! These shades are very rare and beautiful.

Taking care of a Christmas cactus is fairly easy. All through the year, it loves an indirect sunny window on the north-, east- or south-facing side of your home with a drink of water when the top inch of soil feels dry. As we head toward the holidays, it is important that your cactus receive at least 12 hours of darkness each day to help it set blooms and be ready to display at Christmas.

That is a great deal easier with the time change! It is also good for the plant to be in 50–55-degree temperatures to set those same blooms. Water the plant as you would throughout the year, when the top inch of soil feels dry. Do not overwater, or your Christmas cactus will have limp green leaves or drop all of its blooms before they open.

The Christmas cactus has become a favorite gift for the holiday season; and now that you know how to take care of one, you might include instructions with your gift. You might also gift one to yourself and enjoy the beauty of this plant at Christmas for the next 40-50 years! Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, and keep on gardening!

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
YARD OF THE MONTH - NOVEMBER 2024

SOMETIMES LESS IS MORE – Join us in congratulating our November Yard of the Month winner, Anne Castro at 3605 Scenic Drive. A well-maintained yard, with a small decorative touch for the holiday, makes this month’s Yard of the Month stand out.



The next Yard of the Month will be chosen on the 10th of December. NOTE: If you are looking for someone to put up holiday lights, check the notebook at the Lodge for recommendations.



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Bill & Connie Jones	12
Mike & Becky Chachere	15
Colby & Sharon White	19
Phil & Julia Robbins	20
Al & Myra Tanner	22
William Moore & Mary Lewis	23
Jim & Irene Beebe	28
Earl & Christine Taylor	31
Douglas & Shelly Woolley	31
Tom & Suzanne Dietzel	31



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Amelia Courser	1
Steve Burch	2
Kari Flanagan	2
Rick Powell	3
Sharilyn Zamzow	3
Howard Getman	5
Maggie Igel	6
Willie McNamee	6
Mary Lewis	7
Jean Lunning	9
John McMahan	15
Josie Galindo	17
Kenna Feazell	18
Maribeth Likins	18
Glenell Brewer	21
Bill Jones	21
Chris McCauley	21
Shirley Schaecher	22
Ann McMaster	23
Diane Weberg	24
Mary Pape	25
Bonnie Miller	28
Jim Erickson	29
Linda DuVall	29
Stan Pennington	30
Susan Brown	31
Stephanie Haynes	31

EARLY JANUARY 2025 BIRTHDAYS

Dana Giggy	1
Barbara Pirch	4
Christine Taylor	5
Tracy Hill	5
Joann Ensminger	6
Fred Gipson	8

CARING FRIENDS ♥

Sandra Amundson	Thinking of you
Marty Danner	Thinking of you
David Hanaway	Thinking of you
Fran Rouchon	Thinking of you
Pat McMaster	Thinking of you
Carolyn Haddox	Thinking of you
Mike Chachere	Thinking of you
Maribeth Likins	Thinking of you
Rick and Gloria Powell	Thinking of you
Mark Franko	Thinking of you

A SALUTE TO 2024 VETERANS DAY PROGRAM

Thank you everyone who came to the Scenic Hills November 11, 2024, Veteran’s Day Event. 83 individuals signed the Guest List. All of the speakers did an excellent job making the day a special one. Thank you to all who worked to make the permanent Veteran’s Wall, the memorial showcase, the veteran’s yard signs, the printed programs and the luncheon one of the best ever. Thanks also to the Steele High School ROTC, the Activities/Social/Lodge Committees, the technology experts, and everyone who donated cash, cookies, or just gave a helping hand. It is an honor to our Veterans to see such a wonderful turnout of our amazing community!

DIET BUDDIES WINTER WINNERS

Who are the Biggest Losers? Based on the percentage of weight lost in ten weeks: Bill Moore at 9.2 % is the Biggest Loser, Earl Taylor with 4.2% and Greg Siebold with 3.4 %. Among the Lady Losers: Bonnie Galloway wins with 5.6%, Mary Lewis with 4.7 %, and also Janie Elliot with 4.7%. Freiheit Country Store will be the

restaurant where we will spend the Biggest Loser Bucks wisely.

HOLIDAY MARKET

Thank you to all of our wonderful vendors, shoppers, and volunteers for making the first-ever Scenic Hills Holiday Market a great success! The support from our community and our dedicated volunteers was nothing short of incredible. We were so happy to see so many of you checking out the awesome handcrafted items made by your friends and neighbors. You made our day! Thank you again to everyone who helped make this event such a success!

The Lodge Committee

“Twas the Night Before Christmas”

Adapted by Christine Taylor (and others)

Twas the night before Christmas in our Scenic Hills “nests”,

And all of us seniors were feeling our best.
Our glasses, how sparkly, our smiles, oh how merry.

Our drinks were prune smoothies plus three drops of sherry.

Support hose was taped to our walkers in hope,
That dear Santa would bring us soft chocolates and soap.

We surely were blessed to be here with friends,
Secure in our homes and in our *Depends*.

Some of our dear neighbors sent Christmassy cards,

But many were tied up in knots about mowing our yards.

The lodge assistant borrowed some teeth,
From them she crafted a red and green wreath.

The bring-along pans, so shiny, now stood all in a row,

Reflecting how many bellies were beginning to grow.

Our potluck was festive, the joy wouldn't stop,
With creamy warm veggies with cheese sprinkles on top.

Fruit salad with red *Jello*, all jiggy and great,
And puree of fruitcake was spooned on each plate.

The Game Night Director then let us play games,

Like “Where do you live?” and “What is your name?”

Bent Mr. Hooper was feeling his “Oats”,
Proclaiming that “Red” would get all his votes.
Our newest board member was tied to his chair,
With hopes at month's end, he still would be there.

Security lights blinked on new fallen snow,
Made night look like day to us old folks, who know.

Then out on the portico there arose quite a clatter,
(But we're all so deaf that it just didn't matter).

A strange portly fellow then flew through the door.

He tripped on the mat and fell flat on the floor.
Twas just the financial director, all togged out in red,

Who giggled and chuckled and patted each head.

We knew from the way he strutted and jived,
That our HOA fee checks have just arrived.

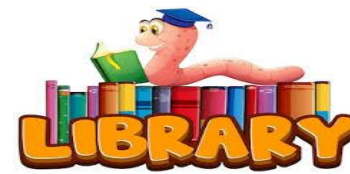
We now sang and we hummed in joyful old croaks,

Till finally the lodge clock chimed its 8 p.m. stroke.

And soon we were all snuggled again in our beds.

After we'd taken all our nocturnal meds.
And so, ends our Christmas at Scenic Hills “nests”

'fore long you'll be with us...**we wish you the best!**



AUTHOR'S CORNER FOR DECEMBER 2024

Come on in and enjoy the books that have been added to your Library this year. We hope we have something for everyone. Enjoy!

We appreciate your leaving a suggestion in our basket. If anyone else has a suggestion, fiction only, please take a moment and put it in our basket on the table in the library.

Donna Ireland - Library Committee

MEDITATION ON MONDAYS! STARTING DEC. 2ND AT 1:00 P.M.

ALL WELCOME to this short meditation practice. No previous meditation experience needed! Bonnie Rudolph, a long-time meditator, will facilitate this easy-going, simple mindfulness meditation. We will meet from 1:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the exercise room on Mondays. Just wear comfortable clothes; chairs will be available; and if you have a meditation cushion(s), feel free to bring them. Any questions, please TEXT Bonnie at 956-286-6531. I have call blocking, so texting is the way to reach me. I hope to see many folks there, even drop in to see what it is like. No commitment.

COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDIES AVAILABLE



THURSDAYS at 2 p.m. in the Lodge Card Room - We're studying selected Psalms, beginning with Psalm 119. Led by Phil Hovatter.

We'd love to have you join us at any of the studies.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC AT LODGE HOA CHRISTMAS GOLF CART PARADE

December 21st at 2:00 will be “Christmas at the Lodge”. Come with your Christmas spirit and enjoy Christmas decorations (Lodge Committee) hot drinks, homemade cookies and favorite Christmas Carols. Special music will be provided by talented neighbors and our very own **Scenic Hills Choir. (Neil Sorenson 612-423-4159)** Please, volunteer to be in a Christmas skit, be Santa (costumes provided), play an instrument, sing, etc. The **Area HOA's golf carts and trailers Christmas Parade** is set for dark on **Saturday, December 21. (Tina DeSalvo 412-445-4943** can answer your parade questions.) Please call **Christine Taylor (210-722- 5586)** to donate homemade cookies, to organize delivering cookies for shut-ins, or volunteer to perform.

NEW YEAR'S EVE, TUESDAY DECEMBER 31ST, 7:00 -11:00

Tickets go on sale for **\$25 per person** starting **Monday, December 2nd** until December 20th to celebrate NEW YEAR'S 2025. (**\$28.00 per person for three days December 23rd, 26th, and 27th with no tickets sold at the door.**) Come and welcome 2025 with a sit-down meal of pork loin, gravy, dressing, green beans, garnishes and a dessert. Please dress to be stylish/GLAM or comfortable. Twinkle lights and a disco ball light will brighten up your mood as will the New Year's Eve hats. Gift baskets will be awarded during the evening. Enjoy playlist music, a photo “booth” with backdrop, set-ups, nonalcoholic drinks, box wines, ice, and **a champagne toast at midnight New York time.** Finally end the evening with a dish of lucky black eyed pea salsa and chips. Dancing can continue until the “real” Texas time midnight hour. Questions? Contact Activities Committee members or Christine Taylor (210-722- 5586).

IRRIGATION

With the additional labor hours, the main and lateral line breaks were repaired in the first half of November. Our normal switch to once per week watering schedule beginning in November was also delayed so more of the irrigation work order backlog could be addressed. By the time the December Scene is available, the switch to the once-per-week watering schedule should be accomplished. On the positive side, the outstanding backlog continues to be reduced.

Reports of residents stopping, and therefore delaying, the irrigation tech continues to be an issue. Time spent interfacing with residents is time not being used for repairs. So, unless it's an emergency, the tech has been instructed to politely walk away from the resident. If that action causes you a problem, don't be upset or angry with the irrigation tech. Instead, text David Prestridge (512-658-0804) and he'll contact you to discuss your issue.

On the good news front, the policy/procedure to request additional irrigation has been released and sent to all residents. A copy is included in the agenda packet that was emailed earlier this week for the November 26th Members Meeting. Please be patient as the Irrigation Team works through implementation next year.

In November we had 40 work orders submitted with 14 completed. That's 636 for the year so far with approximately 32 outstanding.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL COMMITTEE

Each resident needs to secure ACC approval before making any changes to the exterior of their property. You may reach out to Ann McMaster (ann.scenic hills@gmail.com) with any questions.

Applications are available online on the SHCA website or in person with Jerriann. All applications must be submitted in person or via email to Jerriann with samples and detailed description. Our next meeting is Monday December 9th at 9:00 a.m. Applicants are always welcome to attend.



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH
AT 5:00 PM

ANNOUNCING our SUPER SPECTACULAR UGLY SWEATER CHRISTMAS PARTY which will be held at our beautiful Community Center Ballroom.

TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW FOR \$15.00, PER PERSON. IF YOU WANT TO RESERVE A TABLE, PLEASE PURCHASE TICKETS FOR THE ENTIRE TABLE AT ONE TIME NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4TH.

Featured at the Gala will be a sumptuous dinner consisting of Spiral Cut Honey Glazed Ham as well as all of the usual holiday fixins. Wine will be provided. If you want to bring a dessert, please let Craig Taylor know by December 6th.

The highlight of the event will be a Holiday Themed Gift Exchange. Gift values should be in the \$15-\$20 range. Additionally, prizes will be awarded for ugliest male and female sweaters.

Doors will open at 5:00 p.m. so please make plans to come join us and help kick off a great holiday season.

PROGRESSIVE OPEN HOUSES SUNDAY AFTERNOON (12/15/24)

Sunday, December 15th, at 1:00 p.m. will start the 2024 Progressive Christmas Open House Event. The first holiday house to open its doors will be the home of Nancy Harwell in her home at 3808 Overlook Drive (1:00); trot or drive a bit and be greeted by Mark and Betsy Bitter at 3648 Fox Run (2:00); come down the hill and walk through the open doors of Gary and Joann Ensminger at 3753 Hunters Glen (3:00). We all look forward to this free neighborhood event. Thank you, Open House hosts, from your S.H. Activities Committee!! Light refreshments are provided. (Help the hosts and offer to provide treats.) Open House signs are placed in front of each open house. - Christine Taylor



COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT

DECEMBER POTLUCK - Please bring your main dish, side dish or dessert to share with all of us. See you on Tuesday December 10th. Set up at 5:00. Dinner served at 5:30. BYOB!

GAME NIGHT EACH WED AT 6:00 - We meet in the poker room. Everyone is welcome. Some games we are currently playing are 42, Spinner, Mexican Train, Rummy Cube, Cribbage, Hand and Foot, and Pinochle.

Calling all PINOCHLE players. Currently we only have a handful of Pinochle players that play each week. If you play pinochle, we would love to see you on Wednesdays at game night. Come join in on the fun! No weekly commitments. Just join when you can.

No matter the number of people we have, there is always room for more to play all the games. No experience necessary. We can teach you the games you are interested in. Or bring a new game idea, as we are always open to new games.

Come out to mix, mingle and enjoy snacks!

GAME DAY EACH MONDAY AT 1:00 - We meet in the poker room. There is no weekly commitment. We play all types of games. Come out to see what we are playing each week. We are open to learning new games. If you are willing to teach, we always have room for you. We play for fun, laughter, and bragging rights.

ACTIVITIES AT THE LODGE ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

42 DOMINOS – Starting in December, 42 will be played only on Friday mornings starting at 8:00 a.m. in the Game Room.

BINGO – There will be no Bingo in December. Be sure and check the January 2025 Calendar for date and time.

BUNCO – Come play on the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Please contact Carol Najarian (210) 651-3880 or Donna Ireland (210) 918-0086 if you are interested in playing, learning, and/or substituting, by Wednesday afternoon. This way there will be a place for everyone.

CHICKEN FOOT – There will be no Chicken Foot in December. Be sure and check the January 2025 calendar for dates!

DINE-OUT – We will be skipping the month of December. Thanksgiving was a few days ago, and all of our calendars are filling up with Holiday activities for this month. January's dining out will be announced later. I hope everyone has a safe and Merry Christmas.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY – There will be no Ladies Bible Study in December. This study will be reconvened on Tuesday, January 7, 2025. See you then!

LINE DANCING – There will be no line dancing in December. Please check the January 2025 calendar for dates.

SCENIC HILLS ARTISTS - This group will now be meeting in the art room every Monday at 9:30 a.m. Artists come and paint with us! Questions? Call Maxie Bailey (210) 861-7624.

SCENIC HILLS WINE AT 5:00 – There will be no Wine at 5 in December. Please check the January 2025 calendar for dates!

STAINED GLASS - Every Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Call Maxie Bailey (210) 861-7624 if you have any questions.