

INSIDE SUNSHINE NEWSLETTER (Corrected)

December 2020



SEPO Board

I would like to wish everyone Happy and safe Holidays.
Jim Kennedy, SEPO Board President.

FROM THE EDITOR

Thanks to all who submitted articles informing everyone about what is going on (or not going on) at Sunshine during December. Newsletter Guidelines have been relocated to here:
<https://www.sunshinecountryclub.com/guidelines-sepo-newsletter>.
If you have any questions after reading these guidelines, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Happy Holidays to all. Enjoy and Stay Safe.

Beth Parrish
SEPO Newsletter Editor (seponewsletter@gmail.com)
314-960-6710

SEPO Web site

I completed (and then almost immediately revised) the 'Table of Contents / Site Map' for the Web site - (<https://www.sunshinecountryclub.com/tableofcontents-sitemap>). I want to send out a big thank you to everyone who made suggestions which prompted revisions that, hopefully, will make it easier for you to find exactly what you are looking for on this site. As always, please let me know if you have any suggestions or see anything in error throughout the entire Web site that I need to address.

Beth Parrish
SEPO Web site Admin (sunshinecountryclubweb@gmail.com)
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President's Message to all Women's Club Members

I have been optimistically and hopefully looking forward to the end of COVID-19, the opening of the Canada/US border, our return to Sunshine Estates and finally resuming Women's Club meetings! Apparently, I am delusional!! COVID-19 rages on, our borders show no sign of opening in 2020, and as Canadians, we cannot return until they do.

I feel especially sad that our new women residents, who are also new Women's Club members, have had to begin life in our community this way. By now, in normal years, you would have been warmly welcomed into the

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neighborhood, become acquainted with many new friends, invited to participate in social events and encouraged to participate in the multitude of activities offered in Sunshine.

In my absence, I am available by phone-651-271-8214, or email: janismfee@hotmail.com.

However, I am so grateful that my Vice President, Marian Young, is assuming my duties as they arise. Cathy Richmond has graciously accepted treasurer responsibilities. Glenda Wetherbee takes care of secretarial work and Sue Swidryk (Activities Director) is determined to provide some fun activities, modified of course to be safe and within SEPO guidelines.

The bottom line and ultimate goal is to stay safe and healthy! When this pandemic subsides, we will truly appreciate each other and all that makes Sunshine such a wonderful place to be! In the meantime, please enjoy your Thanksgiving and the upcoming Christmas Season. We still have so much to be thankful for!

You are in our hearts, thoughts and prayers until we can finally be together and HUG!

Sincerely

Janis McFee, Women's Club President

Women's Club Activities:

- **MASK-O-RADE Golf Cart & Costume Event**
- **Veterans Day Tribute**

"Tis the Season" - Thank you all for volunteering in the past few efforts to bring a special life-force to Sunshine. You made Sunshine smile. You made Sunshine proud. COVID-19 has crimped our style but not our spirit. With many of us living busy lives the idea of volunteering and giving your time, talent and energy to a cause without financial reward is special. You are appreciated!

However, volunteering is important – call it "Chicken Soup for the soul". The benefits are vast – for you, our community, the organization. Social Distancing has forced us to be resourceful and the MASK-O-RADE event and a revised Veterans Day Tribute were the results. The parade/costume contest was fun and enjoyed as evidenced by the backing of the community. The Veterans Day Tribute was a solemn show of appreciation to those who have served and still are serving for us.

So, thanks to the thinkers, the planners and the participants. This triangle is unbeatable.

Lenore Combs

Women's Club Activities: Looking for Volunteers (Correction)

Since (at this time) all of the remaining activities the Women's Club had originally planned for this winter season are cancelled, I am trying to come up with some activities that Sunshine residents can help me organize and partake in - and that also follow SEPO Covid-19 restrictions (<https://www.sunshinecountryclub.com/covid-19-sepo>). If I get some volunteers to help me plan/execute these endeavors, the next step will be to obtain approval from the Board to schedule them.

In the next few months I would like to put together:

- a golf cart scavenger hunt rally (need one more volunteer)

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- a lawn games event (need three volunteers)
- a golf at night glow game event (need three volunteers)

If interested, please email me at sswidryk007@gmail.com or call me at 847-452-7804. Thanks in advance for help with this.

Sue Swidryk – Women's Club Activities Director

Activities: Non-Sunshine

Due to the current pandemic I am publishing this non-Sunshine activity in the newsletter for Sue Swidryk. This group has provided Christmas entertainment at Sunshine the past few years but are not able to do so this year. See the attached poster if anyone is interested in doing something for Christmas that appears to be a safe and entertaining event.

Beth Parrish (Sunshine Communications)

Golf: Women's League

On behalf of the Women's Golf League I would like to invite all new residents/renters to join the ladies on Wed mornings for golf. We meet at the pool pavilion at 9 am (masks required). We draw for partners and head to the course at 9. All are welcome no matter your skill level. Please join us and meet your Sunshine neighbors.

Terry DeBackere. Women's Golf League President.

Woodworker's Club News

It's that time of the year to say thank you to the people who served as Board members of the Club during 2020. I want to thank Jack Berning, Vice President; Marian Young, Secretary; and Cathy Chajec, Treasurer, for being so easy to work with over the last year and can't forget to thank Audrey Just and Chuck McEvoy who also served on the Board during my 3-year tenure as President. They were all exceptionally easy to work with and I appreciated it.

At the November 13th meeting a new slate of officers for 2021 was presented. Nominations include Jerry Wetherbee for President, Kelly Kennedy for Vice President, Marian Young as Secretary, and Cathy Chajec as Treasurer. The vote on the slate will be held at the December 11th meeting. The monthly **cleanup day** for the woodshop has been changed to the **first Tuesday of every month at 8:00 a.m.** Cathy Chajec runs that task and appreciates any help she can get in doing that. Jack Berning will be presenting the Monitor Refresher/Training Course every Tuesday for current monitors and others who would like to serve as monitors. COVID restrictions are limiting the number of people we can train in each session. So if you need to attend the yearly Refresher Course or want to become a new monitor, email me at suzie.sawyer.cops@gmail.com so we can sign you up for one of those trainings. We need additional monitors to volunteer their time at the woodshop so the woodshop can be open Monday through Friday from 9 to noon and 1 to 4.

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The **December 11th meeting** will probably have a larger attendance since there will be an election of officers. Pat Harvey has found that it is possible to conduct the meeting virtually and information on how to join the meeting via computer or telephone will be on its way to Woodworkers Club members prior to the meeting.

I wish you the best possible holidays during the coming season. But, please, consider everyone's health when gathering to celebrate.

Suzie Sawyer, President

Birding and Nature

Sabal Palms

The Birding and Nature Club will not be meeting on Monday, December 7th. A special meeting will be called a little later to finalize our plans for participating in the Christmas Bird Count. A notice will be sent out of the time and place.

On July 24, 2008, Hurricane Dolly hit the Rio Grande Valley. As a weak category 2 hurricane, she made landfall along the Cameron/Willacy County line dumping between 10 to 20 inches of rain. This resulted in massive flooding in South Texas. Dolly was the worst hurricane to hit the Valley in 53 years. There was much damage to homes, crop destroyed, debris everywhere and electrical outages. Over 155,000 homes were without electricity. (You can just imagine how uncomfortable it was to be without electricity in July).

Dolly had a huge effect on SEPO. Flooding was widespread and the electricity was out for days. Officials had SEPO listed as a community of Winter Texans. Since no one was supposed to be in residence, we went to the bottom of the list to have electricity restored. That problem has been resolved. Officials now realize that a third of our homes are lived in all year by senior citizens. We have been moved up the list for having electricity restored.

After the flooding receded and the land dried out a bit, a community effort was started to trim back and clear out the swamp that borders Texas Avenue. Four men put up their own money to purchase two small tractors and a trailer. For weeks, the volunteers worked two or three mornings to clear the area. During their efforts, three old growth Sabal Palm trees were revealed. Sabal Palm forests used to cover the land on both sides of the Rio Grande River. Through the years, the palm forests have been cleared for agriculture. Sabal Palm Sanctuary is in Brownsville. It is a good place for viewing the old growth forest and birding.

Next time you are in the Texas Avenue area, take a walk and notice the native plants and trees which the Birding and Nature Club has labeled. Locate our three Sabal Palms and then imagine what the Rio Grande Valley must have looked like 150 years ago.

Jean Burgoine

Killer Bees

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Our Thursday morning quilting group, The Killer Bees, is continuing to meet via Zoom at 9AM. We mainly talk a little about where everyone is located that morning...up north, in transit, or down here, and then do some Show and Tell. We are doing a Mystery Quilt pattern with clues given every 2 or 3 weeks, and we hope to do a few more projects that can be converted to Zoom classes, that were on our schedule. This Covid has really put a crimp on all of our gatherings. Let me know if you'd like to join us... Jan Baethke email - janb5099@yahoo.com and I'll get you the Zoom link. Stay Safe, wear your mask.

Jan Baethke



**Sunshine Neighborhood Watch – CERT Team
(Est. 2008)**

**SCCE - Harlingen's premier NW & CERT Team
*Lights On -- Lock Up and Look Out for each other!***



Lenore J. Combs, Coordinator, 956 245 1276 LJCombs44@gmail.com

Dear Friends,

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Season's Greetings. Your Neighborhood Watch wishes you and your family all the best for a safe and wonderful holiday.

This year, while we are making a list and checking it twice, my guess is Santa will be peering out from Zoom while socially distancing from Rudolph & the Reindeers and all the while cloistered behind Plexiglas! New style Christmas decorations now seem to range from a Santa wearing a mask to Coronavirus tree ornaments. All our famous and fun activities are reduced to virtual. The *Naughty List* encourages re-gifting presents, while eating our favorite quarantine meal and enjoying more than one Christmas cookie in our untidy house. But we can adjust to change! Just remember that gratitude is a gift and an instinct to shield against disaster. Practice gratitude and use it as emotional currency.

Reminiscing - Just a year ago, Larry Lentz and Jerry Drost, our NW volunteers, completed the 40 hour Citizens Police Academy class at the Harlingen Police Department and there were many other Christmas events we enjoyed – from Parades to Secret Santa - oh well..... Also want to take this time to again to say THANKS to all our wonderful, faithful volunteers. Your deeds do not go unnoticed.

But for all of us realistically, let's talk about bringing safety to our home this winter. Crime doesn't take a holiday and virtual crime, knock-offs and counterfeiting suffers a real loss. More importantly, consumer education is one of the best ways to ensure that our families, friends, pets and kids will enjoy a happy and healthy holiday. Get fired up about fire safety. Focus on practical tips for preventable hazards such as fire, electric shock, carbon monoxide poisoning and injuries from falls - all common problems putting a crimp in our style.

Nothing says "'tis the season" for unhappy holidays better than a 6 ft tree, an inflatable Santa and Christmas lights – all attached to an electrical octopus posing a threat for a socket fire. Accidents and

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trips & falls from electric cords not carefully placed can cause injuries resulting in fractures, lacerations and worse.

Children chewing on electric cords can cause burns to their mouth – pets too.

Did you know - Methylene chloride can be poisonous if a child drinks the fluid from a Bubble light – even if labeled “non-toxic”.

Choking hazards - caused from hanging ornaments, swallowing tinsel and eating popcorn decorations. Mistletoe, holly and poinsettias brighten the home but if ingested, are toxic to children and pets.

Candles – (volunteering for the Red Cross and seeing the amount of fatal fires resulting from candles can make one “allergic” to candles.) Please place candles securely on a level fire-resistant surface away from flammable materials - curtains come to mind too. No lighted candles should ever be on your tree. Remember to put them out when unattended. Can't be too careful.

Breathe easy: – fireplaces, space heaters, gas stoves, water heaters, furnaces etc.

Carbon Monoxide poisoning – is your alarm working? Kerosene heaters? legal. Remember fireplace safety. Never use a stove or oven for home heating. All fuel-burning heating equipment should be vented and be outside. Use portable generators outside only.

At the Mall..... These creative Bad Guys want to have a Merry Christmas but at your expense. Don't be an easy target. Don't let your guard down. Pick pockets and shoplifters have been practicing all year. Try not carry a lot of cash. Dress comfortably and leave your jewels at home – this will take the focus off you. Don't shop alone especially at night. Stay off your phone and keep your head up. Keep your purse close and closed. (how 'bout shackle it to you with a carabiner or buckle strap on the shopping cart?) If you are missing a credit card, notify your bank ASAP. Parking lots - park under a lighted area. Lock your car. Hide your stuff in your trunk. Look around for weird characters just waiting for an invited opportunity. While on Patrol with HPD last year we witnessed two geniuses checking door locks and the commander met them at the other end of the row.

Anyway, have a blessed Christmas.



COVID -19 Commandments:

Wear Your Mask Wash Your Hands Social Distancing Act Responsibly

Next VIRTUAL meeting for NW-CERT is Monday 21 December 2020 (first day of Winter). You may submit items for discussion.

HARLINGEN FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT

PRESENTS

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

THE DRIVE-THRU MUSICAL

BY CHARLES DICKENS

DECEMBER 11 & 12, 2020

4 - 6 PM

FREE ADMISSION FOR ALL

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

(BACK PARKING LOT)

1815 N. 7TH ST.

HARLINGEN, TX

Drive from station to station enjoying the story of Ebenezer Scrooge from the comfort and safety of your vehicle.

The drive-thru experience lasts approximately one hour as you travel through 14 stations, meeting Bob Cratchit, Tiny Tim, Ebenezer Scrooge and the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Future as performed by our talented cast.