



# INSIDE SUNSHINE NEWSLETTER

## December 2023

### SEPO Board

#### FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thanksgiving is past but the Board is particularly thankful to have a new Board Member. Tony Adams has been appointed by the Board to serve the remainder of the term vacated by Linda Davis which will end in February of 2025. He will then be eligible to run for and be elected to two consecutive two-year terms if he desires. Let us all wish him much joy and happiness and thank him for stepping up to help. He took his oath of office, as required of all board members, at the November 28<sup>th</sup> Special Board meeting and has assumed the position of secretary. Be sure to mark your calendars for the next Regular Board meeting on December 11<sup>th</sup> and the Residents' meeting that will follow on December 12<sup>th</sup>.

I would like to thank Kerry Howard for helping with the minutes until Tony takes over.

Our Neighborhood Watch Coordinator, Lenore Combs, has begun implementing the Vendor Program which has Board approval. See the minutes of the Board Meeting held October 9, 2023 (<https://www.sunshinecountryclub.com/bd-mtgs-2023-2024-winter>) . You may read more details in Lenore's contribution to this Newsletter below.

Christmas will be here before we know it. As we did last year, a card box will be in the office area and at the Residents' Meeting in December to hold cards with notes or other means of showing appreciation to our wonderful employees. They are Valerie, Lupe, Manny, Lalo and Joe. I plan to have them introduced to you at the Residents' Meeting.

Although it seems early, I want to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and safe travels for those going home or elsewhere during the holiday season.

- Share Nelson, SEPO Board President

### Communications

On a personal note, since I now have my laptop with me in the hospital, I've been playing catchup getting items posted on the website. Please be patient as this time of year is very busy and lots of information is being added to the site and sent in SEPO emails. The best way to get the 'word out' to the entire Sunshine community is via the SEPO communications channels of emails, the website and the Newsletter. As a reminder, guidelines for these SEPO communications processes are here: <https://www.sunshinecountryclub.com/communication-guidelines>. And this year, for those who use Facebook and have joined the official SEPO Facebook group "Sunshine Country Club Estates Official Group" ([https://www.facebook.com/groups/610379767180949?sorting\\_setting=CHRONOLOGICAL](https://www.facebook.com/groups/610379767180949?sorting_setting=CHRONOLOGICAL)), that's another great way to not only post info on Sunshine events but also about non-Sunshine events.

Thanks everyone. Let's keep that information flowing!!!

- Beth Parrish, SEPO Communications Mgr



## INSIDE SUNSHINE NEWSLETTER December 2023

### Women's Club: From the President

Wow SEPO what a great season we have had this year. I think it has been fun to the max.

The last event was Thanksgiving and what a great time was had by all. The hall looked wonderful and the food was great. I think the attendance was well over about 120 people. And there were about 20 people or so that had never been to one of our Thanksgiving dinners before, so it was Great seeing all of these new faces with us.

I am so happy everyone is showing up and making these events successful. The Women's Club meeting this month was very well attended with about 48 ladies in attendance.

December is chock full of things going on so be sure and keep your eyes peeled for announcements. And that includes our great Facebook page

([https://www.facebook.com/groups/610379767180949?sorting\\_setting=CHRONOLOGICAL](https://www.facebook.com/groups/610379767180949?sorting_setting=CHRONOLOGICAL)).



## Sunshine Country Club Estates Official Group.

It is a great place to get information on what is going on. Or just to see what went on in the community. With pictures of the event that just happened. So if you haven't joined be sure and join and stay in touch with your neighbors and friends. Pam Adams had made this a very useful tool for everyone in our community.

Hope to see you at our next events!

Thank You!

- Vicky LeRoy Krueger , Women's Club President

### WC: Sunshine Thanksgiving Day Dinner – Thank You

Thanks to all for this wonderful day of thanksgiving and may this Thanksgiving season bring you the same joy you bring to others every day. We had a great visit, a great dinner and a great clean-up. Now we start the Christmas season!

A special THANKS: to Vicky, Mari, Cindy, Patti, Allison, Lexa & Bev – the Decorators - Cindy & Joy.

The Chef/Carvers - Scott & Brian ----- and Thanks to those who volunteered to cook a turkey. And a special Thanks to all who supported this effort and enjoyed the fellowship & meal.

Last but certainly not least – our wonderful SEPO staff, in particular Lupe and Valerie and whomever moves all the furniture back and forth. Thanks - May this season bring you happiness and joy and energy for the Christmas season upon us.

- Lenore J Combs 956 245 1276



## INSIDE SUNSHINE NEWSLETTER

### December 2023

#### Women's Club: Bake Sale

Mark your calendars for this year's Women's Club Bake Sale, which is on Friday, Dec 8 from 8 to 11 AM. Coffee and homemade rolls will be available for \$1 to enjoy while visiting with your friends.

There will also be:

- lots of candy, baked goods and other yummy things for you to purchase
- crafters selling their wares
- raffles and more

Please look through your favorite recipes for those cookies, candies, holiday snacks, etc and make your favorite holiday goodies to donate to the Women's Club bake sale. Drop-off of these goodies will be from 5 to 7 PM on Thursday, Dec 7 at Retzlaff Hall. Thanks to all who will bake for us.

Come enjoy the kickoff of our Sunshine Holiday season.

- Terry DeBackere / Nancy Lyne.....Co-chairs

#### Women's Club: Various Events Scheduled in December

Here's a list of upcoming events we'd like everyone to be aware of and hopefully participate in. Watch for additional communications about these events as other details unfold.

- Now - 12/15 - Toys for Tots: There is a box in the library for your toy items. Please make sure they are wrapped and marked with whether it's for a boy or for a girl and the age.
- 12/1-12/20 - Food Drive: There will be a food drive for Valley Haven children's home and Loaves & Fishes. There will be a box in the library, so please bring your non-perishable items there.
- 12/14 - A Snoopy Christmas: Dr. Bruce Leibert and his entourage will be presenting "A Snoopy Christmas" at 6:00 pm in Retzlaff Hall. This event is free and refreshments will be provided.
- 12/21 - "Rolling Carolers": Everyone is welcome to join in on this festive event. We will be "rolling" around the neighborhood in our golf carts spreading holiday cheer while caroling. For those of you who would like to participate, we'll be meeting at 4:30 pm at Pam and Terry Lacy's home. Feel free to decorate your cart if you'd like.
- 12/22 - Valley Voices: Valley Voices will be back for another holiday season. They will be performing in Retzlaff Hall at 2:30 pm. This concert is free but they ask for donations that will go towards music scholarships for local high school students. Refreshments will be provided.
- 12/25 - Christmas dinner: Doors will open at 1:30 pm and dinner will begin at 2:00 pm in Retzlaff Hall. The cost is \$5.00. There will be a signup sheet in the library.
- 12/31 - New Year's Eve Party: Yes! there will be a New Year's Eve party at Retzlaff Hall. DJ Doug and his Lovely Assistant will be the entertainment and we are asking people to bring an appetizer. Time is still to be determined.

Any questions, feel free to call or text me.

- Jill Ventrello



## INSIDE SUNSHINE NEWSLETTER December 2023

### Golf: Women's League

Our second Women's Golf League Meeting will be held Wednesday December 20th, 2023, at 9:00 am in Retzlaff Hall. Meeting will be held even if it is too cold to play or raining. Coffee and donuts will be available to enjoy during the meeting.

Our last meeting was attended well, appreciated those who attended and participated in group discussion. We follow an agenda as closely as we can and hope to speed up each meeting. We will need to follow up regarding the Potato Bake, as well as the lunch for the Good Neighbor Day Golf Tournament (GNDGT) event for our two money-making events. Please plan to attend.

We still need some of you to sign up to be hostesses. If you are a new player and wish to learn, we have several who would be willing to assist you.

I personally want to thank each of you for your attendance, your participation in discussions, and most of all your attention during the meeting. Each of you are an important reason we continue to have our Women's League.

Reminder: At each league play, the hostess will announce the teams, and tee number. Please do not leave until each team member has been announced. Remember to bring in the CTP's and score cards to the library to the hostesses once your team is done playing.

Look forward to our next meeting.

President- Nancy Lyne  
Vice-President- Deloris Pearcy  
Secretary- Marlene Hall  
Treasurer- Glenna Boardman  
Handicap Monitor- Donna Myers  
- Nancy Lyne

### Golf: Men's League

Due to the Holiday season and the absence of many of the players involved, the Tuesday Men's Golf League has delayed any decision related to suggested changes to any and all aspects of the Men's Golf League. The committee will continue to accept suggested ideas to any of the following:

Please consider changes to By-Laws (<https://www.sunshinecountryclub.com/mens-golf-bylaws>), Rules-of-Play (<https://www.sunshinecountryclub.com/mens-golf-rulesofplay>), League play format, awards, dues, or any other aspect of the League that will result in easier administration and enjoyment of play.

Once the suggested changes are received and organized in a reviewable format and the majority of the members are available to review and vote on the suggested changes, a meeting will be called by the committee. This will probably be sometime in early January.



## INSIDE SUNSHINE NEWSLETTER

### December 2023

Until that time the process will remain as is: signup in the library indicating that you intend to play that week, what time you intend to play (8:30 or 10:00) and pay \$1 in the box by noon Monday. Payouts, etc. will remain the same.

Paper copies of the By-Laws and Rules of Play will be available upon request or found at the above listed webpages. Please provide suggestions to any of the following committee members.

- Randy Davis "[randyd99@hotmail.com](mailto:randyd99@hotmail.com)"
- Jim Tennant "[jimbuck1050@yahoo.com](mailto:jimbuck1050@yahoo.com)"
- Larry Keller "[papak51@yahoo.com](mailto:papak51@yahoo.com)"
- Rocky Lockwood "[rlock0748@aol.com](mailto:rlock0748@aol.com)"
- Dan Boardman "[dboard3@charter.net](mailto:dboard3@charter.net)"

Have a good and safe Holiday Season.  
- *Tuesday Men's League Committee*

### Sunshine Garden Club

Sunshine Garden Club Get Together

Tuesday, December 12th  
6:30-7:30 in Retzlaff Hall.

We will have open discussion about anything plant and garden related. We have so many knowledgeable people in our community, I just know we can learn from each other.

If you want, bring a 'show and tell' item, extra cuttings or plants you'd like to share with the group.

Mary and Bob will talk about their famous organic weed killer. Also, discussions about field trips and additional speakers.

Thank you all for your continued support. Everyone is welcome, come as you are.  
- *Susanne Ulrich*

### Killer Bees Quilting

The Killer Bees Thursday morning quilters are in full swing for the season. 9:30AM in Retzlaff Hall. And Save the Date...Rio Grande Valley Quilt Guild Quilt Show...February 16 and 17, 9AM to 4 PM each day at the South Padre Island Convention center. Questions?  
- *Contact Jan Baethke or Diane Tewell.*

### SCCE Fishing Association: Fish Fry

The SCCE Fishing Association Event is called the "Hoof & Fin". It will be held on Wednesday, Dec 13. Meet in the Pool Pavilion at 4:30. We will start serving at 5:00. It will be pulled pork, samples of Alaskan Halibut and all the fixins. The cost is \$12 per plate. There will be music, prizes and drawings.



# INSIDE SUNSHINE NEWSLETTER December 2023

Come and join the fun. Tickets will be available in the library and around the community starting this Wednesday. You can also sign up to participate in the Fishing Association. Hope to see you there.

- Bill Peterson 309-945-2108

## Rock Painting Club

All residents are invited to attend our meetings. There is a charge of \$5 per meeting which covers rocks and a ton of available supplies including several types of paints, brushes, ink pens, stencils, and more. New members receive a welcome box with rocks, paints, brushes and other goodies.

We meet in the hall the first and fourth Monday of each month from 1-3 PM unless there is a holiday conflict. In that case, we reserve a different Monday to meet.

We are currently working on rocks to share with the Ronald McDonald's houses locally.

The next few meetings we will work on Christmas-themed rocks.

We have a few surprises up our sleeves too!

We meet November 27, December 4 and December 18 for the near future.

The website has been updated to reflect the 2024 meeting dates

(<https://www.sunshinecountryclub.com/rock-painting-club>).

Come be a part of our fun!

- Cathy Richmond

## Christmas Karaoke

Christmas Karaoke will be Saturday, December 2nd at 4pm. Retzlaff Hall will be decorated earlier in the day and we can christen it with some Christmas songs (there will probably be some non-Xmas songs, too). It's free. You don't have to sing or dance, but come support those that do. We will also set up a donation jar for SONshine Ministries if you're in the giving spirit. And, if you want to bring some Christmas goodies to share and snack on, that would be great (but not required). BYOB, but there might be hot apple cider, too. Bring some friends and hope to see you there.

- Randy Davis

## Neighborhood Watch & CERT



Sunshine Neighborhood Watch – CERT Team  
(Est. 2008)

SCCE - Harlingen's premier NW & CERT Team



**Lights On -- Lock Up and Look Out for each other!**



# INSIDE SUNSHINE NEWSLETTER

## December 2023

Ref: Neighborhood Watch Program at SCCE

November 2023 SCCE Newsletter

Dear Friends,

Happy Thanksgiving wishes one and all. We had a productive NW meeting (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday – 3pm) but unfortunately, we missed many of you. Everyone is always invited and your “2 cents” is appreciated. The mission statement of the National Neighborhood Watch Institute essentially is supplying crime prevention information and materials to aid in the reduction of criminal activity. Add to it - our NW enhances our relationship with the Harlingen and Combes Police Departments. Other benefits also include enjoying a stronger feeling of safety and security with the most apparent being reducing the risk of crime. Neighborhood accountability – power in numbers - we are empowered to take control of safety. (does not mean Police powers) - so this is your invitation, one and all to join our ranks. There are many “assignments” available – none of which are very time consuming. Please give this your best consideration. Come to our meetings, accept an assignment and together with McGruff, we can all “*Take a bite out of crime*”. We meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month.



### Sunshine Vendor Program

Over the past few months there was talk of reinstating the Vendor Program. The SEPO Board will have more instructions but suffice it to say, there are just several points to be made. The main point being that all Vendors are to be registered prior to contracting a “job” with a resident “*so to speak*”.

Essentially, the Vendor is asked to present themselves to the Office. Their Drivers License will be zeroxed for our records. The NW will assist in this project. You, the resident will also kindly assist as well. Simply – this prevents the *Wise Guys* from taking advantage. (we have the stories to back the idea).

### Process: Sunshine Vendor Program:

This restart of the Vendor Program is for the safety and security of our community. It is a very simple process and has three parts. In anticipation of hiring a vendor for a job at your home, please comply

1. First, the homeowner sends the Vendor to the Office if he or she is not already registered. Registered implies we have his/her Driver’s License on file. Valerie will do that.
2. Second, Lenore (and the NW Vendor volunteer) will then be notified.
3. The third step is getting you, the homeowner, some NW orange cards for their unmarked vehicles. (these are temporary IDs for that job, it shows they “have permission” so to speak to be here. You then collect the cards back when the job is completed.

And as the second example: Re; our “*non-employee*” workers such as Azeal and his brother, and other familiar workers – they will have a Sunshine “hanging tag” for ID for their vehicle for the front windshield. It will go on their mirror in their vehicle when they are working in Sunshine. Thanking you in advance. (*that’s all folks*)



## INSIDE SUNSHINE NEWSLETTER

### December 2023

#### Toys for Tots

The Harlingen Police Department undertakes this annual program and since they know SCCE is most generous in annual participation. We have two big Toy boxes in the Library ready for your thoughtful generosity. A wrapped present for a boy or girl would be appreciated. (Please place "Boy" – "Girl" and "age" on bottom of wrapped gift). Thanks. You are appreciated.

The *Toys for Tots* mission began in 1947 with the objective to bring gifts to the less fortunate children throughout the U.S. so they may experience the joy of Christmas. So, let's share the joy and with thanking you in advance, may you all have a wonderful Christmas too. God bless.

#### Finger Lickin' Chicken - a Fundraiser Fun Event for the Neighborhood Watch

Mark your calendars – Friday 5 January - about 4pm – we eat! Retz Hall or take home.

The plan: Harlingen Fire Dept brings out their huge BBQ apparatus early and parks it by the Gazebo. The chickens are waiting to jump in. As we nurse the chickens and some beer / iced tea, it's a great time for fellowship and relaxation. We also keep our eye on the beans too.

We will meet soon and figure out the meal plan and other details. I have the usual shopping list for the "take home" boxes, charcoal and etc.

So – mark your calendars for a relaxing day and an enjoyable meal. Thanks. See ya real soon!

Last but not least – remember Holiday safety and crime prevention before, during and after the holidays. To start with a few -- at home: strangers at your door, leaving for the holidays, after the holidays, - phony phone calls (for money and personal info), Porch Pirates, protect your packages, package theft, -- "Grinch-proof" your holiday light displays and etc. Are you ready?????

re Fire Dept: re Cooking – (like the song *Stand By Your Man*), stand by your Pan, if you leave the kitchen, turn off the burners, watch what you are cooking – if you see any smoke, or grease start to boil, turn the burner off, turn pot handles toward the back of the stove to prevent them from being bumped or pulled over, keep a lid pan or baking sheet nearby to put pan fires out.

Where is your Fire Extinguisher?????

Christman decorations etc.: Water your live tree every day. Use the right lights (indoor/outdoor), replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections, keep lit candles away from stuff that can burn -- (1/3 home fires are from candles), blow out lit candles, turn off all light strings & decorations when leaving the room or going to bed. And no "octopuses" allowed! (an octopus is a crowed electrical outlet).

So, for now, enjoy your holidays - see you Monday, 18 December 3pm Retz Hall.

We will finalize any loose ends with Finger Lickin' Chicken. If you would like to help, please call me.

- Lenore Combs 956 245 1276





# INSIDE SUNSHINE NEWSLETTER

## December 2023

### POST DEC 2023 ACTIVITIES

Some of you have been asking me when my concert will be. Details so far are:

- 59 1/2 Minutes with Brett Dana (Concert)
- Retzlaff Hall
- Sunday February 18th, 2pm

- *Brett Dana*

### FROM THE EDITOR

WOW – This is the last Newsletter for 2023. Where has the year gone? They say – time flies when you’re having fun. And we surely do that here at Sunshine.

Thanks to everyone who provided great information for this Newsletter. Keep this sort of information coming each month. As you read above, there are lots of fun things planned for December and I know there are lots more for 2024. And as additional details are finalized for your events, they can be sent to the community at any time via [sepoenews@gmail.com](mailto:sepoenews@gmail.com).

Merry Christmas to one and all.

***Beth Parrish***

***SEPO Newsletter Editor***

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