



The Golden Gazette

DECEMBER

Treasure of the Hills Senior Activity Center
Volume XXXI Number 12 **December 2021**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Dennis Domanski

As we are quickly approaching the end of the year, we are grateful that Treasure of the Hills is back and has resumed all activities. Along with gaining and welcoming a number of new members, we also are happy to greet our current and returning members. Our hope is that our Senior Center continues to be a place for members to gather, gain new friends and enjoy the camaraderie of other members as they participate in all the activities offered.

I offer my sincere thanks to all who helped make our organization's activities a success many many times, over and over again, during my tenure as Vice President and President. This is truly what it means to be a member of Treasure of the Hills, an individual who gives of themselves to make others feel friendship coming from the heart.

I also want to say thanks to the City of Cedar Park — to the City Manager's office, Mayor, Council Members and all the employees of the City who by their support of Treasure of the Hills, during some trying times in the past year, showed they recognized the importance of Seniors and the Senior Center.

As this is my last article as an Officer and Board Member, I offer my congratulations to the newly elected and returning Officers and Board Members and ask that you offer them the same support you offered me and all my predecessors.

May your holidays be merry and spent with family and friends that will allow the making of happy memories. Also, may the New Year, 2022, bring good health and happiness to each and every one of you and yours.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a Joyous New Year!!



A note from the editor — Many of the people who have been doing such great work in keeping Treasure of the Hills alive over this more-than-challenging time are continuing to serve as we go forward, either in the same designated roles or in different ones. Others are stepping back, perhaps altogether or just out of the spotlight. In any case I'm sure I speak for all of us in wishing them a very heartfelt

THANK YOU!



VP NOTES

by Carolyn White

It's been so wonderful to see things getting back to normal here at the Center. Canasta, Poker, Bridge, Bingo and Mahjongg players are back. Those that are playing may bring a sack lunch and drink as our kitchen is still closed.

For those of you that haven't been able to get here, we are still filling out our **New Reaffirmation Forms**. This is necessary so please work with us. Because of COVID restrictions, there are still a few changes in place. If you haven't got your COVID shot yet, masks will be required for those not vaccinated.

This month we will be installing our new Board of Directors. It's great to see new faces that can bring new ideas. As the holiday approaches, we will be decorating the Center starting November 29th. Come on down and help us if you'd like. Don't forget to sign in and out when you are at the Center.

Take care and stay safe until we see you all again.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

by Lisa Leirvaag

Fall is upon us and some nights have been downright chilly.

The thermostats at the Center are now on the System Setting HEAT. The thermostats are no longer locked, which makes it easier for the individual groups to adjust the room temperature.

HOWEVER, please note that the last person(s) leaving the building in the afternoon or evening will have to make sure that all **FOUR** thermostats (one in the library, one in the reception area and two in the Great Room) have exactly the same setting: HEAT – 65 degrees F.

On the left side, the thermostat shows the actual room (Inside) temperature. On the right, it shows the Temperature Setting. The little arrow buttons to the right of the Temperature Setting can be used to either increase or decrease the temperature. During the daytime/active hours in the winter months, this temperature can be increased to 72 degrees F.

In addition, please bear in mind that the two thermostats in the Great Room must always show identical settings. The same applies to the thermostat in the library and the thermostat in the reception area, i.e., if you increase the temperature in the library to 72 degrees, the temperature in the reception area also has to be increased to 72 degree. This guarantees maximum efficiency.

As Carolyn has mentioned, after Thanksgiving we will start to dig out our Christmas decorations. But since there are games and activities going on during the week, it's best to do some serious decorating on December 4th, the first Saturday in December, at 1PM. That should help us to get into the Christmas Spirit.

Merry Christmas to all and a very happy (and hopefully COVID-free) New Year!

**Merry
Christmas**

TOTH BOARD NOTES

by Donna Craig

From the November 8, 2021 Board meeting:

Voting started for our annual election of officers & board of directors, which will culminate at our annual business meeting on November 15th at noon. Individually wrapped snacks will be served at the meeting since the kitchen will still be closed.

Frank Mignoli reported on the current COVID-19 status – infection numbers continue to be unstable. Decision made to keep kitchen & icemaker closed for another month. Will revisit decision early if substantial change in COVID-19 status.

Replacement committee gave final update on the items purchased due to the flood.

The transfer of \$6,000 from the Memorial Fund was approved to pay for the renovations made in the reception area. A plaque to commemorate will be placed in the area.

Database programs were discussed. Will poll our members to see their comfort level in transitioning to a cloud-based membership program.

A final update on the Gazette survey was given showing overwhelming support for members receiving the Gazette online. The new modified PDF/USPS program will roll out in January.

Final update from the Bylaws and Policies & Procedures review committee given. BOD approved changes will be presented to the membership at the annual meeting for their approval.

Updates to Article VI: Meetings/Section 1: Business Meetings and Article VI: Meetings/Section 3: Quorum of the Bylaws were made.

The Center's internet and phone system were reviewed. Will update to be able to offer our members internet access while maintaining secure data on the Center computers.

The policy covering internet access was updated to reflect the approved changes.

(Board Notes continued)

The membership chair position was discussed as Gerri West is retiring from that long-held position. Will reach out for interest at the membership meeting.

The need for someone to shadow Dick Planck in 2022 to learn the treasurer's position was discussed. Dick has advised that 2022 will be his last year as Treasurer. Will again reach out to the membership.

Frank Mignoli offered an interesting bit of information on the TOTH membership demographics and will update the comparison again in February 2022.



MEMORIAL FUND

by Jan Clark

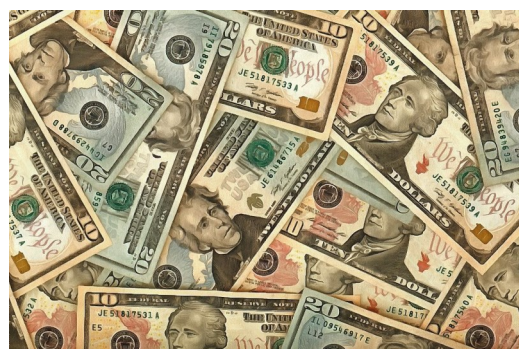
For Dodie Planck from
Gerri West
Lisa Leirvaag
Lois Carlson

TREASURER'S REPORT

by Dick Planck

Income for October was \$13,483.34 and expenses were \$1,889.99 resulting in a net income of \$11,593.35. The major source of income was \$1,299.50 from membership dues. We also received an insurance payment of \$11,938.03 which was used to pay for storage expenses incurred due to the flooding.

Our investments increased in value by \$694.35.



COVID-19 UPDATE — DECEMBER 2021

by Frank Mignoli

COVID-19 Risk Stages and Vaccinations

The basis for determining the risk stage was the 7-day average of the number of new COVID-19 cases admitted to the hospital. There are two areas being monitored. One is published by Austin Public Health (APH) which reports on Travis County. The other is published by Department of Safety and Health Services (DSHS) and covers a much larger area (11 counties) that includes Travis and Williamson Counties which represent over 75% of the population. As of November 16th, DSHS are reporting values that are in Stage 2, which means the range of the 7-day average of new COVID-19 hospitalizations are between 15-29. However, APH has been reporting 7 day new daily COVID-19 hospitalizations less than 15 since October 25th. On November 16th the 7-day average was 13. This would mean Stage: 2 which equals Stage: 1. Stage: 1 risk states; *“Participate in indoor or outdoor private gatherings and dine or shop without precautions. Travel with precautions.”* Stage 3: risk states; *Participate in indoor private gatherings with precautions, and in outdoor gatherings without precautions. High-risk individuals may dine with precautions, while low risk individuals may dine without precautions.*

Then, during the week of November 8th, APH came up with another parameter for measuring COVID-19 risk. It's called Community Transmission Rate (CTR). The parameter determines the number of new COVID-19 cases in the last 7 days divided by the total county population divided by 100,000. Based on this parameter and the selected values the CTR was in stage 4 while the original parameter was in Stage 2. This is very inconsistent. As of November 16th, the CTR for Travis County rose to 65.6 and now is in Stage 4. To get to Stage 2 the value would have to be between 5 and 10. In regards to Williamson the CTR was 71.7 still in Stage 4. The wide variation in results between the two parameters is very disconcerting. Based on the new parameter, it may be difficult to reach Stage 2.

Vaccination Data

As of November 17th, eleven months since the first vaccination was administered, total vaccinations for Texas and the two nearest counties show the following:

	Texas	Travis Co.	Williamson Co.
One Dose administered	18,221,000	926,000	407,800
Fully Vaccinated	15,732,000	808,000	359,400
Fully Vaccinated % (1)	79.6%	74.5%	79.8%

(1) of 80% of population

The above fully vaccinated numbers do not include booster shots. Both the Pfizer vaccine booster shot and the third (½ dose) of Moderna are now in use and are recommended for use by the elderly and those that are taking medication for a weakened immune system.

Hospitalizations

In Texas, on October 16th there were about 5,300 COVID-19 hospitalizations. The 7-day average was slightly higher. By November 16th, the number of COVID-19 hospitalizations had fallen to below 2,800 as well as the 7-day average. In the Travis/Williamson County area the COVID-19 hospitalizations had dropped to less than 140 as well as the 7-day average. The 7-day average of the percentage of COVID-19 hospitalizations of all patients had fallen to around 3.2%.

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COVID-19 UPDATE

Booster Shots

The CDC recommends the following:

- People who received a primary mRNA COVID-19 vaccine series and are 65 years and older, 50–64 years with underlying medical conditions, or 18 years and older who live in long-term care settings **should** receive a booster shot at least 6 months after completing the primary series (which may include an additional primary dose in persons with moderate to severe immune compromise).
- Any of the COVID-19 vaccines authorized in the United States may be taken.



Sudoku (Medium)

Each row, column, and 3x3 cage contains all the digits 1 to 9.

		4	1			8	6	
		1					5	
			8	7		3		
				4	1		9	8
	9			6			1	
4	1		5	8				
		5		3	8			
	4					6		
	3	9			7	2		

5	4	2	7	1	9	6	3	8
3	8	9	2	5	6	7	4	1
6	7	1	8	3	4	5	9	2
9	3	7	6	8	5	2	1	4
2	1	4	3	9	7	8	6	5
8	6	5	1	4	2	3	7	9
1	2	3	4	7	8	9	5	6
4	5	6	9	2	3	1	8	7
7	9	8	5	6	1	4	2	3

FROM THE EDITOR

by Barbara Duprey

Hi, everybody! I want to thank Dodie Domanski for the great work she's done as your editor for the past several years. Hard shoes to fill, but I'll do my best!

Starting in January, you'll be noticing a number of changes. The most noticeable is that everybody will be getting a color version (which will also be available on the website, www.toth-seniors.com). This would have been too expensive for a general mailing, but Donna Craig surveyed the membership and found that most members would be fine with getting an e-mailed PDF file or looking on the web when an issue is published. Thanks for looking into this, Donna! Another effect will be changes to the responsibilities page. It no longer will need to leave space for the mailing information, so it can be in larger print and hopefully easier to read. In this issue I'll also be trying out a possible change to the Calendar, which will move to the last page and be in a vertical orientation so the whole newsletter can be maintained in a single file. That's easier for me if it doesn't cause problems for you — please let me know if it does.

As space permits, I'll also be including various things I hope you'll enjoy, like funny or thought provoking sayings. (And puzzles of various kinds — I'm a puzzle person, and I'm sure some of you are, too.)

I'm looking forward to getting your feedback on any changes you'd like to see in the Gazette:

bduprey@austin.rr.com



Signs posted in front of El Arroyo:

DOGS HAVE MASTERS. CATS HAVE STAFF.

I'M INTO CROSSFIT. I CROSS MY FINGERS AND HOPE MY JEANS FIT.

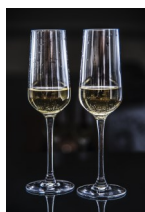
I'M SUPER LAZY TODAY. IT'S LIKE NORMAL LAZY, BUT I'M WEARING A CAPE.

PETS WELCOME. CHILDREN MUST BE LEASHED.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Barbara Duprey	01
Mark Haase	03
Margaret McClintock	06
Karon Thiem	07
Sandra Kelso	08
Coty Castro-Guerra	09
Trudy Callahan	10
Cecil Holder	14
Helen Holland	14
Yolanda Gonzalez	15
Bob Manaske	15
Vici MacIntosh	16
Norma Goodman	19
Richard Johnson	19
Angeline Slezak	19
Stella Brittnacher	20
Ele Espinosa	20
Norma Crozier	21
Sue Witovec	22
Phyllis Mehrens	25



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Connie and Jim Lane	06
Stella and Jim Brittnacher	13
Norma and Cecil Holder	21
Peg and Sam Clanton	28



NEW MEMBERS

Jim Anderson
Trudy Callahan
Evelyn and Roger Diamond
Gaylynn Djafarzade and
Abbas Djafar-Zade

Lila Hurley
Phyllis Walker
Charles Weimer
Nancy Lee Weller

WELCOME BACK

Robert Greenway
Jacquee Guida
Bob Manaske



We'd like to know if things get tough for you and you could use a hug, or if you know of such a circumstance for another member -- and also if the days get better. Please notify me, Barbara Duprey, bduprey@austin.rr.com, 512-528-5024, of any changes. Otherwise, names will stay on the "hug list" for two issues of the newsletter. Not that we don't care anymore, because we do, but we have to keep the lists under control.

A hug for you, my friend



Connie Tortorelli
Jayne Van Osten
Sally Ladyman
Jean Wiedenfeld
Lois Carlson
Gerri West
Jim West
Barbara Ohradzansky
Jim Ohradzansky
Dodie Domanski
Trudy New
Ruby Banks



Carolyn White

December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
* Signup Required # Signup Required & Pay in Advance			1 9 ⁰⁰ Sit & Fit 9 ³⁰ Tables Choice 10 ⁰⁰ Jewelry Making 1 ³⁰ Bunco	2 9 ⁴⁵ RbrBrdg* 10 ³⁰ Mahjong 2 ⁰⁰ Pinochle	3 9 ⁰⁰ Sit & Fit 10 ³⁰ Bingo 12 ⁰⁰ Pinochle 1 ⁰⁰ DupBrdg*	4
5	6 9 ⁰⁰ Sit & Fit 1 ⁰⁰ Cribbage 1 ⁰⁰ Bingo	7 9 ⁰⁰ Canasta 9 ³⁰ DupBrdg* 9 ⁴⁵ RbrBrdg* 1 ⁰⁰ ExecCmte 1 ³⁰ Poker	8 9 ⁰⁰ Sit & Fit 9 ³⁰ Tables Choice 10 ⁰⁰ Crafts	9 9 ⁴⁵ RbrBrdg* 10 ³⁰ Mahjong 2 ⁰⁰ Pinochle	10 9 ⁰⁰ Sit & Fit 10 ³⁰ Bingo 12 ⁰⁰ Pinochle 1 ⁰⁰ DupBrdg*	11
12	13 9 ⁰⁰ Sit & Fit 10 ⁰⁰ BOD 1 ⁰⁰ Cribbage 1 ⁰⁰ Bingo	14 9 ⁰⁰ Canasta 9 ⁴⁵ RbrBrdg* 1 ³⁰ Poker	15 9 ⁰⁰ Sit & Fit 9 ³⁰ Tables Choice 10 ⁰⁰ Jewelry Making 1 ³⁰ Bunco	16 9 ⁴⁵ RbrBrdg* 10 ³⁰ Mahjong 2 ⁰⁰ Pinochle	17 9 ⁰⁰ Sit & Fit 9 ⁴⁵ DupBrdg* 10 ³⁰ Bingo 12 ⁰⁰ Pinochle 1 ⁰⁰ DupBrdg*	18 6 ⁰⁰ DupBrdg*
19	20 9 ⁰⁰ Sit & Fit 1 ⁰⁰ Cribbage 1 ⁰⁰ Bingo	21 9 ⁰⁰ Canasta 9 ³⁰ DupBrdg* 9 ⁴⁵ RbrBrdg* 1 ³⁰ Poker	22 9 ⁰⁰ Sit & Fit 9 ³⁰ Tables Choice	23 9 ⁴⁵ RbrBrdg* 10 ³⁰ Mahjong 2 ⁰⁰ Pinochle	24 Center Closed 	25
26	27 9 ⁰⁰ Sit & Fit 1 ⁰⁰ Cribbage 1 ⁰⁰ Bingo	28 9 ⁰⁰ Canasta 9 ⁴⁵ RbrBrdg* 1 ³⁰ Poker	29 9 ⁰⁰ Sit & Fit 9 ³⁰ Tables Choice	30 9 ⁴⁵ RbrBrdg* 10 ³⁰ Mahjong 2 ⁰⁰ Pinochle	31 Center Closed 	

Treasure of the Hills Senior Center

408 Ridgewood Drive, Cedar Park, TX 78613

Phone: 512-331-6000

Open Monday-Friday 9am-3pm

www.toth-seniors.com