



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

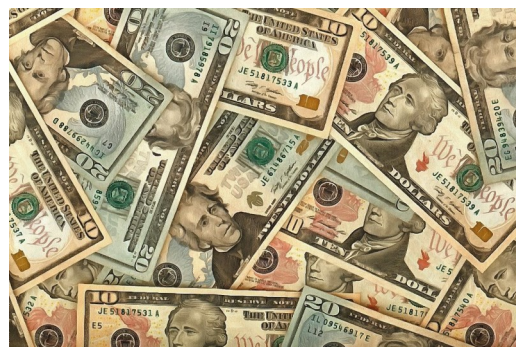
For Dodie Planck from
Gerri West
Lisa Leirvaag
Lois Carlson

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%.

(continued on next page)

(continued)

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	9	2	3	1	8	7	6
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			<i>1</i> 9 ⁰⁰ Sit & Fit 9 ³⁰ Tables Choice 10 ⁰⁰ Jewelry Making 1 ³⁰ Bunco	<i>2</i> 9 ⁴⁵ RbrBrdg* 10 ³⁰ Mahjong 2 ⁰⁰ Pinochle	<i>3</i> 9 ⁰⁰ Sit & Fit 10 ³⁰ Bingo 12 ⁰⁰ Pinochle 1 ⁰⁰ DupBrdg*	<i>4</i>
<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> 9 ⁰⁰ Sit & Fit 1 ⁰⁰ Cribbage 1 ⁰⁰ Bingo	<i>7</i> 9 ⁰⁰ Canasta 9 ³⁰ DupBrdg* 9 ⁴⁵ RbrBrdg* 1 ⁰⁰ ExecCmte 1 ³⁰ Poker	<i>8</i> 9 ⁰⁰ Sit & Fit 9 ³⁰ Tables Choice 10 ⁰⁰ Crafts	<i>9</i> 9 ⁴⁵ RbrBrdg* 10 ³⁰ Mahjong 2 ⁰⁰ Pinochle	<i>10</i> 9 ⁰⁰ Sit & Fit 10 ³⁰ Bingo 12 ⁰⁰ Pinochle 1 ⁰⁰ DupBrdg*	<i>11</i>
<i>12</i>	<i>13</i> 9 ⁰⁰ Sit & Fit 10 ⁰⁰ BOD 1 ⁰⁰ Cribbage 1 ⁰⁰ Bingo	<i>14</i> 9 ⁰⁰ Canasta 9 ⁴⁵ RbrBrdg* 1 ³⁰ Poker	<i>15</i> 9 ⁰⁰ Sit & Fit 9 ³⁰ Tables Choice 10 ⁰⁰ Jewelry Making 1 ³⁰ Bunco	<i>16</i> 9 ⁴⁵ RbrBrdg* 10 ³⁰ Mahjong 2 ⁰⁰ Pinochle	<i>17</i> 9 ⁰⁰ Sit & Fit 9 ⁴⁵ DupBrdg* 10 ³⁰ Bingo 12 ⁰⁰ Pinochle 1 ⁰⁰ DupBrdg*	<i>18</i> 6 ⁰⁰ DupBrdg*
<i>19</i>	<i>20</i> 9 ⁰⁰ Sit & Fit 1 ⁰⁰ Cribbage 1 ⁰⁰ Bingo	<i>21</i> 9 ⁰⁰ Canasta 9 ³⁰ DupBrdg* 9 ⁴⁵ RbrBrdg* 1 ³⁰ Poker	<i>22</i> 9 ⁰⁰ Sit & Fit 9 ³⁰ Tables Choice	<i>23</i> 9 ⁴⁵ RbrBrdg* 10 ³⁰ Mahjong 2 ⁰⁰ Pinochle	<i>24</i> Center Closed	<i>25</i> 
<i>26</i>	<i>27</i> 9 ⁰⁰ Sit & Fit 1 ⁰⁰ Cribbage 1 ⁰⁰ Bingo	<i>28</i> 9 ⁰⁰ Canasta 9 ⁴⁵ RbrBrdg* 1 ³⁰ Poker	<i>29</i> 9 ⁰⁰ Sit & Fit 9 ³⁰ Tables Choice	<i>30</i> 9 ⁴⁵ RbrBrdg* 10 ³⁰ Mahjong 2 ⁰⁰ Pinochle	<i>31</i> 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



The Golden Gazette

NOVEMBER

Treasure of the Hills Senior Activity Center

Volume XXXI Number 11

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GIVING THANKS

For the hay and the corn and the wheat that is reaped,
For the labor well done, and the barns that are heaped
For the Sun and the dew and the sweet honeycomb,
For the rose and the song and the harvest brought home —
Thanksgiving! Thanksgiving!

For the trade and the skill and the wealth of our land,
For the cunning and strength of the workingman's hand,
For the good that our artists and poets have taught,
For the friendship that hope and affection have brought —
Thanksgiving! Thanksgiving!

For the homes that with purest affection are blest,
For the season of plenty and well deserved rest,
For our country extending from sea unto sea,
The land that is known as the "Land of the Free" —
Thanksgiving!! Thanksgiving!!

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

By Dennis Domanski

As we enter the month of November and approaching Thanksgiving Day, we do indeed have numerous things to be thankful for. On Thanksgiving as we reflect on the past year, we recall it has definitely been a year of transition for Treasure of the Hills. It is gratifying to see the newly renovated TOTH gearing up to full speed. Many volunteers have helped achieve that and we offer our sincere thanks.

As we move forward, I appreciate City Council, City Management and City Staff’s recognition of the importance of our Treasure of the Hills now and in their future plans.

Congratulations to the Slate of Officers and Board of Directors. Please give them your full support as you have done for me in the past years.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Dennis

Everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about.

Be Kind Always

Robin Williams

TREASURER’S REPORT

By Dick Planck

Our income for September was \$709.54 and expenses were \$9,071.62. The main item of income was \$637.50 from Membership dues. Major items of expense were:

Building renovation expenses: \$6,509.62

Insurance premiums: \$837.00

Electric bills: \$637.99 (two months)

Our investments decreased in value by: \$1,630.55.

JEWELRY/CRAFT CLASSES

By Mary Riordon

After much discussion, jewelry class will be the *4th Wednesday* of the month at 10 a.m. and a craft class will be on the *2nd Wednesday* of the month at 10:00 a.m. Check the sign-up list in the reception area for the specific topic each session. If you have questions, call Mary Riordon at 512-260-8876 (this is a landline so no texts). We will re-evaluate the schedule after January 2022. Thank you!

REMINDER

Just a friendly reminder to take advantage of the hand sanitizer stations — especially after sneezing into your hands. As we are entering into flu season too, let’s try to keep the spread of germs to a minimum on our game playing surfaces.

VP NOTES

By Carolyn White



We're back!! It's been wonderful seeing all you members again that have come back to play.

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. IF you haven't got your Covid shot yet, MASKS will be required if not vaccinated.

The Board of Directors have said that as we are now in Stage 3 and moving downward, those playing games can bring a sack lunch with you and a drink. The ONLY rule and this will be from now on regardless of the Covid status, is that we are asking that no one eat at the tables where they are playing. We've had complaints that cards, games, etc. are getting sticky and crumbs being crushed into the rug. A side table will be set up for you to eat at.

***Don't forget* to sign in and out when you are at the Center.**

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

-3- FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Lisa Leirvaag

Isn't it wonderful to be back?!

Thank you all for being such a good sports about signing in and out. I know it's a little bit of a nuisance — especially remembering to sign out again. We hope to find a better system next year.

I am sorry that we can't bring food to share for the time being or prepare food at the Center. It takes some of the fun out of getting together. But everybody's safety has top priority, and we need to be patient — again!

Many of the games are in full swing already. I am happy to report that Barbara Duprey and Joe Gleaton have volunteered to be Bingo callers. Barbara on Mondays and Joe on Fridays.

Richard Stone started Sit & Fit on Monday, October 18th.

Please, take a minute to check the clothes rack in the office. There are several items of clothing that have been hanging there for a very long time. If they are still there by November 30th, they will be donated to Goodwill.

Sue Witovec dropped in with her daughter October 14th to say hello. She looks well and I hope she'll be back for more visits.

Finally — a special thanks to Carolyn White, Mary Riordon and Donna Craig for all their support during our start-up phase. Couldn't have done it without you, ladies!

Y'all stay safe & have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

TOTH Board Notes

By Donna Craig

The Nominating Committee presented the slate of nominees for the 2022 Board. The Board unanimously approved and accepted the slate.

The October 18th member meeting was reviewed. Nominations from the floor will be taken for the 2022 Board and the candidates approved by the Board will be available to meet and greet. Individually wrapped snacks were approved for the meeting.

Frank Mignoli reported on the Covid status. It was agreed to allow members to start bringing a sack lunch and their own beverage into the Center with the understanding that there will be no eating at any shared work stations or games tables. This stipulation has no bearing on Covid and will remain in effect permanently moving forward for sanitary reasons.

The Executive Committee reported authorizing the purchase of six more hard-top card tables to replace worn out ones.

Cloud-based database programs were discussed and will be reviewed in more detail next month.

The Executive Committee reported authorizing a Memorial Garden annual budget at \$300 per year. The Managing Director will maintain and authorize expenses prior to purchase.

A motion was made and approved to raise the Managing Director's salary to \$13 per hour, effective November 1, 2001.

-4-

TOTH Board Notes continued

A review of the Bylaws and Policy & Procedures was conducted by a review committee. Donna Craig presented their findings and proposed changes.

The key holder list is being updated for the Center.

Lisa reported that we are no longer members of the Chamber of Commerce because no dues were paid in 2020. Decision was made to not renew at this time.

Bill Van Osten resigned from the Board of Directors in September, due to personal reasons.

NOTE OF THANKS

By Donna Craig

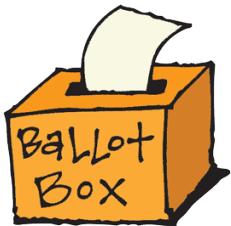
Replacement Committee Chair

I wanted to give special thanks to our Replacement Committee for all their hard work in putting the Center back together. Lois Birdwell, Lisa Leirvaag, Dick Planck and Carolyn White — your opinions and time helped create a welcoming new Center. Huge thanks to the volunteers who helped unload the on-site storage unit and unpack the many, many kitchen boxes! Also thanks to Mary Riordon for her large kitchen workspace & knowledge which allowed us to replace the material on the cornice boards. My sincere thanks !

Your Slate of Officers and Board of Directors is as follows:

President	Carolyn White
Vice President	Denny Clauson
Secretary	Beverly Ball
Treasurer	Dickk Planck

Director (1 year term)	MarEllen Basalyga
Director (1 year term)	J. C. Henderson
Director (2 year term)	Philip MacDonald
Director (2 year term)	Floresa Williams
Director (3 year term)	Frank Mignoli
Director (3 year term)	Pat Thomas



REMEMBER TO VOTE!!



Election of Officers and Board of Directors for 2022 is coming up!!

You may vote from *Monday, November 8th* through NOON on *Monday, November 15th*. During TOTH Annual Business Meeting on November 15th, the votes will be tallied and the election results will be announced.

2021 Bylaws Review Proposed Changes

Article V – Section 2A

The Board of Directors, also referred to as the Board, shall have not more than twelve nor fewer than five active members.

Update the word (individuals) to active members

Article VI - Section A2

When receiving a ballot at the Annual Meeting or prior thereto (as set forth in the Policy & Procedures on Elections), members must place their initials after their name on the list.

Change the word (a) to the

Article VII – Committees

Reorganize first paragraph for better clarity. Recommend opening sentence and then break to Sections.

The Board shall establish and define the purpose of committees, as required, to manage and conduct the business of TOTH.

Section 1. Non-Standing Committees

The President, with approval of the Board, shall appoint the chairperson of (such) non-standing committees. Committee members shall be selected by the chairperson of the committee. The Board shall discontinue such committees upon completion of the specific assignment or when the need no longer exists. (Other committees shall report to the President, or to a member of the Board, as designated when the committee is formed.)

Remove word such

Remove superfluous sentence – superfluous “Other committees....”

BYLAWS REVISION 2021—continued

Section 2. Standing Committees

Standing Committees shall report to the Board of Directors. There shall be **four** Standing Committees:

Move Standing Committees line from non-standing paragraph to under the standing committee heading.

There are **four** standing committees: Nominating, Finance, Special Events & Resource Development, and Publicity & Public Awareness.

Bylaws Revision 2021 – Article VII continued

Section 2D – The Publicity and Public Awareness Committee

The Committee shall develop and utilize an email list to make announcements (**once**) a few days before the event, and **again** the day before the event.

Remove the word **once** and add the word **again** as noted.

Miscellaneous

Revisions and amendments notations are not necessary on the front page — they are part of the last page. **Will add the revision date at the bottom of front page for clarification.**

Review Committee: Donna Craig and Carolyn White

Presented and approved by BOD on 10-11-2021

BYLAWS + P&P REVIEW

INSTRUCTIONS TO MEMBERS

Your Board of Directors performed a review of the Bylaws and Policy & Procedures, and found several items requiring updates.

Some of the items were simple grammatical or typographical errors, some were clarifications on confusing sentence structure & wording, while others were amendments or revisions to existing policies to bring them current with the Center today.

Attached is a list of the proposed changes to the TOTH Bylaws that have been approved by the Board of Directors and will need membership approval. You are being provided this document to show where the changes are being made. All changes are shown in bold print. If a word, phrase, or paragraph has been eliminated – it is shown as (———). If a word, phrase, or paragraph is underlined – then it has only been changed.

These changes will be voted upon during the November 15, 2021 Annual Business Meeting. We will not go through all the changes at that meeting, but will answer any questions. I am also available any time prior to the meeting if you have questions on the document. If there is a change which any member feels should not be made – that change will be voted upon. At the end of the discussion period, there will be a vote to accept or reject the Proposed Changes to the Bylaws with any changes that are approved during the discussion.

If you have any questions concerning the attached Proposed Changes or need clarification on an item, please feel free to contact Donna Craig, Chairperson of the Bylaws + Policy & Procedures Review Committee at 512-699-3381 or donnajcraig3@gmail.com.

Covid-19 Update –October 2021

By Frank Mignoli

Covid-19 Cases and Vaccinations

I was able to find the criteria for the definitions of the five (5) (actually only four (4)) Stages of COVID-19 Risk in the Austin area. The basis is the 7-day average of the number of new COVID-19 cases admitted to the hospital in the Austin Area. We are currently in Stage 3, which means the range of the 7-day average of new COVID-19 hospitalizations is 15-29. On October 16th the new COVID-19 patients hospitalized was 27 and the 7-day average over 28. To get to Stage 2 (same as Stage 1) the 7-day average would have to be less than 15 new COVID-19 hospitalizations the previous day.

As of October 16th, ten 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	17,552,000	894,100	392,200
Fully Vaccinated	15,211,000	787,300	348,900
Fully Vaccinated % (1)	77.7%	84.6%	84.1%

Of 80% of population

In the state of Texas we have less than 80% of the population fully vaccinated. The Pfizer vaccine booster shot has been approved for the elderly and those that have a condition or are taking medication that weakens their immune system. The third (booster, ½ dose) of Moderna has been approved for EU by the FDA. All it needs now is the CDC to approve it. The Austin area is in stage 3 of risk-based guidelines for the vaccinated. Masks are not required for low risk dining areas and shopping.

Hospitalizations — In Texas, on September 17th there were 12,246 COVID-19 hospitalizations and they kept dropping. The 7-day average was slightly higher. By October 16, the number of COVID-19 hospitalizations had fallen to around 5,300 and the 7-day average less than 6,000. In the Travis/Williamson County area the COVID-19 hospitalizations had drop to less than 240 with a 7-day average of less than 260. The 7-day average of the percentage of COVID-19 hospitalizations o all patients had fallen to less than 6.3%.

Masks — Stage 3 states “Participate in indoor private gatherings with precautions, and outdoor gatherings without precautions. High-risk individuals may dine with precautions, while low-risk individuals may dine without precautions.” However, the definition of “precautions” is not stated. Assumptions could be made that masks serve as a “precaution” and being vaccinated can put you in a low-risk category. We find that masks are prevalent at groceries and other large gathering events. While at most outdoor activities very few masks are worn.

THURSDAY BRIDGE HAS RESUMED

By Karen Krestensen

Hello, bridge players. My name is Karen Krestensen, and I am taking over as the coordinator for Thursday rubber bridge. Thank you, Joyce Francis, for all you did in coordinating Thursday bridge in the past.

I am happy to announce that Thursday rubber bridge is resuming on a weekly basis. We will go back to the usual time frame of playing from 9:45 AM to 2:00 PM or earlier. We will all contribute \$1 to the kitty for the prizes at the end of play. When you sign in on Thursday mornings, you can also sign up for the next week if you know you can play. If we end up with extra names over four per table, you will be considered a substitute for that week only—and may be called at the last minute to play. I will call you as soon as possible if that’s the case. Yes, it does help to come early! You can always call the center at 512-331-6000 and ask whoever answers to have your name added to the sign-up sheet.

You can once again bring your lunch and can enjoy it at the long table in the back of the room. Another long table can be set up if needed. You can also eat outdoors or in your car. We just will not be eating at the bridge tables, as there have been complaints that eating at the tables causes the cards to become “sticky.”

If you’ve been a “regular” prior to the pandemic shutdown, you “know the drill.” If you’re new to TOTH and want to play bridge, I encourage you to call, text, or email me to sign up. Again, this is rubber bridge, not duplicate. My phone and text number is 707-292-2577. My email is karenkrestensen@yahoo.com.

I want to welcome warmly all of our returning Thursday bridge players, as well as those of you who are new to the group. It is sooooo good to be back playing bridge regularly once again. And, yes, some of us are “rusty,” and that’s to be expected. I look forward to seeing you all again.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Lois Watkins	01
Jim Cowan	04
Jimmie Marshman	04
Ralph Lee	05
Calvin Allison	08
Joyce Brahm-Pickens	11
Marilee Blackwelder	12
John McElver	15
Pat Thomas	15
Bruce Leach	16
June Peterson	16
John DeMarines	16
Ninette Fernandez	17
Mike Callahan	18
Marie Roycroft	19
Peg Fiehtner	20
Martha Orr	20
Jeff Blackwelder	22
Dian Gardner	23
Mick Sandgarten	23
Jerrold Rubin	24
Dora Martinez	25
Frank Mignoli	26
Peggy Ryburn	27
Patty Biles	29
Del Darling	29
James West	30



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Nancy & Ron Greenwood	05
Rhoda & Bill Lloyd	26
Lois & Ken Birdwell	27



- Connie Tortorelli
- Jayne Van Osten
- Sally Ladyman
- Jean Wiedenfeld
- Lois Carlson
- Carolyn White
- Gerri West
- Jim West
- Barbara Ohradzansky
- Jim Ohradzansky
- Dodie Domanski



Thank you for all the cards, flowers, emails and phone calls I received during the past 2 months while I'm dealing with medical issues. I'll be on this journey for another couple of months, so I do appreciate all your positive thoughts. *Dodie Domanski*

NOVEMBER 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 9:00 Sit & Fit 1:00 Cribbage 1:00 Bingo <i>Election Day</i>	2 9:00 Canasta 9:30 Dup. Brdg** 9:45 Rubber Brdg** 1:00 Exec. Cmt. 1:30 Poker	3 9:00 Sit & Fit 9:30 Tables Choice 1:30 Bunco	4 9:45 Rubber Bridge** 10:30 Mahjongg 2:00 Pinochle	5 9:00 Sit & Fit 10:30 Bingo Noon—Pinochle 1:00 Dup. Bridge**	6
7 <i>Daylight Saving Time Ends</i>	8 9:00 Sit & Fit 10:00 BOD 1:00 Cribbage 1:00 Bingo	9 9:00 Canasta 9:45 Rubber Brdg** 1:30 Poker	10 9:00 Sit & Fit 9:30 Tables Choice 10 Craft Class	11 9:45 Rubber Bridge** 10:30 Mahjongg 2:00 Pinochle <i>Veterans Day</i>	12 9:00 Sit & Fit 10:30 Bingo Noon—Pinochle 1:00 Dup. Bridge**	13 6:00 Duplicate Bridge **
14	15 9:00 Sit & Fit Noon: Annual Business Mtg. 1:00 Cribbage	16 9:00 Canasta 9:30 Dup. Brdg** 9:45 Rubber Brdg ** 1:30 Poker	17 9:00 Sit & Fit 9:30 Tables Choice 1:30 Bunco	18 9:45 Rubber Bridge** 10:30 Mahjongg 2:00 Pinochle	19 9:00 Sit & Fit 9:45 Dup. Bridge** 10:30 Bingo Noon—Pinochle 1:00 Dup. Bridge**	20
21	22 9:00 Sit & Fit 1:00 Cribbage 1:00 Bingo	23 9:00 Canasta 9:45 Rubber-Brdg** 1:30 Poker	24 9:00 Sit & Fit 9:30 Tables Choice 10 Jewelry Making	25 <i>Happy Thanksgiving</i> <i>Center Closed</i>	26 <i>Center Closed</i>	27
28 <i>Hanukkah</i>	29 9:00 Sit & Fit 1:00 Cribbage 1:00 Bingo	30 9:00 Canasta 9:45 Rubber Brdg** 1:30 Poker				30 **Sign up Required ***Sign up Required & Pay in Advance

Treasure of the Hills Senior Activity Center
408 Ridgewood Dr., Cedar Park, Texas 78613

Phone: 512-331-6000

Open Monday-Friday 9 a.m.—3 p.m.

www.toth-seniors.com



The Golden Gazette

OCTOBER

Treasure of the Hills Senior Activity Center

Volume XXXI Number 10

OCTOBER 2021



To our newly renovated Senior Center!

Treasure of the Hills is ready to add another date, a joyous one, to our Center's history. We have worked through closure on March 13, 2020 due to Covid-19. February 19, 2021 the frozen pipe bursting caused a closure and now a joyous date as we celebrate the re-opening of our Center on October 4, 2021.

There is a new refreshed look to the Center which includes paint, carpeting, flooring, cabinets, desk and seating area. Acknowledgment to:

- 1) The City of Cedar Park for recognizing the importance of the Senior Center and having building repairs done.
- 2) To Donna Craig for leading our Replacement Committee, and the many volunteers that assisted her in bringing in, setting up, and placement of everything to make the Center a warm, inviting place Thank you each and everyone of you.

Please take time reading through the Gazette as there are many articles of importance that I ask you to think about. They are written by members that are passionate to make Treasure of the Hills the best Activity Center for you.

The Board of Directors have elected that the Managing Director's and Treasurer's offices remain locked when they are out of the office. Lisa, our Managing Director, will be handling additional duties in order to assist everyone. Any needs you have should be directed to Lisa in advance.

I trust you are looking forward to returning to the Center as I am to enjoy the activities and friendship.

Dennis

VP NOTES

By Carolyn White

Looking forward to our Grand Opening of our Senior Center again!

I want to thank everyone who helped us put the center back together. I want to thank Donna and her crew; we couldn't have done it without you. We hope you like the new look.

We will ALL be filling out New **ReAffirmation Forms** before we are back to doing activities, we are doing a soft opening between the hours of 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. from September 15th through October 1st for you to come in and take care of this. Because of Covid restrictions, there will be a few changes. **IF** you haven't got your Covid shot yet, **MASKS** will be required **IF** not vaccinated.

It is time again for nominations for officers for the Board. We will be filling 10 positions this year, so please give some thought to stepping up and helping. Contact Mary Riordon (Nominating Chair) at 512-260-8876 (land line—no texting) if you would like to help and let her know what you're interested in.

Take care and stay safe ... can't wait to see you all again!

-2-

FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Lisa Leirvaag

Good things come to those who wait!

It was a great feeling finally being able to turn the sign in the window from "Closed" to "Open" on September 15th, the first day of our "soft opening".

Thank you, City of Cedar Park, TOTH Executive Committee, Replacement Committee, and all you volunteers that made this possible!

Thank you for your creativity and hard work, for the helpful ideas, long hours and amazing organizational skills!

Business, unfortunately, not entirely — as usual will commence October 4th. Covid-19 is still with us, and we need to be careful and considerate to stay safe.

Welcome to our beautiful Treasure of the Hills Senior Activity Center!



TREASURER'S REPORT

By Dick Planck

Our income for August was \$155.46 and expenses were \$10,154.27. Our income was all from Member donations and the expenses were mostly related to building renovation and storage cost. This included fabric, mirrors, valence rods, wall art as well as 3 computers and monitors and a printer.

Our investments increased in value by \$3,232.95.

TOTH 2022 Election of Officers & Directors Timeline

October 18th—Monday

The candidates for officers and directors of TOTH are presented to the full membership at the lunch meeting on this date. At this time, nominations will be taken from the floor, and a Meet & Greet of all candidates is available.

Proxys will be available at this meeting and from the Managing Director.

A proxy letter is used notifying the Managing Director in writing of a member's anticipated absence from the Center during the period of early voting and the Annual Business Meeting. The written notification must include the name of the person designated to vote as proxy for the absent member. See the TOTH P & P section 1-2© for full instructions on voting by proxy.

November 1st—Monday

This is the deadline for submission of a proxy letter to the Managing Director of TOTH.

November 8—12th (M-F/ 9a.m.-3 p.m.)

Early voting is conducted at the Center. Members may pick up a ballot at the Center and either cast their ballot at this time or take it home and mail it in to vote. In an emergency, a member may call the Center and designate another member to pick up a ballot for them. The ballot may then be mailed in to the Center. See the TOTH P & P section 1-2 (a,b,d) for full instructions on early voting.

Voting continues until Noon on November 15th

All ballots must be received at the Center by noon on Monday, November 15th, in order to be counted in the election. No ballots will be mailed to members.

November 15th - Monday at noon

The TOTH Annual Business Meeting will be held on this date. The votes will be tallied during the luncheon and the election results will be announced at the luncheon as soon as the Tellers Committee has completed the vote tally.

NOMINATIONS FOR TOTH BOARD 2022

By Mary Riordon

Thank you to all who have volunteered to be on the Board. Elections are not until November so there is still time to “throw your hat into the ring”. Those interested in a position on the Board are invited to sit-in (and be a “fly on the wall”) at the next Board meeting—October 11 at 10:00 a.m. Call Mary Riordon at 512-260-8876 (no texts, this is a land line) if you have questions or want to be a candidate. Thank you!

MONDAY NIGHT BRIDGE

By Frank Mignoli

Monday Night Bridge will start on Monday, October 4th at 6:15 p.m., the first day the Center is open for operation. However, you can't play until you have completed a Reaffirmation Application Form. You can complete this form by going to the Center any weekday between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. At the same time you can tour the facility and observe all the changes resulting from the water damage repairs, new furniture and other changes.

The following conditions shall be in effect until we reach Stage 3 of risk-based guidelines for vaccinated persons in the Austin area.

- 1) Masks are optional for vaccinated persons.
- 2) Masks are mandatory for unvaccinated persons.
- 3) Hand sanitizers will be available.
- 4) No food or snacks will be allowed.
- 5) Tables will be sanitized before play and no coverings will be allowed.

A sign-up list will be on the Bulletin Board. If you do not visit the Center before October 4th, call me at 512-249-7963 to sign up by noon that Monday.

PLEASE NOTE THIS INFORMATION

Our Director, Lisa, has a new email address. It is:

toth.director.tx.@gmail.com

OUR SYMPATHIES

We extend our sympathies to Dick Planck and his family for the loss of Dodie. Dodie was a long time member of TOTH and gave many, many volunteer hours while a member. She served as Editor of the Gazette for 22 years of faithful devotion as our Editor.

Also our condolences to the family of long time member, Jean Hinkle, who passed away August 9th. A memorial was held for her at the Ranch this past Sunday.

MEMORIALS

By Jan Clark

Naida Williams from Phyllis Epps
Dodie Planck from June Peterson

RECEPTIONISTS

By Mary Riordon

Anyone wanting to be a receptionist after October 4, 2021, call Mary Riordon at 512-260-8876 (no texts, this is a land line). The shifts will be 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. We already have a volunteer for every Wednesday. Training will be scheduled soon. Thanks.

FROM THE EDITOR

By Dodie Domanski

Barbara Duprey has graciously stepped forward to volunteer as the new Editor of the Gazette. Thank you, Barbara. Barbara will become Editor in January, 2022. I know she will appreciate your support.

-5- Covid-19 Update –October 2021

By Frank Mignoli

Covid-19 Cases and Vaccinations

Well, I decided to start up my updates again because of the Delta variant, but will minimize the article length to only Texas.

As of September 16th, nine months since the first vaccination was administered, total vaccinations for Texas and the 2 nearest counties show the following:

	<u>Texas</u>	<u>Travis Co.</u>	<u>Williamson Co.</u>
One Dose administered	16,963,000	873,400	383,700
Fully Vaccinated	14,390,000	759,100	336,100
Fully Vaccinated % (1)	74.4%	81.9%	80.8%

(1) Of 80% of Population

In the State of Texas we have less than 80% of the population fully vaccinated. They are now talking about a 3rd booster shot for the elderly and those that have a condition or are taking medication that weakens their immune system. The Austin area is in Stage 5 of risk-based guidelines for the vaccinated. When we reach Stage 3, masks are not required for low risk dining areas and shopping.

Hospitalizations

In Texas in late August the 7 day average of COVID-19 hospitalizations was over 12,000 and as of September 16th it was slightly under 13,000 but is coming down. The 7 day average of daily hospitalizations in the Travis/Williamson Counties area went over 15% (critical point) on August 13, 2021. This is due to the Covid-19 Delta variance which is more contagious. On September 12th it reached its highest at 18.8%. The 7 day average on September 16th was still about 14% but dropping slightly daily.

Masks

The CDC's recommendations as of late August were that if you are not fully vaccinated and age 2 or older you should wear a mask in indoor public places. In general you do not need to wear a mask in outdoor settings. However, in areas with high numbers of COVID-19 cases, then consider wearing a mask in crowded outdoor settings and for activities with close contact with others who are not fully vaccinated. Do "not" choose masks that:

Are made of fabric that make it hard to breathe, e.g., vinyl

Have exhalation valves or vents which allow virus particles to escape

Are prioritized for healthcare workers, including 95 respirators.

HOMELESS

By Carolyn Patrick

It's good to be back in our new environs! As we celebrate our newly refurbished place, please keep in mind the homeless. As we move into fall, there will be a big demand for coats, hats, gloves, and scarves. And, of course, there is always a demand for the usual list. Since I haven't posted lately, I am going to repost the items that are in highest demand. Please keep in mind that most of our clients live out of backpacks, bags, an suitcases, and are generally on foot.

ITEMS WE ACCEPT:

Shampoo & conditioner	Bar soap	Body Wash
Lotions	Deodorant	Q-tips
Tissues, cotton balls	Razors & shave cream	Body wipes
Hand sanitizer	Toothbrushes, paste, floss, mouthwash	
Sunscreen	Insect repellent	Toilet paper
Nail clippers & files	Brushes, combs, hair clips, pick & elastics	
Large packs of unscented baby wipes	Zipper storage bags (all sizes)	Wash cloths
Hand/body towels	Magnifying eyeglasses	Sunglasses
Reusable water bottles	Brimmed hats	Sleeping mats
Backpacks, rolling suitcases	Twin fitted sheets & sets	Plastic tarps
Reusable grocery bags (cloth, thick plastic)	30 gallon garbage bags	

WINTER WARMTH ITEMS

Hot hand (hand warmers)	Emergency blankets	Sleeping bags
Warm outer wear (knit hats, scarves, gloves, mittens)		Coats
Warm top (long sleeve shirts, sweaters, sweat shirts)		Thermal underwear
Boots	Warm bottoms (pants, jeans, sweat pants)	Warm socks

SATURDAY NIGHT BRIDGE

By Carolyn Patrick

Saturday Bridge will begin again on Saturday, October 9th. That's the 2nd Saturday of the month. We are making a couple of changes. *First*, **NO FOOD**. Feel free to bring whatever you want to drink in your own cup. *Second*, we are asking people to sign up. There will be a clipboard in the Reception Area at TOTH. Hope to see you on October 9th.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Jan Clark	02
Carol Kitto	03
Harvey Wohlwend	05
Larry Hagler	06
Lois Carlson	08
Jim Repass	09
Bill Van Osten	09
Marti Miller	10
Rita Neff	12
Roy Jambor	13
Bill Kitto	14
Mary Ann Pacocha	18
Myra Burke	19
Pat Fiero	21
Norma Holder	21
Stella Mae Martin	22
Consuelo Botero	26
Carolyn Galloway	27
Joan Parker	27
Joe Gleaton	28



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Pat & John Harlan	02
Janice & Harvey Wohlwend	04
Linda & Richard Brown	16
Diana & Mel Hollon	20
Gerri & Jim West	26

A hug for you, my friend



Connie Tortorelli
Jayne Van Osten
Sally Ladyman
Jean Wiedenfeld
Lois Carlson
Carolyn White
Gerri West
Jim West
Barbara Ohradzansky
Jim Ohradzansky
Dodie Domanski

OCTOBER 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 9:00 Sit & Fit 10:30 Bingo Noon—Pinochle 1:00 Dup. Bridge**	2
3	4 9:00 Sit & Fit 1:00 Cribbage 1:00 Bingo 3:00 Scrabble 6:00 Game Night 6:15 Dup. Brdg**	5 9:00 Canasta 9:30 Dup. Brdg ** 9:45 Rubber Brdg** 1:00 Exec. Cmt. 1:30 Poker	6 9:00 Sit & Fit 9:30 Tables Choice 10 Jewelry Making 1:30 Bunco	7 9:45 Rubber Bridge** 10:30 Mahjongg 2:00 Pinochle	8 9:00 Sit & Fit 10:30 Bingo Noon—Pinochle 1:00 Dup. Bridge**	9 6:00 Duplicate Bridge **
10	11 9:00 Sit & Fit 10:00 BOD 1:00 Cribbage 1:00 Bingo 3:00 Scrabble 6:00 Game Night 6:15 Dup. Brdg**	12 9:00 Canasta 9:45 Rubber Brdg ** 1:30 Poker	13 9:00 Sit & Fit 9:30 Tables Choice 10 Jewelry Making	14 9:45 Rubber Bridge** 10:30 Mahjongg 2:00 Pinochle	15 9:00 Sit & Fit 9:45 Dup. Bridge** 10:30 Bingo Noon—Pinochle 1:00 Dup. Bridge**	16
17	18 9:00 Sit & Fit 1:00 Cribbage 1:00 Bingo 3:00 Scrabble 6:00 Game Night 6:15 Dup. Bridge**	19 9:00 Canasta 9:30 Dup. Brdg ** 9:45 Rubber- Brdg** 1:30 Poker	20 9:00 Sit & Fit 9:30 Tables Choice 10 Jewelry Making 1:30 Bunco	21 9:45 Rubber Bridge** 10:30 Mahjongg 2:00 Pinochle	22 9:00 Sit & Fit 10:30 Bingo Noon—Pinochle 1:00 Dup. Bridge**	23
24	25 9:00 Sit & Fit 1:00 Cribbage 1:00 Bingo 3:00 Scrabble 6:00 Game Night 6:15 Dup. Bridge**	26 9:00 Canasta 9:45 Rubber Brdg** 1:30 Poker	27 9:00 Sit & Fit 9:30 Tables Choice 10 Jewelry Making	28 9:45 Rubber Bridge** 10:30 Mahjongg 2:00 Pinochle	29 9:00 Sit & Fit 10:30 Bingo Noon—Pinochle 1:00 Dup. Bridge**	30 **Sign up Required ***Sign up Required & Pay in Advance
						31

Treasure of the Hills Senior Activity Center

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Phone: 512-331-6000 Open Monday-Friday 9 a.m.—3 p.m. www.toth-seniors.com



The Golden Gazette

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

Treasure of the Hills Senior Activity Center

Volume XXXI Number 08/09

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2021

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Dennis Domanski

Excitement continues toward anticipation of our Senior Center welcoming our old and potentially new members to a refreshed building interior. The first 2 weeks of July had insulation installed, dry wall hanging, with taping, floating and painting. Exterior walls were sealed & repairs painted. On interior painting of wood work, baseboards and door frames was concluded. Carpeting and flooring installation will be done weeks of July 19 & 26. Beginning August 1st restroom commodes, sinks and cabinets along with kitchen lower cabinets will be installed.

If there are no unforeseen delays, the contractors should be complete around mid-August. An estimated additional 4 weeks is needed to have new & stored items delivered and set in place.

The Board would like to achieve the goal of a soft opening & some activities in late September with all activities resuming the week of October 1st.

Donations & assistance: While donations are appreciated, we have the opportunity and means to purchase new items currently needed. Any monetary donation could be applied to

President's Message continued

to future purchases. Because the packed items are heavy and awkward to maneuver, we will be using professional movers to get those items back into the building. The City Manager's office has also offered assistance. We will utilize a cleaning service to sanitize and clean items being brought back into the building.

Keep in mind that Elections are coming up. Please read Mary Riordon's article in this Gazette.

I continue to look forward to the Center re-opening so we can sit and chat about all we did the past eighteen or so months. Enjoy the balance of the summer season and be safe and hopefully stay well.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

By Dodie Domanski

This Gazette is a COMBINATION Gazette for August and September. A September issue will NOT be Published. Any important news will be sent out in an email blast.

TOTH BOARD NOTES

By Donna Craig

Reopening of the Center timeline was discussed. City hoping to turn the building over to us by mid-August — the repairs are moving along nicely now. Our goal is for a soft opening in mid-September and full open on October 1st.

Discussion held on food safety for our meal functions moving forward until all Covid restrictions have been lifted.

Discussion held on updating our Certificate of Occupancy prior to opening the Center again and after the City completes all their repairs.

The Replacement Committee chair gave an update on the individual pieces being considered for purchase. The Board approved a motion to authorize the Replacement Committee to make purchases for replacement items.

After all new items have been purchased and the building is back open—the fixed assets should be reviewed and updated.

A survey polling our members for their interest in receiving an electronic copy of the Gazette was approved, with the understanding that mailed (USPS) versions will also be a continued option along with access on our website.

The Board accepted Dodie Domanski's resignation as Editor of the Gazette, effective December 31, 2021.

If anyone is interested in the Editor position, please contact a Board Member or Lisa Leirvaag.

Reaffirming of membership when we reopen was discussed. The need for a Waiver of Liability and Hold Harmless agreement was reviewed. A reaffirming membership packet will be generated for reopening along with the appropriate signage for the doors.

Membership files for married couples were discussed. The Managing Director will ensure that all members have separate file folders when the Center is reopened.

Membership dues were discussed. A motion was approved stating that members in good standing will receive a credit of \$12.50 off their 2022 membership fee. This is to reflect the 6 months of usage lost between 2020-2021. A motion was also approved stating that new members wishing to join for the remainder of this year, and paying for 2022, will be allowed access to all 2021 functions. A discussion was held on the possibility of raising the 2022 dues to \$30 per member. Decision was to maintain our current annual fee of \$25 for 2022 and revisit the increase possibility for 2023.

The church contract expires in September of this year. Discussion was held on renewing their contract for the next 3 years.

The August Board meeting will include discussion on Board vacancies for 2022.

VP NOTES

By Carolyn White

First off, I want to say Thank You to everyone that sent cards and calls during my illness. It made my gloomy days so much nicer.

I hope everyone is doing ok through our long journey. It is looking good for things to come to an end in the next few months. We are in the process of getting the new things in for our Center. I think you'll be pleasantly surprised at how nice everything is going to look. It will seem like a new building with the new paint and carpet and all. I know I can't wait to see how it's all going to look. There will be a few changes but that is to be expected. IF you haven't got your COVID shot yet, there's still time. I've noticed that things are going back up here in Texas in regards to COVID and from what they've said it's mostly the non-vaccinated that are getting the brunt of it.

Did you see the blast that went out about getting our Gazette online for those that would like it, don't forget to answer back to Donna as she is keeping a tally.

So Thank You again everyone for the good wishes and I'm hoping by the time the October issue of the Gazette is out, we will be seeing each other again at the Center. Take care and stay safe!

GAZETTE SURVEY

By Donna Craig

We are taking a Survey on who would like to receive an emailed copy of the Gazette in place of the mailed copy.

The emailed copy will be in PDF format, in color, and able to be saved/printed on your personal computer for distribution to your family and friends (if desired). We believe this will give the Gazette an enhanced, updated look for our Center.

The Gazette will still be available to be mailed for those who desire, and will also continue to be available on our website at toth-seniors.com

If you are currently on the "No Email" list — you will automatically continue to receive the Gazette via USPS.

We are hoping that with the reduced number of Gazettes being mailed, we will be able to process them in-house and in color. Of course, this will depend on the number of people responding to the Survey.

Please reply to Donna Craig, who will be keeping a tally of the responses. You can reply via email with your preference (email or snail-mail/USPS) or give me a call at the number below.

Thank you for your participation.

donnajcraig3@gmail.com OR call Donna at 512-699-3381

TREASURER'S

By Dick Planck

The July Treasurers' Report is incomplete since I do not have the July bank statements or investment reports.

Our income for July was \$580.00, thanks to a donation from Pedernales Electric Employees Charity.

Expenses were \$285.00 for Storage, \$52.04 for electricity, \$42.70 for Gazette printing and \$56.40 for cards and stamps for the Sunshine Committee.

FROM THE EDITOR

By Dodie Domanski

I have elected to tender my resignation as Editor of the Gazette effective December 31, 2021.

I have been the Editor for 4 years and have enjoyed doing it. However, Dennis and I have several long trips planned for 2022 and the logistics of editing the Gazette long distance is not a viable option.

Thank you to all the Members who have submitted articles each month.

I'm more than happy to train the "new editor" in the next few months.

If interested, please call Lisa, our Director, or any Board Member.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Lisa Leirvaag

The repairs are coming along just fine. I was allowed a glimpse inside the building while assisting Donna Craig with taking measurements in the office. The Replacement Committee has been looking at new furniture and we want to make sure everything fits.

With a little bit of luck, and thanks to all the work "behind the scenes" that the Executive Committee has put in, the Center will re-open in less than two months.

Stay safe and cool for the rest of the summer, and hopefully I will see you all this Fall.

ELECTIONS COMING UP!!

By Mary Riordon

To all our **TREASURED MEMBERS** of Treasure of the Hills,

The City of Cedar Park approved funds for the repairs of our building so we may again have a "welcoming" home. Since it has been many months since we had a home, we need to get back "on track". This includes ELECTION of Officers and Board Members for 2022. I am taking NOMINATIONS for President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and 4 BOARD MEMBERS. Elections would be in OCTOBER with January 2022 as the official "begin" date. I will give information on duties when you call to volunteer. You can email me at msriordon@yahoo.com or call 512-260-8876 (NO texts, this is a landline with voice mail. It is time "to let your light shine: and make TOTH the best ever.

Covid-19 Update –August 2021

By Frank Mignoli

Covid-19 Cases and Vaccinations

This will be the last Covid-19 Update. In regards to “Herd Immunity”, theoretically at the current rates of Covid-19 cases and the number of vaccinations we may not reach it till early next year. The controversy over vaccinations for children ages 12-15 and under continues. The long term consequences and do children really need them are the issues. What is still important is the number of new cases and the number of hospitalizations. The latest “Delta” strain is reported to be more contagious.

In the US, the daily vaccinations have dropped from about 1.18 million a day to about 0.57 million. As of July 16th, there were 185,400,000 people that have received their first dose of the vaccine and 160,700,000 million being fully vaccinated. That’s a 7-day average daily rate of only about 0.27 million for first vaccinations and 0.25 million for 2nd dose. The total doses are expected to decrease some more from now on in spite of the government’s efforts to promote vaccinations.

In the US, the total Covid-19 cases have only increased by less than 400,000 in the last month to be around 34 million. Between the fully vaccinated and those that acquired immunity due to contracting the virus, we are at almost 64% of the US population that have immunity from Covid-19.

As of July 16th, seven 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	14,275,000	774,700	339,200
Fully Vaccinated	12,350,000	675,500	295,900
Herd Immunity (Fully) *	70.2%	73.2%	70.8%

*80% of population and % includes fully vaccinated, estimated cases and a reduced average efficacy of the vaccinations of 75%.

Since June 16th in the state of Texas the daily vaccinations have decreased drastically to about 52,000 per day. Thus the estimated date to reach herd immunity has been extended to well into 2022. There’s a possibility of needing booster shots. Only time will tell. Travis County and Williamson counties have decreased too but not as much. Williamson and Travis Counties are running about 3 weeks earlier than State of Texas to about the end of March, 2022 to reach herd reach herd immunity. If we lower

“Herd” Immunity to 75% of the population, the date to reach this milestone, at the current rates of vaccinations, would improve by about 5-7 weeks. However, they still don’t know how long the vaccines remain effective which really muddies the water.

Hospitalizations

Since June 15th the 7 day average of daily hospitalizations in the Travis/Williamson area decreased till until the end of June but has been on the rise since. Now it is almost doubled since June 15th. This could be due to the Covid-19 Delta variance which is more contagious. The 7-day average for hospitalizations is almost 2,400 per day which is about 800 more than it was on June 16th. The critical point is when Covid-19 hospitalized patients are 15% or more of the hospitalized patients. Currently in Travis and Williamson County area, the 7-day average is running at around 3.2% and shows no sign of leveling off. This is 1.2% higher than it was on June 15th. This is concerning if it continues to rise.

Masks

The CDC finally lifted mask wearing both indoors and outdoors for those that have been vaccinated. Most places in Texas are following these guidelines. However, due to the Delta variance it is still recommended that those that have not been vaccinated wear a mask indoors or in a crowd of people.

TOTH Vaccination Progress

As of July 16th, one hundred and sixty-five (165) members have reported on their Covid-19 vaccinations. One hundred and fifty-eight (158) are fully vaccinated including sixteen (16) who have received the one-shot Johnson & Johnson (J & J) vaccine. Only one has elected not to get the 2nd dose due to reactions to the first dose of Moderna. Five (5) are not getting vaccinated at this time. One (1) had contracted the Covid-19 virus but is still considering to get vaccinated or not. However, two who had contracted Covid-19 have since gotten vaccinated with the one dose J & J. Except for twenty-six (26) who received the Pfizer vaccine and sixteen (16) who have received the J & J vaccine, all others received the two-shot Moderna vaccine. We currently have listed about 277 members. We now have 158 fully vaccinated and one (1) who have contracted the virus. Thus about 57% of the Center members who have reported are relatively immune. The percentage is definitely higher since I’m sure not everyone has reported and a few on the list are either out-of-town members or do not actually visit the Center.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



Karl Nann	01
Karl Renner	01
Harold Weiss	03
Elyse Peavy	06
Felicia Gledhill	08
Cindy Rollman	09
MarEllen Basalyga	10
Eileen Kay Brown	11
Dave DiMego	11
Paul Jaqua	12
Patti Laakso	14
Woody Woodruff	14
Georgia White	16
Jo Koerner	17
Rose Ann Doty	18
Sherry Dott	20
Dianne Thomas	20
Jayne Van Osten	20
Becky Jensen	21
Jim Ohradzansky	21
Cindy Klein	22
Tootie Glaeser	23
IngeWasser	23
Jim Gardner	27
Barbara Read	27
Connie Tortorelli	28
Nancy Kingston	29
Carolyn White	31



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Sheila & Mike Perkins	01
Freth & Les Carroll	01
Barbara & Denny Clauson	02
Marilee & Jeff Blackwelder	03
Terri & Tom Brandt	12
Dian & Jim Gardner	24
Helen & Paul Jaqua	27

A hug for you, my friend



Connie Tortorelli
Jayne Van Osten
Sally Ladyman
Jean Wiedenfeld
Lois Carlson
Dodie Planck
Carolyn White
Gerri West
Jim West
Barbara Ohradzansky



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Tom Brandt	02
Freth Carroll	02
Nancy Greenwood	07
Ann Irwin	08
Jerry Ryburn	09
Kim Dodson	10
Nola Wyche	10
Elizabeth Whitney Strong	12
Phyllis Epps	13
Charlene Palmer	13
Ruth Niedzielak	16
Gerri West	19
Al Lowenstein	21
Debbie Strong	22
Maggie Ingraham	23
Sherry Peterson	23
Steve Craig	25
Pamela Eyrick	25
Carolyn Altman	26
Sheila Perkins	26



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Avis Elaine & Rex Burton	02
Donna & Steve Craig	05
Jan & C. W. Clark	13
Doris & Rich Stone	19
Kathy & Lyle Williamson	25

CONDOLENCES

Long time member Jerri Sellars passed away July 15. Our sympathies to her husband, Larry Sellars and family. If you wish to send a card, Larry's address is: 1713 Warwick Way, Cedar Park, TX 78613

AUGUST 2021

ALL ACTIVITIES ARE "SUSPENDED"

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	9:00 Sit & Fit 1:00 Cribbage 1:00 Bingo 3:00 Scrabble 6:00 Game Night 6:15 Dup Brdg***	9:00 Canasta 9:30 Dup. Brdg *** 9:45 Rubber Brdg*** 1:00 Exec. Cmt. 1:30 Poker	9:00 Sit & Fit 9:30 Tables Choice 10 Jewelry Making 1:00 Line Dancing	9:45 Rubber Bridge** 10:30 Mahjongg 2:00 Pinochle	9:00 Sit & Fit 10:00 Bridge Lessons 10:30 Bingo Noon—Pinochle 1:00 Dup. Bridge	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
6:15 Dup. Brdg*** ↑	9:00 Sit & Fit 10:00 BOD 1:00 Cribbage 1:00 Bingo 3:00 Scrabble 6:00 Game Night	9:00 Canasta 9:45 Rubber Brdg** 1:30 Poker	9:00 Sit & Fit 9:30 Tables Choice 10 Jewelry Making 1:30 Bunco	9:45 Rubber Bridge** 10:30 Mahjongg 2:00 Pinochle	9:00 Sit & Fit 10:00 Bridge Lessons 10:30 Bingo Noon—Pinochle 1:00 Dup. Bridge	6:00 Duplicate Bridge **
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	9:00 Sit & Fit 11:30 Covered Dish 1:00 Cribbage 1:00 Bingo 3:00 Scrabble 6:00 Game Night 6:15 Dup. Bridge**	9:00 Canasta 9:30 Dup. Brdg ** 9:45 Rubber Brdg ** 1:30 Poker	9:00 Sit & Fit 9:30 Tables Choice 10 Jewelry Making 1:00 Line Dancing	9:45 Rubber Bridge** 10:30 Mahjongg 2:00 Pinochle	9:00 Sit & Fit 9:45 Dup. Bridge** 10:00 Bridge Lessons 10:30 Bingo Noon—Pinochle 1:00 Dup. Bridge**	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	9:00 Sit & Fit 1:00 Cribbage 1:00 Bingo 3:00 Scrabble 6:00 Game Night 6:15 Dup. Bridge**	9:00 Canasta 9:45 Rubber Brdg** 1:30 Poker	9:00 Sit & Fit 9:30 Tables Choice 10 Jewelry Making 1:30 Bunco	9:45 Rubber Bridge** 10:30 Mahjongg 2:00 Pinochle	9:00 Sit & Fit 10:00 Bridge Lessons 10:30 Bingo Noon—Pinochle 1:00 Dup. Bridge**	
29	30	31				
	9:00 Sit & Fit 1:00 Cribbage 1:00 Bingo 3:00 Scrabble 6:00 Game Night 6:15 Dup. Bridge**	9:00 Canasta 9:45 Rubber Brdg** 1:30 Poker				**Sign up Required ***Sign up Required & Pay in Advance

Treasurer of the Hills Senior Activity Center
400 Ridgewood Dr., Cedar Park, Texas 78613
 Open Monday-Friday 9 a.m.—3 p.m. www.toth-seniors.com

Phone: 512-331-6000

SEPTEMBER 2021

ALL ACTIVITIES ARE "SUSPENDED"

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 9:00 Sit & Fit 9:30 Tables Choice 10 Jewelry Making 1:00 Line Dancing	2 9:45 Rubber Bridge** 10:30 Mahjongg 2:00 Pinochle	3 9:00 Sit & Fit 10:00 Bridge Lessons 10:30 Bingo Noon—Pinochle 1:00 Dup. Bridge	4
5	6 LABOR DAY CENTER CLOSED	7 9:00 Canasta 9:30 Dup. Brdg ** 9:45 Rubber Brdg** 1:00 Exec. Cmt.	8 9:00 Sit & Fit 9:30 Tables Choice 10 Jewelry Making 1:30 Bunco	9 9:45 Rubber Bridge** 10:30 Mahjongg 2:00 Pinochle	10 9:00 Sit & Fit 10:00 Bridge Lessons 10:30 Bingo Noon—Pinochle 1:00 Dup. Bridge	11 6:00 Duplicate Bridge ** <i>Patriot Day</i>
12 <i>Grand-Parents Day</i>	13 9:00 Sit & Fit 10:00 BOD 1:00 Cribbage 1:00 Bingo 3:00 Scrabble 6:00 Game Night 6:15 Dup. Bridge**	14 9:00 Canasta 9:45 Rubber Brdg ** 1:30 Poker	15 9:00 Sit & Fit 9:30 Tables Choice 10 Jewelry Making 1:00 Line Dancing	16 9:45 Rubber Bridge** 10:30 Mahjongg 2:00 Pinochle	17 9:00 Sit & Fit 9:45 Dup. Bridge** 10:00 Bridge Lessons 10:30 Bingo Noon—Pinochle 1:00 Dup. Bridge**	18
19	20 9:00 Sit & Fit 11:30 Covered Dish 1:00 Cribbage 1:00 Bingo 3:00 Scrabble 6:00 Game Night 6:15 Dup. Bridge**	21 9:00 Canasta 9:30 Dup. Brdg ** 9:45 Rubber Brdg** 1:30 Poker	22 9:00 Sit & Fit 9:30 Tables Choice 10 Jewelry Making 1:30 Bunco 1st day of Autumn	23 9:45 Rubber Bridge** 10:30 Mahjongg 2:00 Pinochle	24 9:00 Sit & Fit 10:00 Bridge Lessons 10:30 Bingo Noon—Pinochle 1:00 Dup. Bridge**	25
26	27 9:00 Sit & Fit 1:00 Cribbage 1:00 Bingo 3:00 Scrabble 6:00 Game Night 6:15 Dup. Bridge**	28 9:00 Canasta 9:45 Rubber Brdg** 1:30 Poker	29	30		**Sign up Required ***Sign up Required & Pay in Advance

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The Golden Gazette

JULY

Treasure of the Hills Senior Activity Center

Volume XXXI Number 07

JULY 2021

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Dennis Domanski

Good news and happy days are heading our way at the Senior Center. Good news, at the May 27th Cedar Park City Council Meeting, the consent agenda item for repairs to the Senior Center was moved to the regular agenda by Mayor VanArsdale. This allowed the Mayor to read aloud the names and comments of members who wrote in on comment cards. I was able to address the Mayor and Council directly. This is important as it gave the seniors an opportunity to make their presence and needs known to not only the Mayor, Council members, City Managers and City staff but also to the general public. A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to proceed with repairs. In addition, four of the council members made comments on how important they felt the Senior Center was to the community and they fully supported seniors having a place for functions.

Week of June 6th saw last of damaged items removed from our Center. On Friday, June 11th I met Kimberly Reese, Cedar Park Engineering Project Manager for repairs to the building. Donna Craig joined me as we reviewed carpet, cabinets and flooring choices that will be installed.

President's Message continued

Monday, June 14th, had the beginning of the next step in repairs, mold remediation. A certified contractor is identifying and removing any materials that potentially could have mold. As soon as that is completed, the building will be prepped for installation of insulation, dry wall, painting, carpet and cabinets. I do not have a time line as it is dependent on material availability.

As some of you may be aware with Covid -19, a number of manufacturing facilities were closed, and now with building boom supplies have long lead time.

Happy days are arriving, as many have received vaccines, mask wearing is no longer mandated and socialization is returning. We are hopeful it will be sooner than later that we will see each others' smiling faces as we enjoy the activities of the Senior Center. I made a comment about silver linings in a past Gazette article, while this is not a pleasant way to update the Senior Center it will bring happiness to enjoy a refreshed Center.

Stay well; be safe; enjoy the 4th of July;
Look forward to seeing ya soon.



TREASURER'S

By Dick Planck

Our income for May was \$48.75, \$.04 from interest on securities and \$48.71 from Amazon smile.

Total expenses were \$1,065.50. Major items of expense were: utilities \$498.93, investment fees \$177.56, building renovation (storage rent) \$214.76.

Our investments increased in value by \$2,367.13.

A hug for you, my friend



- Connie Tortorelli
- Jayne Van Osten
- Sally Ladyman
- Jean Wiedenfeld
- Lois Carlson
- Dodie Planck
- Carolyn White
- Gerri West
- Jim West

FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Lisa Leirvaag

Dennis Domanski and I cleaned out the garden shack. I have never seen that many wasps nests in one place in my life. Luckily, they were all deserted. It was a dirty, dusty job and we had picked a warm and humid day to do it. After a job well done, we looked a bit worse for wear, but felt great.

I would like to send a special thank you to Ruby Banks whose green thumb has been itching since Easter. There are lots of new plants thriving in pots and planter in the Memorial Garden, and the Knockout roses underneath the new flag look beautiful.

Our President's efforts have paid off!! A huge thank you to him for continually reminding the City about TOTH, and to the Cedar Park City Council for unanimously approving the sum needed for repairs at our Activity Center. Suddenly, the light at the end of the tunnel has become much larger. Dare we hope for a grand re-opening this Fall?



Thanks to all our members who submitted comments online to the City Council prior to the City Council meeting on May 27 when they voted to approve the expenditures for repairs to our Center. The Mayor read all the comments at the meeting and the seniors' impact was felt.

Covid-19 Update –July 2021

By Frank Mignoli

Covid-19 Cases and Vaccinations

Is “Herd Immunity” really important now? Maybe or maybe not. Even the number of people fully vaccinated seems less important. How many children ages 12-15 are getting vaccinated seems to be the latest controversy. Is it really necessary? Some experts do not believe it is and worry about the long term consequences to children. What is important is the number of new cases and the number of hospitalizations. Fortunately, we seem to be decreasing just slightly.

In the US, the daily vaccinations have dropped from about 2.1 million a day to about 1.18 million. As of June 15th, there were 174,674,000 people that have received their first dose of the vaccine and 145,768,000 million being fully vaccinated. That’s a 7-day average daily rate of only about 0.42 million for first vaccinations and 0.76 million for 2nd dose. The total doses are about 55% of what they were a month ago. The total doses are expected to decrease some more in the next month unless many of those 12-15 get vaccinated.

In the US, the total Covid-19 cases are reported to be around 33.6 million and the 7-day daily average is now around 10,000 down from 34,600 on May 16th. As a positive note, the daily cases and hospitalizations may be so low that it could no longer be classified as a pandemic. Let’s hope.

As of June 15th, six months since the first vaccination was administered, total vaccinations for Texas and the two nearest counties show the following:

	Texas	Travis Co.	Williamson Co.
Doses Received	21,577,000		
One Dose administered	13,400,000	740,800	322,700
Fully Vaccinated	11,200,000	624,000	268,900
Herd Immunity (Fully) *	66.3%	69.2%	66.3%

*80% of population and % includes fully vaccinated, estimated cases and a reduced average efficacy of the vaccinations of 75%. Of course this does not take into account the percentage of adults who decide not to get vaccinated and also on how many children ages 12-15 get vaccinated.

Since May 16th in the state of Texas the daily vaccinations have decreased by about 1/3. Thus the estimated date to reach herd immunity has been extended by over 2

months. Travis County and Williamson counties have decreased too but not as much. Travis and Williamson counties are running between 2-3 weeks ahead of the state of Texas. Travis County is now estimated to reach herd immunity early in October. Next month, it will be interesting to see if the daily vaccination rate continues to decrease now that children ages 12-15 can be vaccinated. It's been reported that over 20% of children 16 and under have contracted Covid-19.

Hospitalizations

Since May 16th the 7 day average of daily hospitalizations due to Covid-19 has decreased from 2,350 per day to around 1,580. The critical point is when Covid-19 hospitalized patients are 15% or more of the hospitalized patients. Currently in Travis and Williamson Counties area, the 7-day average is running at around 2.0% down from 3% on May 16th.

Masks

The CDC finally lifted mask wearing both indoors and outdoors for those that have been vaccinated. Most places in Texas are following these guidelines. However, some people still wear masks. The rules for opening the Center have not been established yet. But being vaccinated will be evaluated thoroughly.

TOTH Vaccination Progress

As of June 15th, there is information on one hundred and sixty-two (162) members. One hundred and fifty-five (155) are fully vaccinated including fifteen (15) who have received the one-shot Johnson & Johnson (J & J) vaccine. Only one has elected not to get the 2nd dose due to reactions to the 1st dose of Moderna. Five (5) are not getting vaccinated at this time. One (1) had contracted the Covid-19 virus but is still considering to get vaccinated or not. However, two who had contracted Covid-19 have since gotten vaccinated with the one dose J & J. Except for twenty-six (26) who received the Pfizer vaccine and fifteen (15) who have received the J & J vaccine, all others received the two-shot Moderna vaccine. We currently have listed about 277 members. We now have 155 fully vaccinated and one (1) who have contracted the virus. Thus about 56% of the Center members are relatively immune. The percentage is definitely higher since I'm sure not everyone has reported and a few on the list are either out-of-town members or do not actually visit the Center.

Please continue to report to me (if you haven't already) your vaccination status and what vaccine you received. Email me @ fjm81@austin.rr.com. It is important to tell me if you do not intend on getting vaccinated also. This is important so we can establish criteria for these individuals to enter the Senior Center. All this information will be kept confidential.



JULY BIRTHDAYS



JULY ANNIVERSARIES

Gail Lorraine Brennen	01
Vicky Van Osten	03
Isabel Freer	04
Dave Schroeder	10
David Sechrest	13
Eileen Ann Houck	17
Bob Baumgart	18
Christa Montoya	18
Karen Grauman	22
Karen Kay Krestensen	22
Mary Riordon	22
Mike Perkins	23
Sheri Wallace	23
Richard Brown	25
Gerri Newman Caputo	25
Peg Clanton	25
Grace Ford	25
Jeanne Allison	26
Terri Brandt	26
C. W. Clark	27
Mike Davison	27
Cindy McElver	27
Jim Brittnacher	28
Sharon Kay McLain	29
Miki Larson	30
Yoli Blanco	31
Rich Stone	31

Ida & Doug Stringfellow	02
Mary Ann & Frank Pacocha	08
Eleene & Wamon Upchurch	13
Maggie & Bob Ingraham	17
Dottie & Jim Cowan	21
Karen & Bob Grauman	22
Pat & Herb Zwernemann	24



Jean Wiedenfeld wishes to thank everyone for your prayers, thoughts, cards & phone calls during her recovery from knee replacement surgery.



JULY 2021

ALL ACTIVITIES ARE "SUSPENDED"

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 9:45 Rubber Bridge** 10:30 Mahjongg 2:00 Pinochle	2 9:00 Sit & Fit 10:00 Bridge Lessons 10:30 Bingo Noon—Pinochle 1:00 Dup. Bridge	3
4 <i>HAPPY 4TH OF JULY</i>	5 9:00 Sit & Fit 1:00 Cribbage 1:00 Bingo 3:00 Scrabble 6:00 Game Night 6:15 Dup. Bridge**	6 9:00 Canasta 9:30 Dup. Brdg *** 9:45 Rubber Brdg** 1:00 Exec. Cmt.	7 9:00 Sit & Fit 9:30 Tables Choice 10 Jewelry Making 1:00 Line Dancing	8 9:45 Rubber Bridge** 10:30 Mahjongg 2:00 Pinochle	9 9:00 Sit & Fit 10:00 Bridge Lessons 10:30 Bingo Noon—Pinochle 1:00 Dup. Bridge	10 6:00 Duplicate Bridge **
11	12 9:00 Sit & Fit 10:00 BOD 1:00 Cribbage 1:00 Bingo 3:00 Scrabble 6:00 Game Night 6:15 Dup. Bridge**	13 9:00 Canasta 9:45 Rubber Brdg ** 1:30 Poker	14 9:00 Sit & Fit 9:30 Tables Choice 10 Jewelry Making 1:30 Bunco	15 9:45 Rubber Bridge** 10:30 Mahjongg 2:00 Pinochle	16 9:00 Sit & Fit 9:45 Dup. Bridge** 10:00 Bridge Lessons 10:30 Bingo Noon—Pinochle 1:00 Dup. Bridge**	17
18	19 9:00 Sit & Fit 11:30 Covered Dish 1:00 Cribbage 1:00 Bingo 3:00 Scrabble 6:00 Game Night 6:15 Dup. Bridge**	20 9:00 Canasta 9:30 Dup. Brdg *** 9:45 Rubber Brdg** 1:30 Poker	21 9:00 Sit & Fit 9:30 Tables Choice 10 Jewelry Making 1:00 Line Dancing	22 9:45 Rubber Bridge** 10:30 Mahjongg 2:00 Pinochle	23 9:00 Sit & Fit 10:00 Bridge Lessons 10:30 Bingo Noon—Pinochle 1:00 Dup. Bridge**	24
25	26 9:00 Sit & Fit 1:00 Cribbage 1:00 Bingo 3:00 Scrabble 6:00 Game Night 6:15 Dup. Bridge**	27 9:00 Canasta 9:45 Rubber Brdg** 1:30 Poker	28 9:00 Sit & Fit 9:30 Tables Choice 10 Jewelry Making 1:30 Bunco	29 9:45 Rubber Bridge** 10:30 Mahjongg 2:00 Pinochle	30 9:00 Sit & Fit 10:00 Bridge Lessons 10:30 Bingo Noon—Pinochle 1:00 Dup. Bridge**	31 **Sign up Required ***Sign up Required & Pay in Advance

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The Golden Gazette

JUNE

Treasure of the Hills Senior Activity Center

Volume XXXI Number 06

JUNE 2021

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Dennis Domanski

It has been nearly fourteen weeks, February 19th, that we experienced a pipe bursting at the Senior Center. While it may appear to some that not much progress has been done, and to others it may seem to be the hurry up and wait scenario.

I assure you that many are working diligently to return to normalcy. While we did have a delay as the City of Cedar Park was not able to receive a quick response as they would have liked from the Municipalities Insurance Company, it was not for a lack of effort on the City's part to get a quote. It was unfortunate that the original adjuster due to a medical condition needed to be replaced and that caused the delay. Currently, the insurance adjuster has supplied the City with the dollar amount that will be covered. A contractor has presented their quote for repairs. The City Managers have placed on the May 27th City Council meeting Consent Agenda items for approving the cost of repairs.

President's Message continued

Hopefully, even with Monday May 31st being the celebrated Memorial Day holiday we could have a repair timeline available the first week of June.

This would allow placing on the Center's agenda an item for a meaningful discussion at the Executive Committee meeting on June 8th and the full Board meeting on June 14th how we will proceed on preparing the Center for re-opening.

I am very confident that while there is much work to be done by City contractors, that the City fully realizes the importance in assisting getting the Center available for our usage. The City managers have offered to assist us in getting items set up once repairs are complete.

I am ready to mark my calendar with "Treasure of the Hills Re-opening".

TOTH BOARD NOTES

By Donna Craig

Senior Expo will be cancelled this year due to the pandemic and our inability to get back into the Center which is still undergoing storm damage repairs.

Reopening of the Center timeline was discussed. We don't have a definitive date yet because we can't control the repairs being done by the City — but are hoping to be reopen by September.

Reviewed the damage done to the contents of the Center. Salvaged items were either moved into the on-site storage unit in the parking lot or one of the two temperature controlled storage units we rented.

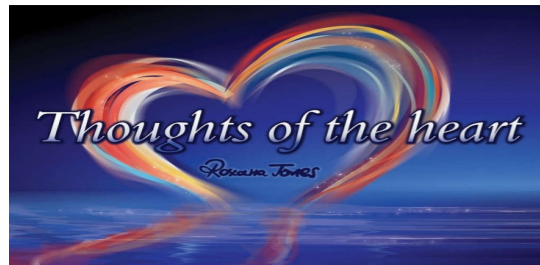
Reviewed the City's plans for putting the Center back together. Carpet will go back where carpet was before but will be slightly lighter than what was originally there. It is the same carpet & color as the center walkways in the Cedar Park Library. Laminate flooring will go back into the TV Room. The paint color will be similar to existing light gray with white trim. We are being told that all cabinetry that touched the floor will be replaced by the City to ensure there are no mold issues in the future.

A replacement committee is being formed to repurchase the damaged items.

Toth Board Notes Continued

We will continue to keep our members updated on the progress of reopening through the Gazette and blasts when applicable.

Monthly Board and Executive Committee meetings will begin again. Until we can get back into the Center or find a better location, the meetings will be held at the Board Secretary's home.



Positive Thoughts for These Members:

Connie Tortorelli
Jayne Van Osten
Sally Ladyman
Jean Wiedenfeld
Lois Carlson
Dodie Planck

VICE PRESIDENT NOTES

By

Carolyn White



It's June already gone, half the year is gone, but the light at the end of the tunnel is getting brighter and brighter.

I believe things have progressed on getting our Center back into shape. I know Dennis has been in contact with the City. Thank you Donna Craig for hosting our first Board meeting for this year and we will continue with these for the rest of the year. Same time and day but the place may change. More and more of our members are getting their Covid shots and that is great news. It looks like things are slowing down here in Texas a bit. We'll see how it goes.

Don't forget to fly your flag on the 14th if you have one. Take care everyone. Get your vaccines and stay safe & warm.

TREASURER'S REPORT

By *Dick Planck*

Our income for April was \$50.05, \$50.00 from Memorials and .05 from interest on Securities and expenses were \$1,845.90 resulting in Net Ordinary Income of minus \$1,845.90.

Major items of Expense were: \$1,491.22 for expenses due to the freeze and \$97.29 for utilities and \$88.37 for printing and mailing the Gazette. Our investments increased in value by \$6,646.75.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Lisa Leirvaag

After almost 15 months of living with Covid-19 we finally seem to be getting somewhere. But because of all the damage caused by the winter storm, it will be a while yet until we can meet at the Center again. We need to relax and be patient, but we do not have to sit tight anymore. As Ann Mignoli suggested in last month's Golden Gazette, we can "start moving again". It's a great idea!

My preferred exercise is walking, and my favorite trail is the Brushy Creek Regional Trail. The wildflowers are beautiful in the spring, and if you start early in the morning, you might see deer, rabbits, waterfowl, herons or egrets.

However, walking outdoors is not for everybody, and the Recreation Center with its indoor track and exercise equipment offers an excellent alternative. I tried out the equipment on a rainy day and enjoyed it. Now I walk AND work out.

Stay healthy and keep moving!



COVID-19 UPDATE

by Frank Mignoli

Covid-19 Cases and Vaccinations

Is “Herd Immunity” really possible? Hopefully, the CDC’s latest elimination of masks both indoors and outdoors for those who have been vaccinated might make those hesitant to get vaccinated do so. I’m still trying to determine how close we are to this theoretical percentage of people that are immune. The date to reach Herd Immunity will be extended if the rate of vaccinations continues to decrease. It appears a large percentage of people are not willing to get vaccinated and how many children ages 12-15 get vaccinated. Well almost the day after April 16 the daily vaccination rate have decreased. Of course, the blood clot problem with Johnson and Johnson vaccine (six (6) women between 18 and 48 with one (1) death) had caused the CDC to suspend the use of the vaccine did not help the situation. However, they did lift the suspension after a short period of time on the basis the benefit of the vaccination overwhelming outweighs the risk of getting the blood clot disease. Everyone who receives the shot should receive an information sheet mentioning the rare clotting problem and the symptoms to look out for, officials said. Providers also will be given information about the condition and the appropriate treatment for managing it. Also in early May the FDA has given Pfizer vaccine EUA for children 12 to 15. Vaccines should be available before the end of May. Many experts do not think it is necessary since there is a low chance of this age group getting the virus and further more passing it on. The Kaiser Family Foundation found that in parents of children ages 12-15, 3 in 10 said they will get their children vaccinated right away once it is available for their teens; 26% said they would wait to see how it is working; 18% will get their child vaccinated only if their school requires it; and 23% said they won't get their child vaccinated.

In the US, the daily vaccinations have dropped from over 3.67 million a day to about 2.1 million. As of May 16th, there were 157,500,000 people that have received their first dose of the vaccine and 123,200,000 million being fully vaccinated. That’s a 7-day average daily rate of only about 0.75 million for first vaccinations and 1.3 million for 2nd dose. The total doses are about 55% of what they were a month ago. The total doses are expected to decrease some more in the next month unless many of those 12-15 get vaccinated.

In the US, the total Covid-19 cases are reported to be around 33.1 million and the daily 7-day average is now around 34,800 down from 59,500 on April 16th.

A mathematical formula that I developed that includes the latest estimated cases, current vaccination data and revised lower estimated efficacy rate shows the estimated herd immunity date has been extended by about a month in the United States since April 16th. We would reach Herd Immunity (80% of population) in the United States in the beginning of August. As a positive note even if we don't reach full herd immunity, the daily cases and hospitalizations may be so low that it could no longer be classified as a pandemic. Let's hope.

As of May 16th, five months since the first vaccination was administered, total vaccinations for Texas and the two nearest counties show the following:

	Texas	Travis Co.	Williamson Co.
Doses Received	21,000,000		
One Dose administered	11,900,000	667,700	286,500
Fully Vaccinated	9,420,000	526,700	223,000
Herd Immunity (Fully) *	60.5%	62.0%	58.9%

*80% of population and % includes fully vaccinated, estimated cases and a reduced average efficacy of the vaccinations of 75%. Of course this does not take into account the percentage of adults who decide not to get vaccinated and also on how many children ages 12-15 get vaccinated.

Since April 16th in the state of Texas the daily vaccinations have decreased by more than a third. Thus the estimated date to reach herd immunity has been extended by more than a month. Travis County and Williamson counties have decreased too but not as much. Travis and Williamson counties are running about 3 weeks ahead of the state of Texas and are estimated to reach herd immunity in the early August. Next month, it will be interesting to see if the daily vaccination rate continues to decrease now that children ages 12-15 can be vaccinated. It's been reported that over 20% of children 16 and under have contracted Covid-19.

Hospitalizations

Daily hospitalizations due to Covid-19 peaked twice in Texas in the past 10 months. Once on 7/21/2020 at 10,893 beds and again on 1/11/21 at 14,218 beds. Since April 28th the 7 day average of daily hospitalizations due to Covid-19 has decreased from 2,605 per day to less than 2,350. The critical point is when Covid-19 hospitalized patients are 15% or more of the hospitalized patients. Currently in Travis and Williamson Counties area, the 7-day average is running at around 3%.

Further Testing

Moderna continues their testing of children 12-15. However, no date has been established for their submittal to the FDA for EUA. Earlier this month the Pfizer vaccine had received EUA for children 12-15. Pfizer and Moderna are also testing children from 6 months to 11 years old.

Masks

The CDC finally lifted mask wearing both indoors and outdoors for those that have been vaccinated. But how do you determine if someone has been “vaccinated”? So there are still organizations that still require masks. This should have an impact on the rules for opening the Center. It might influence some people to get vaccinated who did not plan to.

New Vaccine Prospects

Besides AstraZeneca and Novavax, there are four (4) other vaccine candidates in development and are in Phase 3 of testing. No date has been given for EUA by the CDC for these four vaccines

The original Covid-19 virus continues to mutate (as they usually do). The current vaccines appear to have less efficacy against the latest strains. So it is important that you get vaccinated for Covid-19 as soon as possible. There are now several locations where vaccines can be obtained.

TOTH Vaccination Progress

As of May 16th, there is information on one hundred and fifty-one (151) members. One hundred and forty-three (143) have had their first dose including thirteen (13) who have received the one-shot Johnson & Johnson (J & J) vaccine. One hundred and twenty-eight (128) have had their 2nd dose. Only one has elected not to get the 2nd dose due to reactions to the 1st dose of Moderna. Seven (7) are not getting vaccinated at this time. However, three (3) had contracted the Covid-19 virus so are considered to be immune anyway. They may get vaccinated when the final stages of eligibility have been reached based on the recommendation from their doctors. Except for twenty-one (21) who received the Pfizer vaccine and thirteen (13) who have received the J & J vaccine, all others received the two-shot Moderna vaccine. We currently have listed about 277 members. We now have 141 fully vaccinated and three (3) who have contracted the virus. Thus over 50% of the Center members are relatively immune. The percentage is probably higher since I'm sure not everyone has reported.

Please continue to report to me (if you haven't already) your vaccination status and what vaccine you received. Email me @ fjm81@austin.rr.com. It is important to tell me if you do not intend on getting vaccinated also. This is important so we can establish criteria for these individuals to enter the Senior Center. All this information will be kept confidential.



JUNE BIRTHDAYS



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

Donna J. Craig	02	Ann & Frank Mignoli	01
Janet Cash	03	EJ & Thomas Kent Johnson	02
Vern Gardai	03	Jeanne & Calvin Allison	03
Carl Siebenlist	07	Peggy & Jerry Ryburn	07
Lois Birdwell	11	Vickie & Karl Nann	08
Philip MacDonald	13	Dodie & Dick Planck	16
Frank Cielonko	14	Barbara & Phil Duprey	18
Fred Kalt	20	Carol & Bill Kitto	18
Carolyn Patrick	22	Donna & David Tolleson	21
Bill Brown	25	Liz & Larry Hagler	24
Jean Jones	25	Sharon & Bruce Leach	24
Ron Neff	28	Alice & Cid Martinez	24
Sandi Page	28	Cindy & John McElver	25

FLAG DAY

June 14th

The current design of the U.S. flag is it's 27th; the design of the flag has been modified officially 26 times since 1777. The 48 star flag was in effect for 47 years until the 49 star version became official on July 4, 1959. The 50 star flag was ordered by then President Eisenhower on August 21, 1959 and was adopted in July, 1960. It is the longest used version of the U.S. flag and has been in use for over 62 years.



JUNE 2021

ALL ACTIVITIES ARE "SUSPENDED"

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 9:00 Canasta 9:30 Dup. Brdg** 9:45 Rubber Brdg** 1:30 Poker	2 9:00 Sit & Fit 9:30 Tables Choice 10 Jewelry Making 1:00 Line Dancing	3 9:45 Rubber Bridge** 10:30 Mahjongg 2:00 Pinochle	4 9:00 Sit & Fit 10:00 Bridge Lessons 10:30 Bingo Noon—Pinochle 1:00 Dup. Bridge	5
6	7 9:00 Sit & Fit 1:00 Cribbage 1:00 Bingo 3:00 Scrabble 6:00 Game Night 6:15 Dup. Bridge**	8 9:00 Canasta 9:45 Rubber Brdg** 1:00 Exec. Cmt. 1:30 Poker	9 9:00 Sit & Fit 9:30 Tables Choice 10 Jewelry Making 1:30 Bunco	10 9:45 Rubber Bridge** 10:30 Mahjongg 2:00 Pinochle	11 9:00 Sit & Fit 10:00 Bridge Lessons 10:30 Bingo Noon—Pinochle 1:00 Dup. Bridge	12 6:00 Duplicate Bridge **
13 <i>Flag Day</i> →	14 9:00 Sit & Fit 10:00 BOD 1:00 Cribbage 1:00 Bingo 3:00 Scrabble 6:00 Game Night 6:15 Dup. Bridge**	15 9:00 Canasta 9:30 Dup. Brdg ** 9:45 Rubber Brdg ** 1:30 Poker	16 9:00 Sit & Fit 9:30 Tables Choice 10 Jewelry Making 1:00 Line Dancing	17 9:45 Rubber Bridge** 10:30 Mahjongg 2:00 Pinochle	18 9:00 Sit & Fit 9:45 Dup. Bridge** 10:00 Bridge Lessons 10:30 Bingo Noon—Pinochle 1:00 Dup. Bridge**	19
20 <i>Father's Day</i>	21 9:00 Sit & Fit 11:30 Covered Dish 1:00 Cribbage 1:00 Bingo 3:00 Scrabble 6:00 Game Night 6:15 Dup. Bridge**	22 9:00 Canasta 9:45 Rubber Brdg** 1:30 Poker	23 9:00 Sit & Fit 9:30 Tables Choice 10 Jewelry Making 1:30 Bunco	24 9:45 Rubber Bridge** 10:30 Mahjongg 2:00 Pinochle	25 9:00 Sit & Fit 10:00 Bridge Lessons 10:30 Bingo Noon—Pinochle 1:00 Dup. Bridge**	26
27	28 9:00 Sit & Fit 1:00 Cribbage 1:00 Bingo 3:00 Scrabble 6:00 Game Night 6:15 Dup. Bridge**	29 9:00 Canasta 9:45 Rubber Brdg** 1:30 Poker	30 9:00 Sit & Fit 9:30 Tables Choice 10 Jewelry Making			**Sign up Required ***Sign up Required & Pay in Advance

Treasurer of the Hills Senior Activity Center
400 Ridgewood Dr., Cedar Park, Texas 78613

Phone: 512-331-6000

Open Monday-Friday 9 a.m.—3 p.m.

www.toth-seniors.com



The Golden Gazette

MAY

Treasure of the Hills Senior Activity Center

Volume XXXI Number 05

MAY 2021

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Dennis Domanski

Length of time that our Senior Center has remained closed has exceeded everyone's imagination. Days have stretched to weeks, weeks to months and months have added up and now approach fourteen.

A vast amount of time spent enjoying friendship and the enjoyment of activities at the Center with others has been lost. Covid-19 is responsible for the majority of time. A pipe that froze, then burst on February 19th has added to the frustration of returning to activities at our beloved Center. The burst pipe took a vast toll on the building's interior. The burst pipe in wall behind Director Lisa's desk spewed water against the back of her desk and shot upward to ceiling and sprayed the entire office area. Water covered all the building's floor surfaces. Computers, printers and desk, made of press board, were destroyed. Being a city owned building they are in the process of making repairs. Repairs consist of gutting all floor covering and everything two feet above. This includes all dry wall, insulation, library book shelves, couch,

President's Message—continued

chairs, restroom and kitchen cabinets floor level, and shelving in Great Room behind doors. This is to insure no mold is present.

Salvable materials have been stored. Carpet and laminated flooring, wall repair and painting is being handled by the City. Insurance claims have been made.

Executive Board and general membership Board are scheduled to meet in the next week to begin process of purchasing replacement items. While the City has not established a time table for giving us use of the building, we will attempt to work through logistics of "setting up" library, kitchen, reception, office and storage areas.

There is also a concern of returning to the Center with Covid-19 still active. We will have discussions. Personally we are all responsible for our own health and individually also for our other members. We need to learn how to live with that virus. There unfortunately still will be a need to set up guidelines so all are comfortable to return to activities at Treasure of the Hills.

Stay well and be safe!

VICE PRESIDENT NOTES

By Carolyn White

May's here and all the beautiful flowers that Spring brings. The light at the end of the tunnel is getting brighter.

I believe things are progressing on getting our center back in shape. I know it seems like it's been forever, but we are moving in the right direction. The City is getting all their things in a row to be able to start fixing the damages in the building and our Board has met to discuss the new things we will need. I want to thank Donna Craig, our secretary, for all the hard work she has done on this.

I hope everyone has been able to get their vaccines if they choose to do so. I've heard that a lot of our members have received theirs. If you've got yours, please let Frank Mignoli know. We still do not have a date for reopening, but we are just as anxious as you are to do that. Take care everyone, get your vaccines and stay safe and warm.

POSITIVE THOUGHTS FOR THESE MEMBERS

We know some of you are dealing with medical issues at this time. Our collective thoughts are with you as you go on this journey. We're sure a card with your thoughts would be appreciated by these ladies:

Connie Tortorelli
Jayne Van Osten
Sally Ladyman

If you know of any one else experiencing difficulties at this time, please call a Board Members & let us know. Phone numbers are on the back of this Gazette, or call Jan Clark 512-918-2218 or Dodie Domanski 512-350-2573 for addresses.

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Dick Planck

Our income for March was \$39,352.00 from the Insurance Company to pay for the damaged furniture and fixtures from the freeze and \$.04 from interest on Securities and expenses were \$1,668.95 resulting in Net Ordinary Income of \$37,693.09.

Major items of Expense were: \$327.96 for utilities and \$286.45 for the annual Bulk Mail Permit and mailing of the March Gazette. Our investments increased in value by \$1,116.11.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Lisa Leirvaag

Since that glimpse through the open door, I have not been back to the Center at all. Reasonably enough, the City does not want anybody traipsing around there while they are fixing up the place. I am as excited as a child on Christmas Eve about the "new" TOTH. But I trust that we will not have to wait until Christmas until the Center can open again.

Being Norwegian, May and June are special months for me. We celebrate our national holiday on the Seventeenth of May and in June, we can enjoy the longest days of the year. If you feel like taking a virtual trip, go to

<https://www.visitnorway.com/?lang=usa> and watch the video "This is Norway". I think you will understand why I always get a bit homesick at this time of the year.

Start Moving Again

By Ann Mignoli

I'm sure being shut-in for the most part due to the pandemic, many of us senior citizens have had to put exercising on the back burner. However, there are several members of TOTH who do some exercising at the Cedar Park Recreation Center located off Discovery on Main Street. The cost for Cedar Park residents is \$60 per year and can be paid monthly or quarterly. Non-Cedar Park residents are welcomed, but the cost is \$10/month. There is no limit on how many times you exercise per month or what times during the open hours. The Rec Center has all kinds of exercise machines, treadmills, weights of all kinds, body building equipment and even an oval walking track on the 2nd floor that surrounds and is above the pickle ball and basketball courts.

Why not have a group of TOTH members meet at the Rec Center at least once a week say each Wednesday around 8:30 AM to greet and share in getting the body back into form. If you're new to this exercise routine, I or some of the other regulars can explain the workout machines and how to use them. So join now if you're not a member and we'll see you the first Wednesday in May. Of course come any day, you still might see me.

Masks are mandatory upon entering the facility but optional in the workout area. Social distancing is recommended. All machines are at least 6' apart or a plastic barrier is installed between some machines. Sanitization materials are available to wipe down the machines after use. They also have a person constantly going around and sanitizing all of the equipment.

COVID-19 UPDATE

by Frank Mignoli

Covid-19 Cases and Vaccinations

Reaching Herd Immunity continues to be the 64 million dollar question. The key is how many people have been infected with the virus. An article published by the CDC in December 2020 was updated on January 15th, 2021. (www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/burden.html). In the article it was estimated around 83.1 million people of all ages had been infected in the US with the Covid-19 virus within an UI (Uncertainty Interval) of 95%. Over **twenty-one (21) % were children under the age of 18**. On January 15th, the confirmed cases total was 22.25 million. Hence the estimate of the 3-4 factor of estimated cases versus confirmed cases was derived. It is assumed that those that have been infected by Covid-19 have immunity, but for how long has not been determine. The efficacy variability is affected by the continuing new strains that are

being identified. Therefore, estimates of when we reach Herd Immunity are difficult. There are **many variables** which make any calculation very complicated and the resulting estimate suspect.

Another problem is that a high percentage of adults who are reluctant to receive a vaccination. One report last month stated only 69% of adults were willing to be vaccinated. Another report that has questioned over 18 million adults since April of 2020 shows about 23% of adults are hesitant to get vaccinated and that percentage has been holding as of February of this year.

In July, 2019 it was estimated that the population of the US was about 331 million people. Currently (April 16th) in the United States about 127.7 million have received their first dose of vaccine and about 80.6 million are fully vaccinated. The daily doses administered in the United States continue to fluctuate. However, since April 4th the daily vaccinations on a 7 day average were over 3.6 million. There was even one day when over 5.0 million total vaccinations were administered. If the percentage of adults not willing to be vaccinated continues to be over 20%, we may not reach the so called herd immunity percentage unless most of the reluctant vaccinators are among those that were infected but didn't know it and children under the age of 16 also get vaccinated. Hopefully with more and more evidence of no severe reaction to the vaccines and "no" deaths, most of those who are hesitant to be vaccinated will change their mind. The introduction of a third, one dose vaccine and the introduction of more facilities where you can be vaccinated should increase the vaccination rate. Of course, that was until the J & J vaccine was suspended until the CDC does a thorough investigation due to six (6) women ages 18-48 who suffered from a blood clot disease 6-13 days after receiving their vaccination. One person died. Over 500,000 people have received the J & J vaccine in the state of Texas without any reports of the blood clot reaction.

A mathematical formula that I developed that includes the latest estimated cases, current vaccination data and revised lower estimated efficacy rate still shows we would reach Herd Immunity (80% of population) in the United States by early July. As a positive note even if we don't reach full herd immunity, the daily cases and hospitalizations may be so low that it could no longer be classified as a pandemic. Let's hope.

As of April 16th, four months since the first vaccination was administered, total vaccinations for Texas and the two surrounding counties show the following:

	Texas	Travis Co.	Williamson Co.
Doses Received	16,207,000		
One Dose administered	9,970,000	546,400	242,000
Fully Vaccinated	6,370,000	318,000	144,000
Herd Immunity (Fully) *	50.5%	46.4%	46.1%

*80% of population and % includes fully vaccinated, estimated cases and a reduced average efficacy of the vaccinations of 75%. Of course this does not take into account the percentage of adults who decide not to get vaccinated and also children under the age of 16 may not be vaccinated until early summer.

The state of Texas has increased the daily vaccinations, however is estimated to reach herd immunity more than a week later than the US. Travis and Williamson Counties have also increased vaccinations significantly and are now running about two (2) weeks ahead of the state of Texas and are estimated to reach herd immunity in late of June. Next month, it will be interesting to see if the daily vaccination rate decreases. It could mean the reluctance of adults to be vaccinated is a reality and real Herd Immunity may not be attained. On Monday, March 29th Governor Abbott had open up the vaccination process to all individuals 18 and older. This could explain the rise in the 7-day average daily vaccination rate.

Further Testing

Pfizer tested children in the 12-15 age bracket and found those adolescents who received the vaccine produced strong antibody responses and experienced no serious side effects. Moderna is testing children ages 12 to 17. Both companies are testing children under the age of 12 years old including babies as young as 6 months. The Moderna study is expected to enroll 6,750 candidates in the US and Canada. AstraZeneca is also testing children. They have 300 volunteers ages six to seventeen. As many as 240 will receive the vaccine while the others a control meningitis jab.

New Vaccine Prospects

AstraZeneca is the fourth vaccine (two (2) dose) is currently being used outside of the US. Recently the data submitted for approval in the US has been shown to be outdated and has thrown another curveball in the saga of the company's vaccine approval in the US.

A fifth vaccine is on the horizon though. Promising early results secured Novavax a \$1.6 billion contract from Operation Warp Speed to produce 100 million doses of its Covid-19 vaccine effort. They hope to seek EUA in May. Pre-pandemic, the company was sinking and suffering setbacks after several failed phase three trials for other types of vaccines. Currently a UK study, which had 15,000 participants aged between 18 to 84 years, found that the Novavax vaccine was 96.4% effective against the original strain of coronavirus. What's more, the Novavax vaccine was also proven to be 86.3% effective against the Kent variant which has become the dominant strain of the virus in the UK over the winter. However, the Novavax vaccine (2 dose vaccine) was shown to have a much lower effectiveness, between 48.6 and 55.4% against the South African strain of the Covid-19 virus, highlighting the need for boosters.

The original Covid-19 virus continues to mutate (as they usually do). The current vaccines appear to have less efficacy against the latest strains. So it is important that you get vaccinated for Covid-19 as soon as possible. There are now several places where vaccines can be obtained.

TOTH Vaccination Progress: As of April 16th, there is information on one hundred and thirty-three (133) members. One hundred and twenty-four (124) have had their first dose including eleven (11) who have received the one-shot Johnson & Johnson (J & J) vaccine. One hundred and seven (107) have had their 2nd dose. Only one has not been scheduled yet, one (1) has their 2nd dose scheduled and two (2) are waiting for their 2nd dose to be scheduled. Eight (8) are not getting vaccinated at this time. However, three had contracted the Covid-19 virus so are considered to be immune anyway. They may get vaccinated, which is recommended, when the final stages of eligibility have been reached. Except for fifteen (15) who received the Pfizer vaccine and eleven (11) who have received the J & J vaccine, all others received the two shot Moderna vaccine. We currently have listed 270 members. Currently we have 118 fully vaccinated and three (3) who have contracted the virus. Thus almost 45% of the Center members are relatively immune. This percentage could even be higher since some of the current members do not actually attend any activities at the Center.

My belief is the criteria for reopening the Center will be based strongly on the individual's immunity. This and what other restrictions will be determined by the Board who plan to meet in early May. Please continue to report to me (if you haven't already) your vaccination status and what vaccine you received. Email me @ fjm81@austin.rr.com. It is important to tell me if you do not intend on getting vaccinated also. This is important so we can establish criteria for these individuals to enter the Senior Center. All this information will be kept strictly confidential and will only be known by me.



MAY BIRTHDAYS



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Dani de la Torre	02
Floresa Williams	02
Jaime de la Torre	06
Walter Niedzielak	07
George DeMarines	09
Patrick Brennen	10
Barbara Clauson	11
Irene Berkel	12
Stan DeRocher	13
Donna Tolleson	15
Edward "EJ" Travis	15
Rae Ann Tregilgas	15
Carol "CJ" Hardy	16
Ida Stringfellow	17
Malcolm Gray	20
Pamela Binns	22
Arlene O'Brien	22
Harriet Smith	22
Jim Williams	25
Mary Hartsell	26
Pamela Jean Cariss	28
Ruby Banks	29

Cindy & Peter Klein	16
Carolyn & Roger Patrick	19
Phyllis & Bernie Epps	23
Dani & Jaime de la Torre	25
Zane & Al Lowenstein	25
Mary & Ken Riordon	27
Kristie & Chuck Wright	30

MAY 2021

ALL ACTIVITIES ARE "SUSPENDED"

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3 9:00 Sit & Fit 1:00 Cribbage 1:00 Bingo 3:00 Scrabble 6:00 Game Night 6:15 Dup. Bridge**	4 9:00 Canasta 9:30 Dup. Brdg** 9:45 Rubber Brdg** 10:00 Exec. Cmt.	5 9:00 Sit & Fit 9:30 Tables Choice 10 Jewelry Making 1:00 Line Dancing	6 9:45 Rubber Bridge** 10:30 Mahjongg 2:00 Pinochle	7 9:00 Sit & Fit 10:00 Bridge Lessons 10:30 Bingo Noon—Pinochle 1:00 Dup. Bridge	8 6:00 Duplicate Bridge **
9	10 9:00 Sit & Fit 10:00 BOD 1:00 Cribbage 1:00 Bingo 3:00 Scrabble 6:00 Game Night 6:15 Dup. Bridge**	11 9:00 Canasta 9:45 Rubber Brdg ** 1:30 Poker	12 9:00 Sit & Fit 9:30 Tables Choice 10 Jewelry Making 1:30 Bunco	13 9:45 Rubber Bridge** 10:30 Mahjongg 2:00 Pinochle	14 9:00 Sit & Fit 10:00 Bridge Lessons 10:30 Bingo Noon—Pinochle 1:00 Dup. Bridge**	15
16	17 9:00 Sit & Fit 11:30 Covered Dish 1:00 Cribbage 1:00 Bingo 3:00 Scrabble 6:00 Game Night 6:15 Dup. Bridge**	18 9:00 Canasta 9:30 Dup. Brdg** 9:45 Rubber Brdg** 1:30 Poker	19 9:00 Sit & Fit 9:30 Tables Choice 10 Jewelry Making 1:00 Line Dancing	20 9:45 Rubber Bridge** 10:30 Mahjongg 2:00 Pinochle	21 9:00 Sit & Fit 9:45 Dup. Bridge** 10:00 Bridge Lessons 10:30 Bingo Noon—Pinochle 1:00 Dup. Bridge**	22
23	24 9:00 Sit & Fit 1:00 Cribbage 1:00 Bingo 3:00 Scrabble 6:00 Game Night 6:15 Dup. Bridge**	25 9:00 Canasta 9:30 Rubber Brdg** 1:30 Poker	26 9:00 Sit & Fit 9:30 Tables Choice 10 Jewelry Making 1:30 Bunco	27 9:45 Rubber Bridge** 10:30 Mahjongg 2:00 Pinochle	28 9:00 Sit & Fit 10:00 Bridge Lessons 10:30 Bingo Noon—Pinochle 1:00 Dup. Bridge**	29 **Sign up Required ***Sign up Required & Pay in Advance
30	31 Memorial Day					



The Golden Gazette

APRIL

Treasure of the Hills Senior Activity Center

Volume XXXI Number 04

APRIL 2021

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Dennis Domanski

Wishes for a wonderful spring season and a Happy Easter to all.

With the pleasant weather we are currently experiencing we continue to recall the difficulties of the second week of February.

A sincere “thank you” to Carolyn White, Vice President, and Donna Craig, Secretary, for hours of work they have put in inventorying items and working with our insurance adjuster to file insurance claim for the damage caused by the burst pipe. They also secured a climate controlled storage unit and supervised the items to be moved there.

The City of Cedar Park has done some work on the Center. They are currently waiting on their insurance adjuster which entails a “wait” as we are not the only people who experienced burst pipes, etc. during the February weather.

They have not given us any time line so we cannot predict a date for re-opening. All the Center’s salvageable items are in storage.

President’s Message—continued

Patience is a virtue and our patience will be tested! However, at the end of this unfortunate occurrence, we can reap the benefits of a practically new Center.

More and more vaccines are becoming available so we’re hopeful most of our members have received theirs.



VICE PRESIDENT NOTES

By Carolyn White



It's Spring! The light at the end of the tunnel is getting a little brighter.

Spring flowers are starting to bloom. Won't be long till we see fields of Blue Bonnets everywhere. I love spring, everything is fresh and bright.

I hope everyone is able to get their vaccine if they choose to do so. I've had both vaccine shots, no problems there. Things appear to be getting easier to do that. We are so looking forward to being able to open the Senior Center again, but I'm sure you've heard we had water problems. Everything that was damaged had to be discarded and what we were able to keep is put into storage. Cedar Park has been drying out the building and will soon be able to start the repairs. We still do not have a date for reopening, but we are just as anxious as you are to do that. Take care everyone. Get your vaccines, stay safe and warm.

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Dick Planck

Our income for February was \$1,710.86 and expenses were \$602.50 resulting in Net Ordinary Income of \$1,108.36. The major source of income was \$1,700.00 Rental Income from the Church.

Major items of Expense were: \$224.91 for utilities and \$176.11 for investment fees. Our investments increased in value by \$5,278.96. Net month we will have no income from the Church and our expenses will remain about the same except for our Telephone/Internet which will go down from \$90 to about \$10. We placed those items on vacation rates. We should not have problems paying our Bills during reconstruction; our checking balance is about \$11,000 above our normal Balance and we have funds in our Money Market which we can transfer.

Copies of this month's Financial Reports will not be filed in the Binder behind the Receptionist's desk as I don't know where they are!

FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Lisa Leirvaag

I have to admit that the pipe burst at the Senior Center has somewhat dampened my undying optimism. I only got a glimpse of the damage through the open door and it was a disheartening sight. But if there is one thing we all have learned last year, it's PATIENCE. Practicing a little more won't hurt. After all things are looking up. Covid-19 vaccinations are proceeding efficiently and the days are getting warmer and longer. March 20th was the vernal equinox. Spring is here and I hope we can all enjoy the finest season in Texas while waiting for a restored and renewed TOTH.

Wishing you all an egg-ceptional Easter this year!!



COVID-19 UPDATE

by Frank Mignoli

The latest controversy is when will Herd Immunity be reached? Herd Immunity is reached when 70-85% of the population is immune. However, there is controversy over how do you determine how many people are immune. It's easy to determine the number people that have been fully vaccinated. In addition, others also count the people that have contacted Covid-19 that have recovered and those that were asymptomatic who have built up antibodies? An article published by the CDC showed that in December, 2020 it was estimated around 70 million people of all ages were asymptomatic with an UI (Uncertainty Interval) of 95%. Twenty % were children under the age of 18. It is assumed that those that have contracted Covid-19 have immunity, but for how long has not been determine. Other viruses such as the flu usual have at least 8 months immunity after vaccination, but those vaccines provide protection using the actual virus. The current vaccines prevent the virus from attack. We also don't know how long immunity lasts when you get the vaccine. Therefore, estimates of when we reach Herd Immunity is difficult. There are **many variables** which make it very complicated.

Something else to consider in regards to the vaccines is the efficacy against the new strains (United Kingdom, African, etc.). It's been reported that the two dose vaccines are slightly less effective against these strains, but still are highly effective. Even if you do contract it after the vaccine, the symptoms are less severe and the potential for death is very low. So when will we reach Herd Immunity and end the pandemic? There was an excellent article in the NYT by Matthew Conlen and Charlie Smart dated Feb. 20. <http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/02/20/us/us-herd-immunity-covid.html> . The curve shows fully vaccinated based on a vaccination rate of 1.7 million per day we would reach herd immunity (70% of US population) by sometime in late October of this year (vaccinations only). A second curve shows the estimated Total Immunity which also includes those that had the virus and have recovered. This shows we would reach herd immunity in July. I don't believe they included the asymptomatic.

In July, 2019 it was estimated that the population of the US was about 331 million people. Currently (March 16th) in the United States about 72 million have received their first dose of vaccine and about 39 million are fully vaccinated. The daily doses administered in the United States continue to fluctuate daily. However, since March 6th the daily total doses vaccinations per day on a 7 day average is over 2.1 million. There has been several days with over 2 million vaccinations. The severe winter storm in mid-

February hinder both the delivery and the administering of the vaccinations. But the delivery and administering of the vaccinations are increasing. Two (2) weeks after the first dose one could be as much as 50% immune. However, there are estimates that as much as 35% of the eligible vaccination population may not want to be vaccinated. Based upon having 80% of the population being vaccinated to reach herd immunity we would not reach herd immunity if this continued. Hopefully with more and more evidence of no severe reaction to the vaccines and “no” deaths, those who are reluctant to be vaccinated will change their mind. I have developed a formula which includes the estimated asymptomatic cases and current vaccination data. The calculations show we would reach Herd Immunity (80% of population) in the United States by early July to mid-July. By the way, my pharmacist friend from El Paso says the hospital community there believes we will reach herd immunity by mid-July. Time will tell if our predictions hold.

As of March 16th, three months since the first vaccination was administered, the following total vaccinations for Texas and the two closest counties show:

	Texas	Travis Co.	Williamson Co.
Doses Received	10,100,000		
One Dose administered	5,700,000	250,800	111,200
Fully Vaccinated	2,945,000	111,600	45,300
Herd Immunity (Fully) *	43.1%	31.5%	30.4%

*80% of population and % includes vaccinations, recoveries, estimated asymptomatic cases and an average efficacy of the vaccinations of 80%.

As the one dose vaccine comes into wider use, the daily vaccination rate should increase. The fully immunized daily rate (although not with the same efficacy) will also increase.

The state of Texas has increased the daily vaccinations and my calculations show Texas is running about 2-3 weeks behind the US to reach herd immunity. In Travis and Williamson County, herd immunity is lagging Texas by around 2-3 months at the current rate of vaccinations. The Johnson and Johnson vaccine has now been approved for EUA (Emergency Use approval). The study showed 66% efficacy against moderate to severe cases and 85 percent effective in preventing severe disease across all regions studied, and showed protection against COVID-19 related hospitalization and death beginning 28 days after vaccination. However, originally only 20 million doses were scheduled for delivery in the US by the end of March. The government stepped in and Johnson & Johnson and Merck joined forces and promise to deliver 37 million doses by the end of March. It

will be interesting to see if the one (1) dose vaccine impacts the daily rate fully vaccinations. If the rate of vaccinations should increase, the overall efficacy will decrease. The offset should not have much impact on the estimated herd immunity date. I also understand both Pfizer and Moderna are testing candidates under 16 years old to determine the best dosages for the vaccine and if there are any severe reactions.

AstraZeneca is a fourth vaccine and is a two (2) dose vaccine. Although it is currently being used outside of the US, it is expected to submit new data to the FDA later this summer to obtain EUA. The data submitted for approval outside of the US had several variations including different doses and lack of adequate 65 and older participants. This is why the efficacy varied considerably.

The original Covid-19 virus continues to mutate (as they usually do). The current vaccines appear to have less efficacy against the latest strains. So it is important that you get vaccinated for Covid-19 as soon as possible. Austin Public Health (APH) has established a system where every Monday you can go online and try to get an appointment for the following week for as long as there are openings.

As of March 17, there is information on one hundred and fourteen (114) members. Eighty-nine (89) have had their first dose including seven (7) who have received the one-shot Johnson & Johnson (J & J). Forty-eight (48) have had their 2nd dose. Two (2) have their first dose scheduled, sixteen (16) are still trying to scheduled their first dose, twenty (20) have their 2nd dose scheduled. Seven (7) are not getting vaccinated at this time. However, two had contracted the Covid-19 virus in late December so are considered to be immune anyway. They may get vaccinated, which is recommended, when the final stages of eligibility have been reached. Except for eleven (11) who received the Pfizer vaccine and seven (7) who have received the J & J vaccine, all others received the two-shot Moderna vaccine.

I'm trying to collect this information to better determine when we might be able to open the Senior Center after the water damage repair is completed. My belief is we won't consider opening until a sufficient number of members have been vaccinated. Those entering the Center will probably have to show that it has been at least 2 weeks since they had their first dose of the two dose vaccines or the one dose vaccine. Also

the normal pandemic procedures of masks, social distance as best we can and sanitization will probably be in force. (To be determine by the Board). However, as of March 10, Governor Abbott has waived the penalty for not wearing masks and has open businesses to fully operate. Basically, he is putting the responsibility to prevent the spread of Covid-19 in the hands of the people. I'm sure many people will continue to wear mask, social distance, wash hands and sanitize facilities until told not to do so by the so-called experts.

Please continue to report to me (if you haven't already) your status in regards to Covid-19 vaccination and which vaccine you received. You can also tell me when your 2nd dose is scheduled in the future. Email me @ fjm81@austin.rr.com. I will keep a tally of the results and issue the total numbers again next month.

VACCINE ASSISTANCE

Kim Dodson (and her husband, Bryan) have graciously offered up their assistance for anyone needing help in getting their Covid vaccines—both with the scheduling and/or transportation to the vaccination site. They even have a minivan so can accommodate almost everyone.

**Kim's contact information is: Cell: 512-656-7396
1214 Boeme Drive, Cedar Park, TX 78613**

EASTER TRADITIONS

According to some sources, the Easter Bunny first arrived in America in the 1700s with German immigrants who settled in Pennsylvania and transported their tradition of an egg laying hare called "Osterhase" or "Oschter Haws". Their children made nests in which the creature could lay its colored eggs. Eventually, the custom spread across the U.S. and the fabled rabbit's Easter morning delights expanded to include chocolate and other types of candy & gifts, while decorated baskets replaced nests.

Easter is the 2nd best selling candy holiday in America after Halloween. Most popular treats are chocolate eggs & over 16 billion jelly beans are made in the U.S. each year for Easter. Let's not forget the marshmallow flavored yellow chicks "Peep" which began selling in the 1950s.

The 1st official White House Easter Egg Roll occurred in 1878 when Rutherford B. Hayes was President.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Janelle Boatright	01
Ann Bordelon	01
Patricia Stewart	02
Joyce Francis	03
Alicia Garcia	03
Felissa Lashley	06
Rhoda Lloyd	07
Edith Wagner	07
Janet Lobsenz	08
Rama Patel	08
Mary Kate Woodruff	09
Louis Hosek	10
Paula Kenmuir	13
Phillip Duprey	16
Sally Ladyman	16
Herb Zwernemann	16
Liz Hagler	17
Alice Martinez	18
Jim Lane	20
Ed Williams	21
Amanda Smalley	22
Joan Shaffer	24
Denny Clauson	26
Jean Wiedenfeld	26
Eileen Martin	28

Janet & John McMulli	01
Patricia & Lacey Biles	04
Pat & Clyde Birnbaum	14
Allen & Jerry Jahn	20
Mary & Ken Williams	20
Jayne & Bill Van Osten	22
Eileen & Bill Brown	28



APRIL 2021

ALL ACTIVITIES ARE "SUSPENDED"

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 9:45 Rubber Bridge** 10:30 Mahjongg 2:00 Pinochle	2 9:00 Sit & Fit 10:00 Bridge Lessons 10:30 Bingo Noon—Pinochle 1:00 Dup. Bridge	3
4 EASTER SUNDAY	5 9:00 Sit & Fit 1:00 Cribbage 1:00 Bingo 3:00 Scrabble 6:00 Game Night 6:15 Dup. Bridge**	6 9:00 Canasta 9:30 Dup. Brdg** 9:45 Rubber Brdg** 10:00 Exec. Cmt.	7 9:00 Sit & Fit 9:30 Tables Choice 10 Jewelry Making 1:00 Line Dancing	8 9:45 Rubber Bridge** 10:30 Mahjongg 2:00 Pinochle	9 9:00 Sit & Fit 10:00 Bridge Lessons 10:30 Bingo Noon—Pinochle 1:00 Dup. Bridge	10 6:00 Duplicate Bridge **
11	12 9:00 Sit & Fit 10:00 BOD 1:00 Cribbage 1:00 Bingo 3:00 Scrabble 6:00 Game Night 6:15 Dup. Bridge**	13 9:00 Canasta 9:45 Rubber Brdg ** 1:30 Poker	14 9:00 Sit & Fit 9:30 Tables Choice 10 Jewelry Making 1:30 Bunco	15 9:45 Rubber Bridge** 10:30 Mahjongg 2:00 Pinochle	16 9:00 Sit & Fit 9:45 Dup. Bridge ** 10:00 Bridge Lessons 10:30 Bingo Noon—Pinochle 1:00 Dup. Bridge**	17
18	19 9:00 Sit & Fit 11:30 Covered Dish 1:00 Cribbage 1:00 Bingo 3:00 Scrabble 6:00 Game Night 6:15 Dup. Bridge**	20 9:00 Canasta 9:30 Dup. Brdg** 9:45 Rubber Brdg** 1:30 Poker	21 9:00 Sit & Fit 9:30 Tables Choice 10 Jewelry Making 1:00 Line Dancing	22 9:45 Rubber Bridge** 10:30 Mahjongg 2:00 Pinochle	23 9:00 Sit & Fit 10:00 Bridge Lessons 10:30 Bingo Noon—Pinochle 1:00 Dup. Bridge**	24
25	26 9:00 Sit & Fit 1:00 Cribbage 1:00 Bingo 3:00 Scrabble 6:00 Game Night 6:15 Dup. Bridge**	27 9:00 Canasta 9:30 Rubber Brdg** 1:30 Poker	28 9:00 Sit & Fit 9:30 Tables Choice 10 Jewelry Making 1:30 Bunco	29 9:45 Rubber Bridge** 10:30 Mahjongg 2:00 Pinochle	30 9:00 Sit & Fit 10:00 Bridge Lessons 10:30 Bingo Noon—Pinochle 1:00 Dup. Bridge**	**Sign up Required ***Sign up Required & Pay in Advance

Treasure of the Hills Senior Activity Center 400 Ridgewood Drive, Cedar Park, Texas 78613

Phone: 512-331-6000

Open Monday-Friday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

www.toth-seniors.com



The Golden Gazette

MARCH

Treasure of the Hills Senior Activity Center

Volume XXXI Number 03

MARCH 2021

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Dennis Domanski

The second Friday of March marks one year that the Senior Center closed due to Covid-19. During that year we have hoped many times that the virus would just disappear and we could return to the way things were. We look for the possibility that with vaccines the virus will be eliminated, and we could re-open the Center. To have something to look toward to we have secured August 27th at the Rec Center for the Senior Expo.

I hope and pray that you are all doing well and have not sustained damage due to the severe weather.

With that said, I unfortunately have to inform you that the Senior Center did have a pipe burst that caused severe damage throughout the Center.

The City of Cedar Park has turned off Electric, Water and has issued a DO NOT enter warning to the facility, until they have had the opportunity to do an assessment of damages.

President's Message—continued

In addition three (3) large trees have either fallen or become uprooted in the front yard. Clean up will be addressed by the City.

I will keep you advised as information becomes available.

Stay well and be safe.



Vice President NOTES

By Carolyn White



Happy St. Patrick's Day Everyone. The light at the end of the tunnel is getting brighter. Have you ever wondered why we wear green on St. Patrick's Day?

Here's what I found: Leprechauns are actually one reason you're supposed to wear green on St. Patrick's Day — or risk getting pinched! The tradition is tied to folklore that says wearing green makes you invisible to leprechauns, who like to pinch anyone they can see.

I hope everyone is able to get their vaccine if they choose to do so. Things appear to be getting easier to do that. We are so looking forward to being able to open the Senior Center again, but we do want everyone safe. Myself, I can't wait to see our new addition, the Player Piano. It will be so much fun having that play during our special events. Take care everyone, stay safe and warm.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Lisa Leirvaag

I hope all of you managed to stay warm and safe during Uri and Viola. Sadly, some of our very old trees were the first casualties. They did not survive the freezing rain and toppled under the weight of the ice. They were located on the west side of the building, toward Ridgewood Drive. None of them fell on the roof.

Soon it will be a whole year since we had to close the Senior Center. The last great event was the Valentine's Day celebration including a delicious dinner and the wonderful performance by A Capella Texas.

Nevertheless, spring is just around the corner and I choose to be optimistic that this will be a good year after all.

Y'all stay healthy and safe!

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Dick Planck

Our income for January was \$2,169.20 and our expenses were \$1,325.99 resulting in a Net Ordinary Income of \$843.21. The Major source of income for the month was \$2,125.00 Rental Revenue.

Major items of Expense were: \$306.67 for utilities and \$237.00 for 6 months website Maintenance & Expense. Our investments decreased in value by \$1,220.79

Copies of each month's Financial Reports are filed in a binder behind the Receptionist's desk for Members review.

COVID-19 UPDATE

by Frank Mignoli

Well Covid-19 vaccinations are in full swing using the two (2) vaccines approved by the FDA for EUA (Pfizer and Moderna). We currently have as many people who have received their first vaccination as there are recorded cases of Covid-19 in the United States. A third vaccine, which has less efficacy than the other two, submitted their data for EUA in the 2nd week of February. Most of their data was developed against the new African strain of Corona virus. So it is difficult to compare against the previous two (2) vaccines. Hopefully AstraZeneca will have approval by the time you receive this article. Members of TOTH and other senior citizens are still having trouble actually making an appointment for their first shot. Those that have registered, have registered at more than one location. Several have required assistance from a relative in registering. Completing the online forms is not easy.

As of February 17, 40 members, have reported to me. Only two (2) have received two doses of the vaccine, nineteen (19) have had their first dose, seven (7) have their first dose scheduled, five (5) have their 2nd dose scheduled and thirteen (13) are trying to schedule their first dose. Only one (1) has considered not being vaccinated. All those vaccinated received the Moderna vaccine.

The reason I'm trying to collect this information is to better determine when we might be able to open the Senior Center. My belief is we won't consider opening until a sufficient number of members have been vaccinated. Those entering the Center will at least have had their first dose of the two dose vaccines or the one dose vaccine. Also the normal pandemic procedures of masks, social distance as best we can and sanitization will probably be in force. (To be determined by the Board).

It is estimated that about 225 million people in United States 16 and older will need vaccinations in order to reach what is called herd immunity (about 80% of that population immunized). Currently in the United States about 55 million vaccinations for Covid-19 have been given. Of course this includes 2nd doses of a vaccine. Until the last 2 days, we had seen several days with 2 million vaccinations. But the severe winter storm has made it almost impossible to administer any vaccinations. Even so, after the first dose one could be as much as 50% immunized. Based on this data it's estimated sometime in August before we reach herd immunity in that population. In Texas, herd immunity for 16 and older population is about 18,000,000, in Travis County 815,000 and in Williamson County 370,000.

As of February 16th, two months since the first vaccination was administered, the following total vaccinations for Texas and the two closest counties shows:

	Texas	Travis Co.	Williamson Co.
Doses Received	4,763,350		
One Dose administered	3,020,000	108,000	46,000
Two Doses administered	1,248,000	47,500	19,100
Herd Immunity (One Dose)	17.9%	13.1%	12.5%
Herd Immunity (Two Dose)	7.4%	5.8%	5.2%

Currently, in Texas, the 2nd dose is running vaccinations rate at around 40% of first doses. In the last two (2) weeks, the daily vaccination rate has only increased less than 10%. As the one dose vaccine comes into use, the daily vaccination rate should increase because of this and since it does not require low storage temperature. The less stringent storage means the vaccine can be used in remote areas easier. The fully immunized daily rate (although not with the same efficacy) will also increase.

Base on the data above and the current rate it would be late in December before Texas reaches herd immunity in the 16 and older population. In the US, it's estimated this would happen 5 months earlier. So Texas "must" increase the daily vaccinations to meet the same time frame. I understand Pfizer is testing candidates in the 12-15 year old range to determine the best dosages for the vaccine and if there are any severe reactions.

The original Covid-19 virus continues to mutate (as they usually do). The current vaccines appear to have less efficacy against the latest strains. So it is important that you get vaccinated for Covid-19 as soon as possible.

Please continue to report to me (if you haven't already) your status in regards to Covid-19 vaccination and which vaccine you received. You can also tell me when your 2nd dose is scheduled in the future. Email me @ fjm81@austin.rr.com and inform me. I will keep a tally of the results and issue the total numbers again next month.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Clifford “Don” Atkins	01
Mary Williams	01
Helen Jaqua	03
Jerry Booten	04
Elizabeth Lois Gunn	04
Jane Ann Howard	04
John Lazaretti	06
Shirley Davis	08
Denis Ching	14
Dominga De La Rosa	14
Nancy Nunn	14
Dolores “Dee” Witte	16
Sharon Pickel	17
J. C. Henderson	19
Sharon Leach	20
Beverly Ball	22
Henri Stanford	25
Esther “EJ” Johnson	26
Barbara Ohrzdzansky	27
Ron Greenwood	29
James Brenton	31

Barbara & Jim Ohradzansky	03
Anneliese & Joe Gleaton	04
Ruth & Walter Niedzielak	05
Janet & Bob MacFarland	28



The Golden Gazette

FEBRUARY

Treasure of the Hills Senior Activity Center

Volume XXXI Number 02

FEBRUARY 2021

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Dennis Domanski

As situations evolve we can find silver linings. You will read in Lisa's article in late December and early January the Center's phone and internet went out. Our provider, Spectrum, was contacted. About 15 minutes after repairs were completed and as I was leaving, the phone rang. First service in nearly four weeks. Caller ID showed caller as Ida Edwards. I answered and Ida wanted information on activities provided at the Center. Ida said she was downsizing, had a piano that would not fit in her new place and wanted to make a donation. I expressed we would be interested in receiving her donation. She was pleased to hear my response as the piano was on a truck and she would be at the Center in half an hour. Ida arrived in thirty minutes followed by a truck, two men and a piano.

The men then unloaded a large player piano, early 1900 vintage, along with a bench and cabinet that contained ninety plus player rolls. Currently it is plugged in and sits against a wall in the TV room. Ida also wants to have it tuned and have an instructor show us how to properly operate and care

President's Message—continued

for the piano—a “silver lining” to a day that started out to have phone service restored. We can certainly enjoy the entertainment during our luncheons and special functions. “Thank you” to Ida Edwards!

Sadly, the Center currently remains closed as we continue to remain optimistic that it will be open in the second quarter of this year — with that in mind the Executive Committee decided that all 2020 members would not be assessed dues for 2021. Fortunately we have not heard of any members contracting Covid-19.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any needs, or if you would just like to chat. I would appreciate hearing from you.

I hope, pray and wish that all stay well and safe.



Vice President NOTES

By Carolyn White



Happy Valentine’s Day everyone. The light at the end of the tunnel is getting brighter. With all this turmoil our country is going through, I was reading a book of poems my grandfather had by Edgar A. Guest and came across one that I think fits, so I would like to share it with you. It’s called “A Prayer”

Grant me, O Lord this day to see
The need this world may have for me;
 To play the friend
 Unto the end;
To bear my burden and to keep my
courage,
 Though the way be steep.
Grant me, O Lord, to set aside
The petty things of selfish pride;
 To toil without,
 Too much of doubt,
To meet what comes of good or ill
And be a gracious neighbor, still.
Grant me, O Lord, to face the rain
And not too bitterly complain;
 Nor let a joy
 My calm destroy;
But teach me so to live that I
Can brother with each passer-by.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Lisa Leirvaag

So far, the new year has been pretty uneventful at TOTH except:

- the telephone line went dead
- there was no Internet
- and the printer in the office refused to print.

The 2nd week in January, a young technician from Spectrum came to check things out. And believe it or not — somebody had inadvertently turned off the switch on the power strip. Now everything is up and running again—except TOTH itself. But I am confident that we are getting closer to the light at the end of the tunnel.

Please stay safe and keep up your spirits!

TREASURER’S REPORT

By Dick Planck

Our income for December was \$2,150.09 and our expenses were \$1,265.51 resulting in a Net Ordinary Income of \$884.58. The Major source of income was \$2,125.00 Rental Revenue.

Major items of Expense were: \$598.00 for Liability insurance and \$231.75 for utilities. Our investments increased in value by \$5,558.49.

Comparing Dec. 31, 2019 year end Assets to Dec. 31, 2020 our 2020 cash assets are \$9,323.99 higher and investments are \$24,868.35 higher.

Copies of each month’s Financial Reports are filed in a binder behind the Receptionist’s desk for Members review.

COVID-19 UPDATE

by Frank Mignoli

As of early January 2021, there were 2 vaccines available. Pfizer-Bio Tech which was authorized for emergency use (EUA) by the FDA on December 11th and Moderna which followed one week later. Deliveries across the country started the week of December 15th for the Pfizer vaccine and about one week later for the Moderna vaccine.

Pfizer vaccine – This vaccine has the most challenging storage requirements. It has an initial storage temperature of -70 +/- 10 degs. Centigrade. (-94 degs. Fahrenheit). They are shipped in special containers with dry ice. There are two (2) sizes of boxes. One contains 25 vials and another 95 vials. Each vial after dilution contains 6 doses. There are three options for storage.

Special freezers @ the low temperature for **six months**.

The Pfizer thermal shippers (boxes) can be used as temporary storage by refilling with dry ice every five days for up to **30 days storage**.

Refrigeration units that are commonly found in **hospitals**. The vaccine can be refrigerated for **five days** at 2-8 degs. C (~ 36-46 degs. F.)

The vaccine requires two (2) doses with 21 days between doses. Fifty million doses were distributed starting Dec. 18; 1.3 billion are planned in 2021 (not all for US). Side effects include fatigue, headache, chills, muscle pain, especially after second dose. You should not get the vaccine if you have a history of serious allergic reactions or reactions to vaccine ingredients including polyethylene and poly sorbate.

Moderna vaccine – This vaccine will arrive frozen between -25 and -15 degs C (-13 and 5 degs. F), each box shipped contains 10 multi-dose vials (100 doses). The vials do not need dilution. The vaccine can be refrigerated for **thirty days** at 2-8 degs. C (~ 36-46 degs. F.). Once a vial has been punctured, it can't be refrozen. The vaccine requires two (2) doses with 28 days between doses. 20 million doses were distributed starting Dec. 21; 80 million for US are planned for 2021. Side effects include fever, muscle aches, headaches lasting a few days. Worst after second dose.

There is a third vaccine on the horizon, AstraZeneca. However, it has not been submitted to the FDA for EUA. In addition, the current testing shows it is only 70% effective compared to Pfizer and Moderna that are 95% and 94.1% respectively. AstraZeneca plans to have 3 billion doses distributed in 2021. Once again not all for US.

It is estimated that between 180 and 210 million people in United States 16 and older will need to be vaccinated in order to reach herd immunity (about 75% of population

immunized). It appears it could be at the end of 2021 before we reach this goal. In addition, it is not known how long the immunity will last. If it is only one year, this means we would have to start vaccinations all over again in 2022.

Vaccine Priority Groups

Phase 1A

- Health care personnel
- Long term care facility

Phase 1B

- Frontline essential workers
- People 75 and older

Phase 1C

- People ages 65-74
- People 16-64 with high risk conditions
- Other essential workers

Phase 2

- People 16 and older not in Phase 1

In Texas, they are vaccinating people in the 1A and 1B Priority Groups. However, it appears that for the 1B group not enough vaccine doses have been distributed to HEB and ARC, so no appointment times are being scheduled till they receive enough vaccine. However, that all change on Monday, January 11th when Governor Abbott established a new hub system Covid-19 vaccine distribution program. Initially there were “**NO**” hubs in Williamson Co.

Long Term Care facilities have two options to choose from to receive the Covid-19 vaccine. Option 1: Pharmacy partnership: CVS and Walgreen Pharmacies will be able to enroll directly with CDC and receive Covid-19 vaccine at multiple locations across the state. Option 2: Enroll and become a provider with DSHS. Once a LTC facility is enrolled, DSHS will be able to directly ship Covid-19 vaccine to the LTC facility to be stored and used at that site. As of **January 16th**, very few facilities have signed up.

The vaccination process in Texas the first month was described as chaotic. In the first two weeks, only about 35% of the eligible individuals were vaccinated. As of January 16th, of the 1.72 million doses shipped, about 1.1 million Texans had been vaccinated. That’s an average of 34,680 per day. If we want to reach herd immunity in a year, we will need to average almost 47,000 vaccinations per day. There have been about 167,000 that have been fully vaccinated. Obviously the vaccination process must improve to increase the daily vaccinations.

Information from above was obtain from online sources or Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS).

Personal Experience

My wife Ann, found out she was a 1A candidate. She was encouraged to get the vaccination both from her employer and our son, a doctor. Prior to finding out about the locations, I went to CVS Pharmacy at Lakeline Mall Blvd. and inquired if they were giving vaccinations. They said they were not and did not have any idea when they might be. However, they did tell me HEB at Lakeline Blvd. was giving them. I called on January 5th and they had one appointment available the next day. My wife got her vaccination after filling out some paper work. There is a 15 minute wait after the vaccination to make sure the patient does not have any serious reaction. The next day her arm was a little sore and she had a little fatigue for a couple of days. She will have to go online to register and make another appointment. She may have to go to another location to get her shot.

I initially tried to schedule an appointment at both HEB and ARC but was unsuccessful. After hearing about the new hub system, I was able to register online for a vaccination. You had to set up an account with Austin Public Health (APH) and then answer a few pages of questions. I registered on January 15th and was qualified to get vaccinated as part of the 1B category, but could not schedule an appointment. I was sent an email indicating they would advise me when they had receive enough doses to schedule me. On Sunday, January 17th I checked again and found a hub in Williamson County at Family Emergency Room (part of Family Hospital System). I registered again, only a few questions, and will be emailed a booking link to schedule an appointment. I'll get my shot at the first hub to respond. When that will be no one knows.

Also both HEB and ARC are not scheduling any first dose vaccinations due to not receiving anymore doses. Of course, this could all change when the new President takes office. It would be interesting to find out how many members have received the Covid-19 vaccination and which vaccine you received. Please email me @ fjm81@austin.rr.com and inform me. I will keep a tally of the results and issue them next month.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Nancy Osuna	01
Marilyn McCarthy	02
Caryn Cluiss	03
Emilie Steude	03
Darlene Reitmeyer	04
Doug Stringfellow	04
Sharon Killough	05
Ann Gleaton	06
Bobbie McKissick	07
Peter Klein	08
Shirley Stewart	08
Trudy New	09
Marsha Cekaj	10
Janet MacFarland	13
Lyle Williamson	13
Kathy Moskwa	15
Lynne Bounds	16
Ken Williams	17
Roger Patrick	18
Nancy Hayter	19
Helen Ramey	24
Gloria Hoss	25
Renate Littlejohn	27


Dodie & Dennis Domanski	03
AJ & Bruce Burton	06
Joella & Harvey Koerner	12
Tootie & George Glaeser	14

ONE

- 1 *tree* can start a forest
- 1 *smile* can begin a friendship
- 1 *hand* can lift a soul
- 1 *word* can frame a goal
- 1 *candle* can wipe out darkness
- 1 *laugh* can conquer gloom
- 1 *hope* can raise your spirits
- 1 *touch* can show you care
- 1 *life* can make the difference

FEBRUARY 2021

ALL ACTIVITIES ARE "SUSPENDED"

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 9:00 Sit & Fit 1:00 Cribbage 1:00 Bingo 3:00 Scrabble 6:00 Game Night 6:15 Dup. Bridge**	2 9:00 Canasta 9:30 Dup. Brdg** 9:45 Rubber Brdg** 10:00 Exec. Cmt.	3 9:00 Sit & Fit 9:30 Tables Choice 10 Jewelry Making 1:00 Line Dancing	4 9:45 Rubber Bridge** 10:30 Mahjongg 2:00 Pinochle	5 9:00 Sit & Fit 10:00 Bridge Lessons 10:30 Bingo Noon—Pinochle 1:00 Dup. Bridge	6
7	8 9:00 Sit & Fit 10:00 BOD 1:00 Cribbage 1:00 Bingo 3:00 Scrabble 6:00 Game Night 6:15 Dup. Bridge**	9 9:00 Canasta 9:30 Dup. Brdg** 1:30 Poker	10 9:00 Sit & Fit 9:30 Tables Choice 10 Jewelry Making 1:30 Bunco	11 9:45 Rubber Bridge** 10:30 Mahjongg 2:00 Pinochle	12 9:00 Sit & Fit 10:00 Bridge Lessons 10:30 Bingo Noon—Pinochle 1:00 Dup. Bridge	13 6:00 Duplicate Bridge **
14  <i>Valentine's Day</i>	15 9:00 Sit & Fit 11:30 Covered Dish 1:00 Cribbage 1:00 Bingo 3:00 Scrabble 6:00 Game Night	16 9:00 Canasta 9:30 Rubber Brdg** 9:45 Rubber Brdg ** 1:30 Poker	17 9:00 Sit & Fit 9:30 Tables Choice 10 Jewelry Making 1:00 Line Dancing <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	18 9:45 Rubber Bridge** 10:30 Mahjongg 2:00 Pinochle	19 9:00 Sit & Fit 9:45 Dup. Bridge ** 10:00 Bridge Lessons 10:30 Bingo Noon—Pinochle 1:00 Dup. Bridge**	20
21	22 9:00 Sit & Fit 1:00 Cribbage 1:00 Bingo 3:00 Scrabble 6:00 Game Night 6:15 Dup. Bridge**	23 9:00 Canasta 9:30 Dup. Brdg** 1:30 Poker	24 9:00 Sit & Fit 9:30 Tables Choice 10 Jewelry Making 1:30 Bunco	25 9:45 Rubber Bridge** 10:30 Mahjongg 2:00 Pinochle	26 9:00 Sit & Fit 10:00 Bridge Lessons 10:30 Bingo Noon—Pinochle 1:00 Dup. Bridge**	27
28						**Sign up Required ***Sign up Required & Pay in Advance

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The Golden Gazette

JANUARY

Treasure of the Hills Senior Activity Center

Volume XXXI Number 01

JANUARY 2021

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Dennis Domanski

As we move through the holiday season, trust all had a Merry Christmas and a Happy Hanukah, and I offer the traditional greeting of Happy New Year. Traditional in respect that it is a greeting. 2021 is the beginning of a year that will hopefully allow us to return to many of our cherished activities. Traditional, as New Years is a time when one is to make resolutions for change in the coming year. I personally found New Years as a time to reflect and the opportunity of not only wishing others a Happy New Year but giving thought of how I can make meaningful positive impact on them in the coming year.

Unfortunately the Senior Center remains closed to social gatherings as a precaution to keep our members safe from Covid-19. As you have read in articles from Carolyn, Frank & Lisa we are monitoring the Covid-19 situation and hopefully will re-open activities in the end of first or beginning of second quarter of 2021 as we see decline in the spread of Covid-19. I am pleased to hear that members have met other members in walks, luncheons, phone calls, online games and video chats. That to me is what the Senior Center is really about. Not

President's Message—continued

only a building of organized activities, it is a meeting and caring of fellow Center members and wanting to be with them as we find enjoyment in their company.

As we see in Dick's article the Center is in good financial position and we will continue to publish the Gazette monthly, and all will remain on the membership roster, with no dues required at this time. My personal New Year's wish is for all to be safe and well and allow me to say Happy New Year on that re-opening day at the Senior Activity Center.

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Dick Planck

Our income for November was \$2,106.34 and our expenses were \$784.93 resulting in a Net Ordinary Income of \$1,321.41. The Major source of income was, \$1,800.00 Rental Revenue from the Church.

Major items of Expense were: \$283.60 for utilities. Our investments increased in value by \$20,143.72.

Copies of each month's Financial Reports are filed in a binder behind the Receptionist's desk for Members review.



NEW YEAR POEM ON LIFE

*Another fresh New Year
is here!*

Another year to live!

*To banish worry,
doubt and fear*

To love and laugh and give!

*This bright new year
is given me*

To live each day with zest

To daily grow and try to be

My highest and my best!

I have the opportunity

*Once more to right
some wrongs,*

To pray for peace,

to plant a tree,

And sing more joyful songs!

William Archer Ward



FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Lisa Leirvaag

I would like to wish everyone all the best for the New Year. May it be filled with health, happiness and joy, and may we finally be able to beat Covid-19.

Vice President NOTES

By Carolyn White



Happy New Year Everyone!

We can start the New Year off by knowing there is a light at the end of the tunnel. The Covid-19 vaccines are starting to arrive. It will be a while before we, as the general public get it, as I'm all for letting our frontline Doctors, Nurses and the rest of the essential workers get it first. I know it's going to be hard but look how far we've come. As of this time we still don't have a time for re-opening, but I am hoping for sometime this new year.

My family and I have been doing lots of puzzles and games and keeping our fingers crossed as my one daughter, who is a teacher, had to go back into the classroom. She is teaching both on-line and in class students at the same time. I know this has been hard on all of us, but I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the Senior Center sometime again in the New Year. Stay safe everyone.

COVID-19 UPDATE

by Frank Mignoli

The Covid-19 pandemic continues. As of mid-December, cases, deaths and hospitalizations continue to rise in Texas. However, the light at the end of the tunnel has arrived with the approval for Emergency Use Authorization (EUA), Pfizer's two (2) dose vaccine. It is expected that Moderna's vaccine will receive the same approval the week ending December 19th. In fact, vaccinations have begun for certain health care workers and patients in long-term care facilities. It is expected that essential workers who work in food and agriculture, manufacturing, law enforcement, education, transportation, corrections, emergency response and other sectors will likely be second in line, starting early next year. Adults with underlying medical conditions and people over 65 are expected to begin during the first quarter of 2021. Of course, if more vaccines are approved, this could happen earlier.

Recently, I emailed to a group of friends observations from a Pharmacist who works in El Paso, a hot spot in regards to Covid-19 cases. The following are his observations:

During this Pandemic, the news has lagged the reality in Hospitals. The admission crisis abruptly ended, and admissions sharply dropped off. There are two reasons for this.

- 1) It is now two weeks after El Paso stepped up its lock-down enforcement and*
- 2) 14 days after the Thanksgiving surge*

We are expecting another surge to begin 6 days after Christmas, that will last for about 10-day after the New Year. That means we expect to see a rise in admissions again starting 12/30 and a return to "Normal Covid Levels" on January 10th. It is clear to anyone working at the hospital that masks and social distancing are very effective at reducing the spread of the virus.

We are prepared to receive and administer the Pfizer vaccine. Each shipping container holds 5 trays, and each tray has 195 vials, each vial holds 5 doses that require reconstitution. Once removed from the Shipping-Container/freezer/refrigerator the vaccine must be administered in 6 hours. Through a combination of recharging the dry ice and refrigeration we can get up to 35 days of use.

*About 20% of our staff are electing not to receive the vaccine. While it is still unknown, the FDA may recommend patients not receive the vaccine who have experienced severe allergic reaction to other antigens in the past. **Under any circumstances follow your doctor's recommendations.** Severe reactions include events that would send you to the ER. Other reaction signs include swollen tongue, difficulty breathing, and hives.*

As more and more vaccinations are administered, we should be informed of any side effects and if the efficacy remains above 90%. Continue to wear masks, social distancing and wash and sanitize your hands.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jeri Finn	05
Barbara Johnson	05
Marilyn Hill	07
Dottie Cowan	08
Janice Wohlwend	09
Doris Stone	10
Barbara Camp	11
Linda Rettinger	11
Dennis Domanski	12
Diana Hollon	13
Eleene Hoskins Upchurch	13
Nella Easley	14
Lisa Leirvaag	17
Zane Lowenstein	17
Vickie Nann	17
Harvey Koerner	18
Toni Maxwell	19
Connie Lane	21
Kenneth Birdwell	23
Jerry Thomas	23
Dodie Domanski	25
Richard Planck	29
Mary Newman	30
Jon Devries	31
Patricia Jones	31
Ann Mignoli	31



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Rita & Ron Neff	09
Mary Kate & Woody Woodruff	23
Suzy & Roberto Ortiz	30

MEMORIALS

By Jan Clark

Joe Boatright, a life time member, has passed away at 92 years old. Our sincere condolences to Janelle and their families.

MISCELLANEOUS

If you ever volunteered as Receptionist, you will remember we had tons & tons of donated Christmas cards. Mary Riordan took lots of them to The Pointe & Sagebrook. They were pleased we thought of them.

Also, Mary has a 42 inch rolltop desk, free for the taking if anyone wants it Call Mary at 512-260-8876



A huge "THANK YOU" to Dodie & Dick Planck for very efficiently getting the Gazette printed, labeled and mailed each month.

Also, a huge "THANK YOU" to Gerri West for always providing the labels with members' names and addresses.

JANUARY 2021

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17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day →	18 9:00 Sit & Fit 11:30 Covered Dish 1:00 Cribbage 1:30 Bingo 3:00 Scrabble 6:00 Game Night 6:15 Dup. Bridge**	19 9:00 Canasta 9:30 Dup. Brdg** 9:45 Rubber Brdg** 1:30 Poker	20 9:00 Sit & Fit 9:30 Tables Choice 10 Jewelry Making 1:00 Line Dancing	21 9:45 Rubber Bridge** 10:30 Mahjongg 2:00 Pinochle	22 9:00 Sit & Fit 10:00 Bridge Lessons 10:30 Bingo Noon—Pinochle 1:00 Dup. Bridge**	23
24 31	25 9:00 Sit & Fit 1:00 Bingo 1:00 Cribbage 3:00 Scrabble 6:00 Game Night 6:15 Dup. Bridge**	26 9:00 Canasta 9:45 Rubber Brdg** 1:30 Poker	27 9:00 Sit & Fit 9:30 Tables Choice 10 Jewelry Making 1:30 Bunco	28 9:45 Rubber Bridge** 10:30 Mahjongg 2:00 Pinochle	29 9:00 Sit & Fit 10:00 Bridge Lessons 10:30 Bingo Noon—Pinochle 1:00 Dup. Bridge**	30 **Sign up Required ***Sign up Required & Pay in Advance

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