



**COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR**  
By Mark McGrath

**State of the City**

2006 was another busy year in the City of Meadows Place.

In January, the Meadows Place Fire Station was dedicated and open for business. Members of the Stafford Volunteer Fire Department, which provides fire-fighting service to the City, have had

nothing but praise for the facility.

City Council approved a planned development amendment for zoning the second phase of the Oasis project. This took care of the balance of the property owned by Chaparral Corporation on the southwest corner of South Kirkwood and West Airport. The zoning provides for the same type of use as in the first phase: medical, office and living facilities oriented toward senior citizens. Our Planning and Zoning Commission as well as public input took this action after discussion and deliberation. It will take several years at least to build out this project, depending on market conditions. At the present time, Chaparral hopes to start two buildings per year.

City Council, with valuable assistance from Meadows Economic Development Corporation, began the first phase of a marketing campaign. An integral part of this first phase was a survey of City residents to determine their likes and dislikes about living in Meadows Place. I was very pleased about the volume of responses as well as the comments contained therein. Phase 2 of the marketing campaign is scheduled to take place in 2007 and will include the development of a City brochure and other marketing materials. Thanks again to Meadows Economic Development Corporation for funding these efforts with their dedicated sales tax collections.

The City survey was a source of satisfaction to Chief of Police Mike Pickett when he retired in September. Almost 89% of the survey respondents rated the quality of police services as either good or excellent. Council is in the process of selecting a new Chief. Resumes are being solicited from both internal and external candidates, just like when Chief Pickett was chosen. The deadline for submitting resumes is January 31 and the interview process will begin shortly thereafter.

With advice from the Garden Club and funding from Meadows Economic Development Corporation, the landscaping around all four City entrance monument signs was re-worked. A special thanks to Margaret Sandlin, Garden Club President and Meadows Economic Development Corporation board member for her assistance in this project. The City is currently talking to the City of Sugar Land about participating in landscaping improvements on Dairy Ashford. We hope to have this completed in 2007.

Legislatively, Council passed a teen curfew ordinance and an ordinance limiting where registered sex offenders can live. Both of these ordinances are designed to further protect the residents of the City, particularly our young people.

In 2006, we said goodbye to long time Council members David Piwonka and Joe McCann. We appreciate their many years of service to the City. At the same time, we welcomed new Council members Charles Kulhanek and Dave Wilkens. We look forward to their contributions to our City government.

We look forward to another busy year in 2007. On behalf of City Council and City employees, I wish you a safe and prosperous New Year. ☺

**GARAGE SALE DATES**

Garage sales are limited to the last weekend of odd numbered months (January, March, May, etc.) Weekends are defined as Friday and Saturday. Residents may have up to 2 garage sales per year on the designated weekends. A garage sale permit is required. Please note change in garage sale dates. We will have a garage sale in October due to the fact the November garage sale dates fall on Thanksgiving weekend. The last garage sale date for each year will now be in October.



**CITY CALENDAR**

- Jan. 23rd** Regular City Council Meeting  
*City Hall* 7:30 p.m.
- Jan. 26th & 27th** *Garage Sale weekend*
- Feb. 13th** Crime Watch Meeting  
*City Hall* 7:00 p.m.

**Street Light Repair**  
713-207-2222 or [www.centerpoint.com](http://www.centerpoint.com)

**CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE**

One Troyan Drive • Meadows Place, TX 77477 • (281) 983-2950 • Fax (281) 983-2940

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- ALDERMAN ..... **Terry Henley** (281) 530-7136  
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- ALDERMAN ..... **Dave Wilkens** (281) 240-7887  
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- CITY SECRETARY ..... **Elaine Herff**



# Christmas Memories '06

Sandy Sparks telling Santa her Christmas wish



Russell Ray Band



Meadows Elementary Choir



The Krause's dancing the night away

The 17th annual Meadows Place Christmas Memories in the Park took place on Friday, December 8th. This yearly event is a favorite among residents and visitors alike. Frosty the Snowman and Eggnog and Roley the elves were out entertaining the crowd awaiting the arrival of Santa. Additional activities included face painting, hayrides and a giant ice slide. Other entertainment included live music from the Russell Ray Band and seasonal selections performed by Meadows Elementary School Choir. A big attraction for the children was the snow area, which was packed with kids ages 11 and under. New this year was a snow hill where children enjoyed sledding down the mountain of snow.

The highlight of Christmas Memories is always the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus. This year the couple was escorted by Meadows Place Police as the band played, "Here Comes Santa Claus". Santa visits and photos were really fun this year on Santa's very own sleigh parked in a mound of snow.

Mayor Mark McGrath, along with Councilmen Terry Henley, Charles Kulhanek and his wife Lisa, and Dave Wilkens and his wife Trish were handing out glow in the dark goodies to all the children along with assistance from Patty Spade.

Warm beverages and plenty of food were available thanks to Meadows All Play Baseball League and Meadows Marlins Swim Team. Thanks to everyone who help participated and helped make this another great Christmas Memories in the Park.



Baseball and Swim Team kept everyone fed

If you were fortunate enough to enjoy all the great festivities the night of Meadows Place Christmas Memories in the park, you no doubt saw all this new equipment. Special thanks to Brookside Equipment and Store Manager Jimmy Stewart. Jimmy donated the use of the John Deer Gator, tractor and trailer. His equipment was used as a stage for the live band and for the popular Hayrides. Jimmy Stewart also volunteered his time to come out and drive the hayrides too.

*Thanks to great business partners such as this for helping to make our evening such great fun.*



### CLASSIFIED & ADVERTISING

Anyone wishing to place an ad in the newsletter can contact City Hall for information. All ads are due by the last working day of each month. The appearance of paid advertising is not an endorsement by the City.

Avon products, contact Linda or Gary Littlejohn 281-498-9855.  
Order products and brochures by phone or  
e-mail (gary-littlejohn@sbcglobal.net) Meadows Place resident.

Daisy's Registered Home Childcare. Infants and up. CPR certified.  
Meals provided. Call 281-495-7340.

William Sutherland Handyman Repairs. Appliance, Electrical,  
Plumbing, Power washing, Interior/Exterior Carpentry Work.  
Painting, Concrete, Tiles. Cell 713-384-2817, 713-353-9996

Registered Home Daycare. Christian environment. Meals & snacks.  
12 years experience. 281-495-7996

Responsible, Red Cross Certified babysitter. Meadows Place resident.  
281-564-8238. Allison

Registered Child Care in my home. Meals and snack provided. Call  
281-530-6740

DOGS & PETS! Obedience classes; Pet sitting; Golden Retriever  
puppies for sale. Ron Parks 281-568-1510

### ALARM PERMITS

All alarm permits expired December 31st 2006. Any alarm permit that was not renewed by December 31st, 2006 was cancelled.

Cancelled permits shall not be renewable and must be reapplied for at the initial fee of \$15.00. City Ordinance requires alarm permits. Failure to comply may result in the issuance of a citation by Meadows Place Police Department.

## MEADOWS COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

By Janet Kulhanek

**MCIA BOARD MEETINGS:** The MCIA Board works diligently to help improve the appearance of our City and its aesthetic appeal to residents as well as those driving through. We meet on the first Thursday of each month, 7:45 pm, Meadows Place City Hall. Please contact a board member if you would like to be placed on the agenda.

#### MEMBERS:

Steve Court 281-498-4334 • Diann Hamilton 281-495-4038  
Sherry Carlson 281-879-1359 • Frank Brown 281-498-0052  
Janet Kulhanek 281-498-1807 • Christy Crouch 281-530-1822



## DID YOU KNOW??????

**Did You Know...**that in an answer to the question “How do the Police determine when to patrol and where to go” the answer is both simple and complex? The general When as well as the basic Where is based on past history and activity records. This also helps determine how many officers are on patrol at any given time during each of the patrol shifts. The exact where is not so simple - and for good reason. We do not want the bad guys to pick up any kind of a pattern or routine so patrol routes vary and are constantly changed and monitored. There are certain times of the year that see more activity than others but the Police say they can use our eyes and ears all the time. The PD wants us to know that if we see something that looks even remotely suspicious that we should call them immediately. If you feel there is immediate threat of a crime being committed then call 911. If you have questions or just want to talk to them, you can call 281-983-2900.

**Did You Know...**that Meadows Place Public Works Department recently purchased some new equipment to help water flow on our streets? These two pieces of equipment will not only save us a lot of money but also should help water flow and keep our storm drains from being plugged up so fast. One piece is designed to sweep up leaves and debris that collect along our curbs. Using this will help keep so many leaves from going down our storm drains which slow down water flow dramatically. Unfortunately, the leaves fall faster than we can run the equipment so they want to say ‘Thanks’ to all the homeowners like Don Coleman and Larry Ewing who swept and bagged the leaves in front of their homes. This is still the best way to assure a good water flow when we get a South Texas gully washer.

**Did You Know...**that Christina Moeckel, a Meadows Place resident and freshman at Dulles HS made the FFA quiz team? Only the top 3 students went to the District Competition. Her team won 1st place and Christina came in 2nd place individually. They went on to Area and took 4th place. Congratulations Christina!

Congratulations are also in order for MP Resident Garrett W. Fulce. Garrett, a home schooled 11th grader, was elected as the Gubernatorial Candidate for District 3 of the YMCA Texas Youth & Government Program. He represented the Mo. City YMCA. The competition was stiff as this district covers from Ft. Bend, through Houston, all the way over to Beaumont / Pt. Arthur. Garrett says the “Youth & Govt. program is a terrific opportunity for students to increase their political awareness” and that “The program has increased my appreciation for the way the American political system is designed”. What an achievement, hope he does not run against me!!! Way to go Garrett.

**Did You Know...**Linda Fletcher had a question about our recycling program? She wanted to know if it is necessary to separate items by type before she puts them in the red recycling bin. Republic Waste is our service provider and fortunately, for us, it is NOT necessary for us to separate these items in the bin. They are first sorted as they put them in the truck. They take newspaper and all the insert type paper that comes in the Sunday papers. They take #1 & #2 plastics. Milk, water & soft drink bottles, etc. Look for the logo. Just rinse and remove the caps. They take both aluminum drink cans and bi-metal food cans. Again, please rinse. For more information go to the City website at [www.cityofmeadowsplace.org](http://www.cityofmeadowsplace.org) and look under Public Information. There is a lot of handy info for you there. Thanks for asking, Linda.

**Speaking of Thanks** - Kim Hearn wrote a letter of Thanks to the Meadows PD from the Sugar Grove Christian School. She wanted to thank the Police Department for helping them improve their lockdown and evacuation procedures. Sgt. Larry Eissler, who took the initiative in forming a partnership between the school and the PD worked with both students and staff explaining the need for, and best way to implement emergency procedures. Another great example of our community working together to make it a better place to live. Thank You, Kim for writing.

**Did You Know...**the following businesses scored a 95 or better on their annual food permit renewal inspection?

**James Coney Island • Walgreens • Sandwich King • Bakery Donut • Pizza Hut • Teeter Toddler  
Burger King • Pappas Grill • Meadows Elementary School • CVS Pharmacy • Sugar Grove Christian School**

**Good job and thanks for all your hard work!**

**Did You Know...**is designed to open communications and is available to all residents of Meadows Place. If you have a question, comment or news we can use please E-mail us at: [alderman1@cityofmeadowsplace.org](mailto:alderman1@cityofmeadowsplace.org) Thanks and Happy New Year.

### CITY ORDINANCES / CODE ENFORCEMENT

By Tracey Spiller

As we welcome in the New Year, a quick reminder of the top city ordinances frequently violated:

- High grass and weeds
- Inoperable or junked vehicles
- Trash cans visible from the street
- Trailer/camper/boat/motor home/stored in driveway or street

The normal process is a warning issued and when compliance is not achieved, a citation is issued for an appearance in municipal court. The ultimate goal is compliance and not policing so if you receive a warning and have questions please feel free to call me at 281-983-2950.

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# PARKS & RECREATION

## CLASSES

Meadows Place Community Center / Pool will be the location for all activities. You can download registration form from the website [www.cityofmeadowsplace.org](http://www.cityofmeadowsplace.org)

## QUILTING CLUB

Several Meadows Place residents are experienced quilters and want to share their love of quilting with others. This group is meeting at the Community Center ANNEX building located on S. Kirkwood on the 2nd Saturday of each month. Contact Margaret Minton 281-933-2927 or 281-948-8823 to join the group.

## AMERICAN SOCIETY OF KARATE (A.S.K.)

The American Society of Karate is an association designed to teach America Karate to ages 5-70 in a positive ever-changing system.

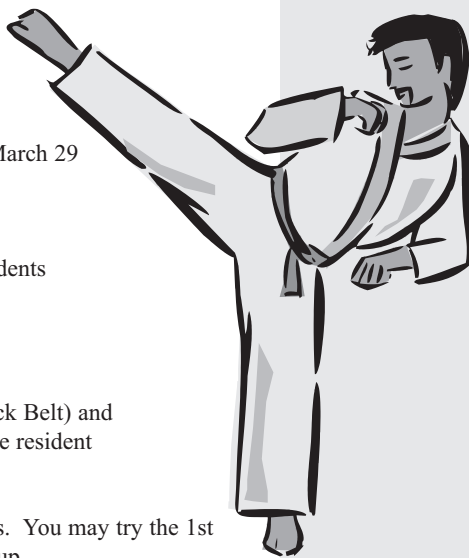
Its goal is not necessarily to be the largest, but to be the best.

This class has been on going for 15 years at the Community Center and welcomes new students.

### Winter 2007 Schedule

- When:** Thursdays – January 11 – March 29  
(No class Spring Break)
- Where:** Community Center
- Time:** 6:30 – 7:30 pm (ages 5-12)  
7:30 – 8:30 pm All new students  
(ages 13-70)
- Fee:** \$40.00 (11 weeks)
- Uniforms:** \$30.00 ( sorry no checks)  
*purchase from instructor*
- Instructors:** Rex Mahy (3rd Degree Black Belt) and  
Steve Puma, Meadows Place resident  
(2nd Degree Black Belt)

New students will be accepted the 1st 3 weeks. You may try the 1st class free before you sign up.  
Children must be 5 years of age.



## QUILTING CLASSES

Quilting classes now available in Meadows Place. Classes will be held at the Community Center ANNEX building located on S. Kirkwood on the 2nd Saturday of each month.. Different machine stitch patterns will be taught and will range in skill level from beginner to advance. If you have some sewing experience in sewing and can sew a straight seam, you can make a beautiful quilt. Please register through the Parks and Recreation Department.



**When:** 3rd Saturdays of the month  
**Where:** Community Center ANNEX building  
on S. Kirkwood  
**Time:** 9:00 am - 4:00 pm  
**Fee:** \$60.00 per class  
**Instructor:** Margaret Minton (Meadows Place resident)

## THAN PHONG TAEKWONDO, SELF-DEFENSE

### Fall 2006 Schedule

- When:** On going
- Where:** Meadows Place Community Center
- When:** Tuesday & Wednesday
- Time:** 4:30 pm. – 6:00 pm
- Fee:** 1 time a week (8 classes) \$45.00  
2 times a week (16 classes) \$80.00
- Instructor:** Dan Phan, Black Belt

**TENNIS IS BACK AT MEADOWS PLACE!  
TENNIS CLASSES**

- We will be offering tennis classes for Adults and Youth on Saturdays.
- Classes will be on a monthly basis, \$55.00/month (4 weeks),
  - We need at least 4 students to form a class, with separate classes for Adults and Youth.
  - 2007 classes will start early February.
  - If you are interested in the lessons, contact the Parks office, 281-983-2935

**Adult Doubles Tennis Leagues**

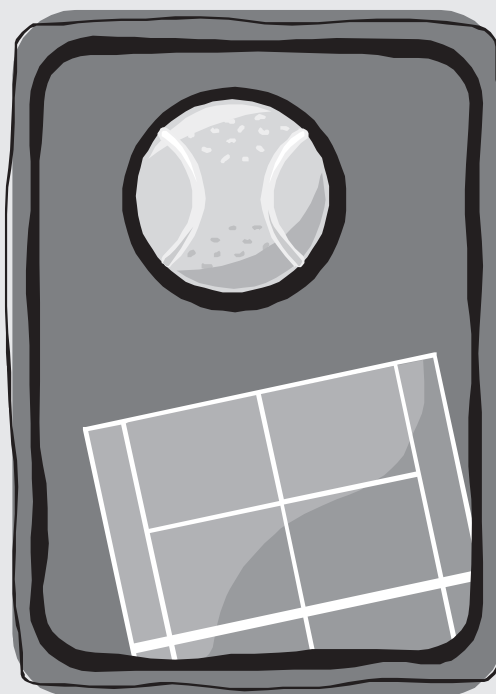
Men, A Level (3.5 and higher) on **Tuesday nights, 7:30pm**. Round robin, rotating partner format, you do not need a partner to register, as you will change partners each week, we need 8 to form the group. You will play 3 sets each week.

- Fee: \$20 for the 8-week season.

Co-Ed Adult Novice Doubles Tennis League, **Wednesday, 7:15pm**. Round robin, rotating partner format, you do not need a partner to register, as you will change partners each week, we need 8 to form the group. You will play 2 sets each week. One of the Pros will be there the first week or two to help the players who are still learning to play the game. You need to have had some lessons and/or know how to play and keep score. C/D Level (2.5 – 3.0)

- Fee: \$15 for the 4-week season.

If you are interested in the leagues, contact the Parks office, 281-983-2935



**MEADOWS PLACE - BSA TROOP 301  
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Premium Gold Lawn Food 15-5-10 40 lbs. →	\$ 16.00 per bag
(Slow Release Nitrogen) Best lawn food	
Weed & Feed 20-3-3 20 lbs. -----→	\$ 11.00 per bag
Multi-Purpose 13-13-13 50 lbs. -----→	\$ 13.00 per bag
Azalea Food 25 lbs. -----→	\$ 12.00 per bag
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Fort Bend Parent /

# Late Winter Early Spring

## MAINTENANCE CALENDAR

### JANUARY

#### MULCH

Keep a 3" layer of mulch in beds and around trees. Do not pile mulch up against tree trunks.

#### TREE PRUNING & CARE

This is the best time of year to trim trees (now - through February). Do not top crape myrtles! Now is also a good time to plant trees while they are still dormant.

Many trees and shrubs are damaged or killed each year by the careless application of herbicide, including those found in mixes of fertilizers and weed-killers. Always read and follow label directions very carefully. Watch for caterpillars on oak trees. If you see these, you can use a product containing "Bt Bacillus thuringiensis" which is an active ingredient found in several products at home and garden centers. As with fertilizer, please read the product instructions carefully. This product is not harmful to anything but the caterpillars.

### FEBRUARY

#### WEED CONTROL

Use a pre-emergent that controls both grassy & broad-leaf weeds. Keeping St. Augustine grass healthy will help choke out weeds.

### MARCH

#### MOWING

Keep your grass mowed at about 2" - 3" height. This helps keep soil temperatures cooler and reduces the need for watering. As mentioned on the reverse page, lawns should be mowed and edged every 7-10 days during the Spring. Consider using a mulching mower and avoid bagging your clippings. This process returns organic matter to the soil. If you have a significant amount of clippings, you may want to consider removing a portion of the clipping to keep the lawn looking neat.

#### LAWN WATERING

If you have an automatic irrigation system, check each zone while it is running to make sure there are no broken or misdirected sprinkler heads. Grass and plants do better with a deep watering once or twice per week—NOT a light watering every day. Because of our heavy soil, water runs off quickly. You may need to run two shorter cycles of 10 minutes each, rather than one longer cycle of 20 minutes.

#### FERTILIZATION

Fertilize your lawn in late March with 3-1-2 ratio fertilizer at a rate equivalent to 2 pounds of nitrogen per 1.00 square feet. (the first number is the percentage of nitrogen that makes up the bag of fertilizer; therefore a 40 pound bag of 15-5-10 has 6 pounds of nitrogen—enough for a 3,000 square foot lawn.). Be sure and verify the size of your lawn area before calculating treatment.

#### FIRE ANTS

Spread fire ant bait over your entire yard in mid-April at a rate of 1 pound per acre. Or use one of the new products with fipronil as an active ingredient that controls fire ants for an entire season (it works!). Be sure and use as directed on the label.

#### PLANT COLOR

Now is a good time to bring back color to your yard. Dianthus, petunias, alyssum and impatiens are good choices for our area.

# Home Maintenance Check List

## ❑ Add Weather Stripping

Weather stripping can be plastic, foam, felt or metal; its job is to seal small gaps, keeping moisture and cold air outside where it belongs. Look around your doors and windows: Is the weather stripping torn or missing? This can become expensive if ignored. On doors, make sure the bottom seal is working properly—there are many sweeps, gaskets and thresholds designed to seal this gap. Doors generally need weather stripping in their jambs as well. Adhesive-backed foam pads are easy to install for this purpose. Newer, energy-efficient windows generally don't require added weather stripping, but if your windows are older, weather stripping can keep drafts at bay and energy costs down.

## ❑ Check Storm Windows

If you have storm windows that are cracked or dirty, repair and clean them now -- prior to autumn installation.

## ❑ Fight Winter with Plywood

Find a couple of scrap sheets of plywood and set them aside. When the weatherman predicts a cold snap, set the boards against the exterior basement vents on whichever side of your house bears the brunt of your prevailing weather patterns. This bit of scrappiness could help prevent frozen pipes. Be sure to remove the boards once the weather warms up -- those vents are there for a reason!

## ❑ Insulation Speculation

This is a good time to check the condition of insulation and see if you need more, especially if you live in an older home. You can purchase un-backed or loose-fill insulation if you are just beefing up what is already there. If you are adding batted insulation to a spot that has none, remember that the foil-backed side is the vapor barrier, and it must face the heated area. For example, if you are laying fiberglass insulation in an unfinished attic floor to keep heat in the living room below, you should see pink when you're done -- not foil! If your walls lack insulation, consider having a professional install blown-in insulation foam. The energy savings will probably offset the cost of the procedure in a couple of years.

## ❑ Check Gutters

Do a quick visual check to make sure gutters are clear -- they'll be performing double duty soon with rain storms and falling leaves.

## ❑ Keep Mice Out

September inspires nesting in mice as well as humans. Mice are looking for a winter home now, and that newly insulated attic would be just the spot. Mice can squeeze through 1/4-inch openings; rats need a 1/2-inch. Make sure all exterior vents are screened, and that there are no gaps underneath garage

doors. If you are careless about leaving doors and windows open this time of year, you'll be setting mousetraps later. Pet doors are another favorite access point for rodents.

## ❑ Caulk Exterior

Think of caulk as weather stripping in a tube. Any gap on the outside of your home can be a candidate for caulking. Look at transition spots: corners, windows, doors, areas where masonry joins siding, or places where vents and other objects protrude from walls. Carefully read manufacturer's directions to make sure the caulk you buy will work where you plan to use it, and don't forget to purchase a caulking gun. Early fall is a good time for this task because caulk becomes difficult to apply when the temperature falls.

## ❑ Got Wood?

If you have a woodstove, it's not too early to lay in a supply of firewood. Though most of us buy whatever's local, bear in mind that soft woods like fir and cedar burn faster and create hazardous creosote in the chimney, thus requiring more system maintenance and more wood. Hard woods like oak, hickory and maple are slow, hot, clean burners. Wood piles attract insect and animal pests, so stack wood away from the house. Wood dries best when it's protected from rain and has air circulating around it, so under the roof of a wall-less carport would be an ideal wood storage spot.

## ❑ Clean Dryer Vent

This is another one of those tasks that should be on your to-do list every six months. Scoot your clothes dryer away from the wall, unplug it, and vacuum behind it. (If it's a gas dryer, turn off the gas supply to the dryer at the appliance shutoff valve.) Unhook the tube that leads to the vent and clear as much lint from the tube as you can. Grab a shop vacuum, go outside, and tackle the outside dryer vent as well.

## ❑ Inspect Your Roof & Chimney

If your roof isn't too steep, and isn't covered with slate or tile, you may be able to carefully walk it on a dry day. Look for broken or missing shingles, missing or damaged flashing and seals around vent pipes and chimneys, and damage to boards along the eaves. Also peer down your chimney with a flashlight to make sure no animals have set up house in it. If you can't get on your roof, perform this inspection with a ladder around the perimeter. Pay close attention to valleys and flashings -- many leaks originate in these spots. Some patches and roofing cement now can prevent thousands of dollars of water damage later in the winter.



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**HOME & GARDEN CLUB**

By Lillian Abbott. Publicity

Now with the holiday decorations stored away for use next year it is time to get back to normal. The Home and Garden Club's wish to all our community is for a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

There were so many beautiful yards displayed for the Christmas holidays and the task of selecting the "best" in each section was difficult. While we feel everyone was a winner, the following were selected for the Awards for Best in each section. Congratulations to all and thank you for making Meadows Place so lovely for the Holidays.

Section 1      **Bob and Karen McDonald**  
*11518 Scottsdale Drive*

Section 4-S      **Shad and Tiffany Shreve**  
*12227 Hoggard*

Section 2      **Allen Wempren**  
*11958 Brook Meadows*

Section 4-N      **Dan and Martha Lugo**  
*11807 Brook Meadows*

Section 3      **Giesela King**  
*12022 Meadowdale*

Section 5      **Rusty and Delores Uhyrek**  
*12410 Meadowglen*

The meeting on January 9th was an Introduction in Wine Tasting presented by Johnny Tambuwun from Specs Liquor Store. In February, the club will have their International Dinner, place and time to be announced at a future date. There will be no business meeting that night.

Gardening tips for January:

- Feed perennials when they start showing greenery
- Wait to prune azaleas until after blooming
- Feed the birds!

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