



Holiday Yard Decorating winners shine brightly



Best of the Season

Peter and Linda Black

443 Cypress

The Blacks have been going all out for Christmas for many years—they do it mainly for their grandkids. Their display features a Christmas village with new stores this year and a church. It even includes their grandson’s model railroad. As a sign of their commitment, Linda fell off a ladder rearranging some lights this year and broke her collarbone. Peter says she’ll recover fully, but will be more careful next year!



Most Joyful

Neill and Laurie Frese

124 Coral Court

Laurie is the designer, Neill is the engineer. Each year they add elements to their expansive corner lot layout. New this year is the Merry Christmas arch that neighbors like to pose under for Christmas photos.



Most Colorful

Justin and Afton Garrison

40 Westchester

This is the third consecutive year for the Garrisons, who won for the first time in 2017. The clincher in the Most Colorful category was the addition of hundreds of lights mounted on chicken wire all over the front yard.



Most Inspirational

Scott and Kimberly Heffernan

138 Jackrabbit

The Heffernan’s live next door to Robby and Tricia Mathews, who combine for a solid block of amazing lights and decorations. New this year for the Heffernans is the large “tree farm” sign and three lighted trees.



Best Newcomer

Shawn and Ginger Voges

154 Seven Coves Road

The Voges moved to Panorama in June and decided to purchase new yard lights and go all out for their grandkids this year. Their display covers the front along FM 830 and also the back facing the 24th green.

Jewelry star power you can bank on

At one time Barbara Parker was jeweler to the stars. When she and her husband, Steve, lived in California she was the unofficial jeweler to the Real Housewives of Orange County, and appeared in several of their episodes. She was a regular on Bravo’s series “Top This Party” in New York and has provided jewelry items



to actors like Halle Berry and football star Carson Palmer. Playboy bunnies, too.

It started modestly in 1990 in Dallas with a converted room off their garage. She had become interested in clothing

accessories when a friend overpaid for a belt to wear to a wedding. She went to the World Trade Center to determine the real value of the belt and was told she couldn’t enter without a commercial license and retail certificate. After overcoming those obstacles, she found the exact belt for 20% of what her friend paid, but they made

her buy 20 belts!

Her initial investment in jewelry was only \$5,000, which seemed like a lot in those days. Friends started asking her to find specific items through the trade. It

was all word of mouth and referrals. Still is today after 30 years.

The Parkers moved to Panorama in 2010 to be near her mother. She opened a small jewelry store in downtown Conroe, and in 2015 they had an opportunity to take over a former Amegy Bank location on 336 N. Loop that had an actual bank vault. The layout has plenty of room for product displays, offices and a “play area” for ladies who are looking for something unusual to wear on a trip or to a special event.

Today, much of Barbara’s time is spent selling individual diamonds from ½ to 20 carats, and taking old stones and designing new settings for them. If you need some individualized help with any jewelry project, give her a call at 936-929-3585.

ON THE TEE BOX *With Ruthie McGrath*

Happy New Year!! Because it is a new year and that means new beginnings, I'm writing this month about the golf groups at Panorama Golf Club. I know many already belong to an organized group, but we have a lot of new members who haven't yet joined a group and we also have new residents who aren't sure what groups are available.

If you are thinking of participating in a group you must have an established handicap. Visit the Pro Shop and they can set you up in the computer so each time you play, you enter your score to establish a true handicap. There is a yearly fee of \$25 for this service.

There will be a change January 1, and the new system for all handicaps will be the World Handicap System. For those

who have been using the GHIN System previously, the next revision will be January 15, from the World Handicap System.

There are two lady groups, the Panorama Women's Golf Association (PWGA) and the Panorama Niners Organization (PNO/Niners). They both play on Tuesday mornings. The PWGA plays 18 holes and checks in at 8am and plays at 8:30am. There is also a PWGA Saturday and Sunday group. Contact Ruby Hefner (936-581-5599) for information. The Niners meet at 9am and play at 9:30. Contact Charlotte Belin (936-890-3909) for the Niners information. Both ladies groups belong to Interclub and play at other clubs in the area.

The men also have Interclub and play at clubs in the area. Fred Broussard (979-

255-2600) is in charge of Senior Men's Interclub. The Men's Golf Association (MGA) plays on the second Saturday of the month with different formats each month. Jessie Brawner (936-494-0302) is the contact person for the MGA. The Lite Hitters play every day at 9:30 am. During the week Jessie Brawner and Joe Watson are in charge while Bob Kendred is the contact person on the weekends.

The High Rollers is a group made up of lower handicap players who play every day. Larry Albritton (936-756-7704) and Doug McEntire are the contacts for the High Rollers. If you are not sure which group would be best for you, ask Scott Atkinson, the General Manager, and he can give you more information about each group.

Tempo Walk cart offers new golfing options

Panorama Golf Club now offers the new Tempo Walk, a hands-free, autonomous golf caddie from Club Car that makes it more enjoyable for golfers to walk the course for added health benefits. Tempo Walk features state-of-the-art wireless



GPS technology to provide yardage and hands-free remote control of the caddie, as well as traditional golf cart features like cup holders, cooler, divot repair and sand bottle, etc. You can even plug in your cell phone for a quick charge.

PGC member Rick Mehalick recently took the Tempo Walk out for a test walk and gives it an enthusiastic two thumbs up. He reports, "The Pro Shop will provide you with any instructions you need and there is a video you can watch as well. After you strap your bag to the cart, you will be given a remote control that is attached to your waist band in the back."

"This remote control has a toggle switch to put the cart in motion and stop it. It becomes very natural using it by the end of the first hole. The cart will beep when it is engaged and you are ready

to start walking. The cart will follow behind you at whatever pace you set. I found myself walking faster (more aerobic), but if you are just starting out you should know that you set the pace and the cart will stay behind you about 3 yards or so."

"As you slow down to a stop, the cart will also slow and stop. You will then move the toggle to stop the cart. You do this when you want to hit your shots, search for balls in the woods, or walk up to the green to putt. The cart had no issues going up or down hills and it was very solid on uneven ground."

"As I approached the greens, I had to plan my path around the greens a bit more than I would carrying my bag or using a push cart, but it was not a burden at all. Obviously you will want to stay clear of bunkers, water hazards, etc."

Walking 18 holes of golf is equivalent to about 6 miles, which means burning 600 calories for the average person Rick recommends that you give Tempo Walk a try and see if it enhances your enjoyment of the game.

January Food Specials

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| Jan 3 | Chicken pot pie \$10.95 |
| Jan 10 | Steak 'n mushrooms \$12.95 |
| Jan 17 | Chicken cordon bleu \$14.95 |
| Jan 24 | Salad and homemade pizza \$10.95 |
| Jan 31 | Fried fish \$10.50 |

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan 3** Panorama Ladies Association at the clubhouse, 10:30 check-in, 11:00 lunch and program featuring Brenda Storseth. Call 936-7012340 to RSVP.
- Jan 7** City Council meeting, 6:00 pm at City Hall.
- Jan 9** Liberty Belles Republican Women at the clubhouse. Check-in 11:30, program and lunch noon. Forum featuring District 457 judge candidates. RSVP at libertybellesrw.com.
- Jan 16** Panorama Garden Club, 10:00 am at the clubhouse. Mayor Lynn Scott will give his "State of the City" address.
- Jan 22** Panorama Lions Club, 7:00 pm at the clubhouse. Catherine Prestigiovanni of Tri-County Healthcare Foundation will speak. Open to the public.