

The Palm Valley Review

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BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE -

The committee will begin a Yard of the Month program, with a twist! Beginning January 2014, the committee will select a winner based on various guidelines and criteria. Specific monthly winners will have the opportunity to select next month's winner (or may defer their vote to the beautification committee). We invite every homeowner to participate! Each monthly winner will be awarded a Gift Card to a local retailer! Be looking for January's award winning sign!



HISTORY OF A CHRISTMAS SYMBOL - In 1822, a US Congressman and first time US Ambassador to Mexico, traveled to Mexico. Being an amateur botanist, he became enamored by the beauty of a plant known in Mexico as a fire plant or painted leaf. He brought one back. By the 1830's, popularity of this plant spread across the US. The Congressman died on December 12, 1851. The name of the Congressman was Joel Roberts Poinsett; the plant was renamed in his honor as a *Poinsettia*; and December 12th now represents National Poinsettia Day.

MANHOLES – You may have noticed work on the City's manholes recently. Modifications were completed to make twelve manhole lips even with the street for smoother driving.



PARKING - With the holidays upon us, many of us have family visiting. Per Ordinance 2013-6, Sec 8-503 you have the opportunity to request up to 2 permits per residence authorizing the parking of a non-resident's vehicle on a public street within the City of Palm Valley during the prohibited hours of 2 am and 6 am. As a friendly reminder, the parking of trailers, RVs, boats, etc for more than 3 days OR parts of 3 days during a 30 consecutive day time period is a violation of Ordinance 2006-4.

SAFETY - It's getting dark earlier now so be safe. Use a flashlight or come by City Hall and pick up your 'safety lights'. We have plenty, whether you are a walker, jogger, bicyclist or just out walking your dog. *Safety first!*



A CHRISTMAS CAROL - Sour and stingy Ebenezer Scrooge has an emotional transformation after the supernatural visits of Jacob Marley and the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Yet to Come. Test your knowledge of one of the most popular Christmas stories, A Christmas Carol. (answers on last page)

Which spirit does not speak?

- A – The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come
- B – The Ghost of Christmas Past
- C – The Ghost of Christmas Present
- D – All the spirits speak to Scrooge.

Why does Scrooge like darkness?

- A – It helps him sleep
- B – It helps him to forget his past
- C – It hides the ghosts from his eyes
- D – It's cheap

Who is in the grave in Stave Four?

- A – Ebenezer Scrooge
- B – Jacob Marley
- C – Bob Cratchit
- D – Tiny Tim

What year was *A Christmas Carol* written?

- A – 1830
- B – 1837
- C - 1843
- D - 1846

What is the Ghost of Christmas Present's throne made of?

- A – Food
- B – Gold
- C – Pine Needles
- D - Fur

To whom does Scrooge send the Christmas turkey?

- A – Fred
- B – Belle
- C – The Cratchits
- D – Jacob Marley

Which spirit has a glowing head?

- A – The Ghost of Christmas Present
- B – Jacob Marley
- C – The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come
- D – The Ghost of Christmas Past

Who appears in Scrooge's door-knocker?

- A – Jacob Marley's ghost
- B – Fan's ghost
- C – Death
- D – The Ghost of Christmas Past

What is Scrooge's typical response to "Merry Christmas"?

- A – "Bah! Nonsense!"
- B – "Pah! Life's too short!"
- C – "Bah! Humbug!"
- D – "Oh, fiddlesticks!"

Which character utters the famous words, "God bless us, Everyone"?

- A – Tiny Tim
- B – Bob Cratchit
- C – Scrooge
- D – The Ghost of Christmas Present

Feliz Navidad

Merry Christmas

Happy Hanukkah

A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS – Many of us feel stressed and overwhelmed during the holidays. Charles M Schulz touches on this in his Christmas TV special ‘A Charlie Brown Christmas’. Charlie Brown becomes agitated



with the over commercialization of Christmas. Thinking that a Christmas Tree is just what he needs, he purchases a tree (which we now refer to as a Charlie Brown Tree). However, he begins to wonder if he really knows what Christmas is all about. Linus comforts Charlie Brown and recites “*And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”* (Luke 2:8-14) That’s what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown.”

From the Desk of Chief Garcia

Report any suspicious activity to # 873-1500

SECURITY CAMERAS – Many of you have noticed the strange contraption in the picture to the right. These may look like birdhouses, but in fact, these are our new security cameras which are up and running! This new addition will assist our officers on duty 24/7.



HOLIDAY REMINDERS:

- Please arrange for the prompt collection of packages left at your door by delivery services
- Do not leave empty boxes out by the curb which could alert prospective thieves (boxed for flat screen TVs, computers, power tools, etc.)
- Lock and secure sheds, storage space and keep garage doors closed when not around
- If operating a golf cart at nighttime, please ensure it is equipped with lights and they are operable. It is the law and a serious safety hazard
- Report any solicitors immediately. They must possess a permit issued by the City
- Since it is getting dark earlier, please make sure your exterior lights are "ON" at the appropriate times
- Lock all vehicle doors when you get home.

The Palm Valley Police Department would like these holidays to be safe and festive and with your cooperation we can make this happen. **Alvaro Garcia ~ Police Chief**

Gating Update - The council voted to rescind the previous gating project with Hurricane Fence Company.

City Hall / Municipal Court 423-8384

Police Dpt 873-1500

Water Services 423-4040

City Website: www.palmvalleytx.com

Quiz answers: A,D,A,C,B,C,D,A,C,A

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2014 @ 5:00 pm



Palm Valley City Council would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mayor: John Cutney

Mayor Pro-Tem: John Widger

Councilmembers: Joe Jones, Julie C Martin,

Bill Werley, Sr and Debe Wright

In observance of the holidays, City Hall will be closed December 24th & 25th and again January 1st.