



# *River Oaks Newsletter*

Volume 3, Number 9

December 1991

## ROUTE 59

For those of you who signed the petitions asking for a lowering of the speed limit on Rt. 59, as well as the installation of turn lanes, and for those of you who sent off letters to your state legislators and IDOT (Illinois Department of Transportation) officials, it should come as pleasant news that the state has lowered the speed limit in front of River Oaks, from Waverly to north of Mack, to 45 MPH.

A letter from IDOT that the Newsletter editor received in answer to his own letter also stated that the continuous left turn lane we would like is not a high priority because "this roadway segment is not a rated high accident segment" and thus does not qualify for Federal safety funds. However, Mayor Lund in her column in the Warrenville Digest on November 28, 1991, indicated that discussions are ongoing, and that there may indeed be some federal monies to fund 90 percent of this turn lane. She also emphasized the support of State Senator Forrest Etheredge for the project, and the importance of the "three-inch stack of letters" he has received on this issue. So all of those letters may indeed have done some real good!

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



### December 19

Monthly Meeting,  
Board of Directors  
7:30 PM, at the Murphy's

### January 10

Nominations Due for  
Homeowners Board

### January 11

Christmas Tree Pick Up

### January 24

Anden - City of Warrenville  
Court Hearing, 9 AM

### February 6

Annual Homeowners Association  
Meeting, Johnson School, 8 PM

Brownie Troop 863 will be wishing River Oaks residents a very "Merry Christmas" as they make their way caroling around the neighborhood. The girls include River Oaks residents, Laura Christiansen, Maureen Saxton, and Stephanie Sinnott. Look for them on Friday evening, December 20, from 7 PM to 8 PM.



*The deadline for Board Nominations is Friday, January 10th. Please consider donating some of your time and energy to our Homeowners Association. Let one of the Nominating Committee members know if you would like to be on the Board: Toni Oster (393-6200), Ruth Brackmann (393-6830), or Judy Molina (393-2113).*



## DO YOU KNOW THESE CAROLS?

Well maybe, if you can figure out the usual titles of the Christmas carols in the translations below. An example: Ever heard of "Nocturnal Timespan of Unbroken Quietness"? You have, if you recognize it as "Silent Night"! Try to figure out some of these other titles, and look through the Newsletter for more of these seasonal puzzlers. And if you've been real good girls and boys, we might even give you the answers (but you'll have to find them!).

1. Move hitherward, the entire assembly of those loyal in their belief.
2. Listen, the celestial messengers produce harmonious sounds.
3. An emotion, excited by the acquisition or expectation of good, given to the terrestrial sphere.
4. Embellish the interior passageways.
5. Exalted Heavenly beings, to whom harkened.

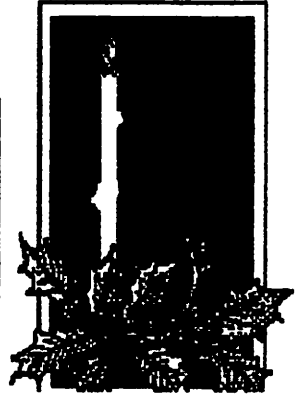
## TAX UPDATE

On Tuesday, December 31, at 9 AM, the DuPage County Board of Review will be hearing the River Oaks tax assessment appeal. Tom Sinnott and Becky Christiansen will be representing the appealing homeowners [sic]. We will let you know of any developments.

## ANDEN UPDATE

There was a status hearing on the City of Warrenville's lawsuit against the Anden Corp. held on November 22, 1991. The parties indicated that they could not agree to a resolution. Another court date has been set for January 24 at 9 AM. In the interim, the City of Warrenville has made Anden a written offer to settle based on the City Engineer's recommendations. Tom Sinnott has asked the City for a copy of this document. The City will consider the request and forward the document if they feel it appropriate.

## A BRIGHT IDEA FOR RIVER OAKS



Last year, the Newsletter suggested that interested homeowners join in setting out luminaria on Christmas Eve, and we would like to make this suggestion again. A few of these simple decorations - just a candle in a paper bag, weighted down with a little sand, are a gift of warmth and beauty to all who see them. They can be downright spectacular in larger groupings!

The Newsletter did a little research into the history of luminaria and would like to share this with you. Lighting luminaria on Christmas Eve is a long-standing Christmas tradition in the Southwest. The tradition of luminaria is intended to represent watchfires to guide the shepherds to the manger at Bethlehem. According to New Mexico magazine, paper bag luminaria are called farolitos north of Albuquerque; the northerners use the term luminaria to describe small bonfires set for the same purpose - we do NOT recommend these in the subdivision!

Luminaria can be made of almost anything. Lunch-bags work just fine, although upscale varieties are available, and almost anything heavy (topsoil, kitty litter, etc.) could stand in for sand. Many local hardware stores (including Mount and Bukema's) have carried luminaria fixings the last couple of years.

Last Christmas Eve, we were delighted to see that at least eight front yards in River Oaks were graced by the glow of luminaria. Can we build this into a real River Oaks tradition?

Thank you, Beautification Committee, and chairman Millie Murphy, for the Christmas trees at the entrance to River Oaks! Also, thank you Mike Bojko in Lot 66 for that wonderful wreath at the entrance of the subdivision, another welcoming sight of the season! And what a display of Christmas lights, Oakers!





## CAROLS

6. Twelve O'clock on a clement night witnessed its arrival.
7. The Christmas preceeding all others.
8. Small municipality, in Judea, southeast of Jerusalem.
9. Diminutive masculine master of skin-covered percussionistic cylinders.
10. Omnipotent Supreme Being who elicits respite to ecstatic distinguished males.

## CHRISTMAS TREE PICK UP

So how do you get rid of your Christmas tree after the holidays? You set it out for pick up on Saturday, January 11. Have it at the curbside early morning, and volunteers from AWARE, the Warrenville recycling project, will be collecting them. They will then turn them into mulch, which interested residents might want to pick up next spring for their gardens. In charge of the project is Jeff Baker. If you are interested in helping with this pick-up of Christmas trees, please give him a call at 393-6821. Volunteers are always needed!

## MEMO:

In order to answer questions it has received about recent problems at Lot 63, the Board has contacted the City of Warrenville. Here is what they found out. Due to the heat having been turned off, a water pipe in the house on Lot 63 froze and ruptured. The leak was discovered on Saturday, December 7. The house has suffered extensive damage and has been declared "unfit for habitation" by the City Health Department. The Board is tracing the paperwork through the lawyers for the bank which initiated the foreclosure procedure against the former owners. The Association previously placed a lien on the property. It is our understanding that the bank which initiated the foredosure has re-sold the mortgage. As more information is obtained, we will issue updates.

## Answers to Last Month's Word Search:

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. . . . . S . . . .
. . . . . C . . . .
. . . . . O . Y . . .
. . . . . T . N . . .
. . . E I U Q C A J . A . .
. . . I L . F L M . R . .
. . . M . L F L . L A U R A .
. . . A . I E . G . R . . S
. . . J T S . H . A I . A . E
. . . S . . . C C . N . L .
. . . U . . . B R I A N A . .
. . . R . . . . S M I . . .
. . . . . S N . . . .
. . . . . A L E G N A . .
. . . . . E I L U J . . . .
. . . . .

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## Happy Birthday, December Kids!



Kristine Recometa  
Tenille English  
Elaine Bocker  
Laura Bocker  
Brittani Highland  
Victor Ng  
Zachary Nottsinger

1. Oh Come, All Ye Faithful
2. Hark! the Herald Angels Sing
3. Joy to the World
4. Deck the Halls
5. Angels We Have Heard on High



## CAROLS

11. Tranquility upon the terrestrial sphere.
12. Obese personification fabricated of compressed mounds of minute crystals.
13. Expectation of arrival at populated area, by mythical masculine perennial gift-giver.
14. Natal celebration devoid of color.
15. In awe of the nocturnal timespan, characterized by religiosity.

## PARKWAY PLANTING PLANS PROCEED



Tis' the season to ... plan for parkway trees?? Well, yes! Because so much planning and preparation will be needed to bring in a hoped-for crop of parkway trees for River Oaks in 1992, the Board is continuing through the Winter to actively work on this issue. The whole process can be broken down into five major steps: 1) Obtain City approval; 2) Estimate the scope of the project, and develop a budget to fit; 3) Work with the City, other agencies, and tree nurseries to arrive at the best possible deal on obtaining parkway trees; 4) Canvass homeowners regarding the detailed planting plan; 5) Obtain and plant trees.

At present, the first step has been successfully completed, we are nearly done with the second step, and are starting on the third. Some details on each step are presented below.

**CITY APPROVAL:** River Oaks has received the City of Warrenton's approval and support for our plan to plant parkway trees, as reported in previous issues of the Newsletter.

**SCOPE AND BUDGET ESTIMATION:** Although we can't know the total cost of the tree planting program until we work out the best deal we can get (see below), the Board must include an earmarked amount in the 1992 budget for parkway trees, to make it possible to obtain the trees once negotiations with nurseries, etc. have been successful.

At the November 21 River Oaks Board meeting, a budget was drafted which will allow us to proceed

with our parkway tree planning. Under the draft budget, a total of about \$7,700 has been designated as potentially available for parkway tree purchases. There will be NO increase in Homeowners Association dues needed to pay for the trees. Dues will remain at this year's levels (\$10.50/month, \$126/year). The parkway tree funds will come from the following sources:

•The "Grass Fund". This is a reserve fund which the Association designated at the Annual Meeting in February, 1990, to address the possibility that we would have to reseed the Common Area. This was a very real possibility in 1989 - after the bad Summer drought in 1988, the grass, seeded in late 1987, looked terrible. The reseeding would have been very expensive (upwards of \$15,000). Fortunately, we had good Spring and Summer rains in 1990, and the Common Area grass has since established itself quite well. Since the money in the Grass Fund is not needed for reseeding, it was decided to put some of it to work. The proposed budget calls for drawing about \$3,100 from the Grass Fund, with \$2,000 to remain as a reserve to cover any unforeseen contingencies.

•Surplus from the 1991 Groundskeeping / Beautification (G/B) budget. Due to this past Summer's drought, we did not need to mow the Common Area nearly as often as we had expected to. Also, the actual costs for Winter brush cleanup, etc. were much less than had been budgeted for. As a result, there is about \$3,200 left over in the 1991 G/B budget which the Board proposes to make available for parkway trees.

•Regular 1992 G/B Budget. Since the parkway tree planting program is such a big project, and one which clearly falls under the heading of Groundskeeping and Beautification, the Board has determined that roughly \$1,400 out of the proposed 1992 G/B Committee budget should be earmarked for potential use on parkway tree purchases.

It is important to note that the Board is not committed to spending all of the allotted funds for parkway trees, if the job can be done well for less. The City has offered to help us reduce costs by giving us access to their wholesale nursery suppliers. We are talking to the City Manager and to the City's landscaping consultant to work out some concrete details. We are also looking for possible matching grants from government agencies involved in urban forestry and for other innovative ways to share costs to reduce our total outlay.

What we are able to get in the way of parkway trees will depend upon the sort of deal we are able to work out with the City, the nurseries, and any other enabling agencies. Under the Board's present assessment of the scope of the project, we are hop-

## PARKWAY CONT.



ing to be able to find a mix of beautiful, long-lived, low-maintenance trees with trunk diameters of 1-1/2 to 2-1/2 inches. Based on spacing between trees along the parkway of 30 to 40 feet, allowing for driveways, etc., we would need about 100 to 130 trees in all. This would allow a maximum price per tree, including planting, of around \$60 to \$75. We know that our reserved parkway tree fund would be sufficient to get us this number of trees of 1 to 1-1/2 inch diameter, if we simply went to a retail nursery source, even without a bulk discount. With the City's assistance, we should be able to do even better.

**GETTING THE BEST DEAL:** The cost of parkway trees will depend on many issues, such as number, size, and species of trees, planting costs, and the extent to which we can obtain outside assistance. In addition to negotiating with the City and the nurseries in the region, we will be contacting such local resources as the Kane-DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District, the DuPage County Forest Preserve District, and the Morton Arboretum. In addition, we have begun contacting government agencies regarding grants, matching funds, etc. for urban reforestation for which we might qualify.

Another possible source of assistance is donations from River Oaks homeowners. Up to this point, the Board has been hesitant to pursue this angle, for two reasons. First, we see this project as a unified plan to improve the entire neighborhood, rather than individual front yards. Everyone benefits when the subdivision's parkways look lush, green, and shaded. Parkway tree planting programs are always seen by municipalities that support them in terms of belts of trees along each parkway, planted at a reasonably consistent spacing (typically 30 to 50 feet) for maximum aesthetic appeal, without regard to the amount of parkway frontage for individual properties. Thus, a good parkway tree plan would call for more trees in front of some yards than others, to keep the spacing along the parkway consistent. This makes it difficult to judge how private contributions could be allocated fairly. Perhaps we will be able to come up with a plan which can factor in voluntary contributions. In any event, it is true that the River Oaks plan approved by the City allows individual homeowners to plant their own parkway trees if they wish, subject to the restrictions of the plan.

**CANVASSING / DETAILED PLANNING:** Although the parkway tree planting plan will have to assume a fairly consistent average spacing between trees, there will be some room for maneuver on specific planting locations. Placement of trees will be determined by each homeowner's preferences, as well as

by the locations of driveways, underground utilities, existing plantings, etc. We also expect to be able to give each homeowner some range of choice in species of tree. Our plan calls for obtaining a mix of tree species, to avoid a "monoculture" planting which could be wiped out by a single type of infestation or disease (like the Dutch Elm Disease problem). Therefore each household should have some latitude in picking the kind(s) of tree(s) to go in their own parkway section - as long as everybody doesn't want the same kind!

The canvassing of the neighborhood to arrive at specific tree locations must occur after we have worked out a deal for the trees, so we know what we're working with. It will probably begin in February or early March, so that we can be ready for the Spring planting season. As part of this effort, J.U.L.I.E. will have to be called to locate underground utilities throughout the over 4,000 linear feet of River Oaks parkway, so that safe tree sites can be determined.

**OBTAINING AND PLANTING OUR TREES:** Once a deal has been struck, the trees will likely be delivered, placed in the parkways, and planted over a period of two weeks or so. Time is needed for the River Oaks volunteers who will be supervising the planting to make certain that all the right trees go into all the right planting locations.

Planting may be done by the nursery as part of the purchase, or by another contractor. The Board is planning to request bids for planting and mulching the trees. Also, we haven't ruled out asking for volunteers, although since we are talking about planting 100 or more decent-sized trees, this might be too much to handle.

The parkway tree planting program should generate the most interest of any project River Oaks has yet taken on. It's the biggest project, and undoubtedly the one with the most tangible benefits to the most households. If properly carried out, there is no better investment we can make. The Board would be most grateful for any expressions of interest, and especially offers of help in planning and executing the tree planting program. Our Groundskeeping / Beautification Committee is in need of additional members, especially with such a heady challenge ahead in the coming months. Anyone interested in getting involved is urged to do so! Just call a Board member, or sign up for a committee at the Annual Meeting in February. Also, John Christiansen (Lot 19; 393-4946) would be pleased to provide copies of the six-page City-approved River Oaks parkway tree planting program to any interested homeowners. The plan includes, among other things, parkway tree siting requirements as well as lists of approved and prohibited tree species for parkway planting.

# TREASURER'S REPORT, NOVEMBER 1991

Balance, 10-31-91 ..... \$3306.62  
 Deposit ..... 90.00  
 Interest Oct. .... 9.47

Total ..... 3406.09

## Expenses

Service Charge ..... 7.73  
 Newsletter ..... 14.92  
 Landscaping ..... 19.83  
 Entertainment ..... 82.69  
 Warrenville  
 Community Center .. 60.00  
 St. Johns ..... 13.00

Total Expenses ..... 198.17

Net ..... 3207.92

## Money Market Account

Balance, 10-31-91 ..... 5061.55  
 Interest ..... 21.14

Total, Money Markey ..... 5082.69

Total ..... 8290.61

6. It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
7. The First Noel
8. Oh Little Town of Bethlehem
9. Little Drummer Boy
10. God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

*This Newsletter is brought to you by your friendly Newsletter Committee, consisting of:*

*John Christiansen, Chairman, 393-4946  
 Linda Saxton, 393-2206  
 Marnee Sinnott, 393-2808  
 Lois Hitchcock, 393-2409  
 Amy Salyer, 393-7645  
 Becky Christiansen, 393-4946*

*Let one of the committee members know of anything you might want included in the Newsletter.*

11. Peace on Earth
12. Frosty the Snowman
13. Santa Claus is Coming to Town
14. White Christmas
15. Oh Holy Night



## CAROLS

16. Geographic state of fantasy, during the season of Mother Nature's Dormancy.

17. The first person nominative plural, of a triumvirate of far eastern heads of state.

18. Tintinnabulation of vacillating pendulums, in inverted metallic resonant cups.

19. In a distant location, the existence of an improvised unit of a newborn child's furniture.

20. Proceed forth, declaring upon a specific geological alpine formation.

21. Jovial yuletide desired for the second person singular or plural by us.



## MINUTES OF RIVER OAKS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

November 21, 1991

PRESENT: Tom Sinnott, Cheryl Soelke, John Christiansen, Amy Salyer, Gloria Langston, and Mark Moore.

ABSENT: Toni Oster, Millie Murphy, and Linda Saxton.

Meeting was called to order at 7:45 PM by Tom Sinnott.

OPENING: Mark Moore was welcomed by the Board to fill the open Board position. Mark fills the open position that will expire February 1993.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Written report attached.

The oral report was given by Tom Sinnott as Gloria arrived a little late. Actual 1991 expenses to date are:

Insurance .....	\$ 164.00
Financial Review of Books .....	577.50
Postal .....	65.44
Entertainment .....	878.42
Groundskeeping/Beautification) ....	4,822.07
Copying (includes Newsletter) ....	470.51
Newsletter .....	78.20
Attorney .....	1,187.00
Annual Meeting (2/91) .....	93.20
Miscellaneous .....	56.00
Property Tax (Common Area).....	65.82

Total Expenditures as of 11/21/91.. \$8,458.16

Outstanding Association dues are \$720.00. Tom reported that he had drafted a letter to go out to delinquent accounts advising what action could be taken if no payment is received. It was decided that this letter would be sent out.

A suggestion was made that a standardized receipt form be developed to use for expenses for next year so that actual expenses could be broken down more accurately and also it would be easier for the auditor to review the books at the end of the year. It was also suggested that instead of having the quarterly bills printed by a printer, we could develop a format on a computer and have it copied on heavy enough paper to mail. This would save some printing costs for next year.

Amy Salyer said that she would contact Brian Hampton, CPA, to find out what his fee would be for our financial review for this year.

All reports from the Committees were regarding budgets for 1992.

**GROUNDKEEPING/BEAUTIFICATION:** We are uncertain of what the actual costs will be in 1992 as we have not received or solicited bids from contractors. It was decided that the budget for this Committee would be set at \$5,000 for 1992.

**NEWSLETTER:** It was decided that the Newsletter could be published monthly and the directory could be updated in 1992 on a budget of \$375.00. The actual expenses for the Newsletter for 1991 were less than \$375.00, but it was decided that since John Christiansen would be leaving the Board as his term expires 2/92, \$375.00 should be adequate monies considering a new chairperson will be running the Newsletter Committee.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** The annual meeting is to be held on February 6, 1992 at Johnson School. The donation to the school is \$75.00 which leaves \$75.00 for refreshments and photocopying for the meeting. It was decided to budget \$150 for 1992.

**CITY LIAISON:** The Board decided that this committee did not have any noted expenses in 1991 and does not anticipate any expenses for 1992. Therefore, no money was budgeted for this committee.

**ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE:** After previous discussion at the October meeting and discussion at this meeting, it was decided that the Entertainment Committee's budget be reduced to \$200, and that the new Committee for 1992 could come up with ideas or activities within this budget.

As far as other annual Association expenses, the budgets were set as follows:

Post Office Box .....	\$ 10.00
Copy Expenses .....	100.00
Insurance .....	180.00
Taxes .....	70.00
Treasurer .....	50.00
Financial Review .....	500.00
Attorney .....	150.00

It was decided that since the Anden issue is in the hands of the City and we do not anticipate the services of an Attorney the budget should be set accordingly. If the need for an Attorney should arise, the expense would be out of the emergency fund.

At this point, a motion was made by John Christiansen that no one Board member contact the Attorney without the Board's. Motion was seconded by Amy Salyer and was carried unanimously. At several previous meetings, the Board had discussed the possibility of seeking the services of a new attorney. Cheryl Soelke made several phone calls for recommendations from other Associations in the area and also called several attorneys to find out fees and experience in Homeowners Association laws. The discussion was tabled.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding an appropriate budget for the Parkway Tree Program for 1992, in light of the scope of the project and the availability of surplus funds from 1991 and in the Association's Grass Fund. John Christiansen made a proposal that we budget \$7,700 for the Parkway Tree Program for 1992. Mark Moore seconded the motion and the motion was carried unanimously.

The draft budget calls for no change in the Association dues from the 1991 levels. Dues will remain at \$10.50 per month, or \$126 per year. The \$7,700 budgeted for parkway trees would come from (1) the 1992 budget (about \$1,400), (2) 1991 G/B Committee surplus (about \$3,200), and (3) the Grass Fund (about \$3,100). The remaining \$2,000 in the Grass Fund will be kept as a contingency reserve.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Anden situation. Tom Sinnott met with Jim Connors. The City of Warrenville did not attend the meeting that the City Engineers had with Anden. Anden apparently did not offer anything. It appears that the new Anden employees came up with all the old arguments and maintain the same position as the old regime.

The Bylaw and Covenant Ad Hoc Committee is working on the revisions. The existing Bylaws and Covenants have been input in a computer by Tom Sinnott for easier access and revisions. Further information will hopefully be obtained prior to the Annual Meeting.

Joe Chaplin of the DuPage County Stream Maintenance Department contacted Tom Sinnott to advise him that on December 7th the Department office will provide a boat, men, and chain saw, and asks for some volunteers to help with the debris removal on the river bank. Tom will find out all of the details and send around a flyer asking for volunteers. Anyone who helps with the cleanup will be entitled to the firewood.

On the traffic barricade that was to go between Lots 51 and 52. Cheryl will check with Linda Sax-

ton as she believes Linda has the quote for the job.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The lights from the Country Ridge Apartments have become a nuisance again for the homeowners along the south side of the subdivision. Tom will contact the Apartment Manager to see what can be done.

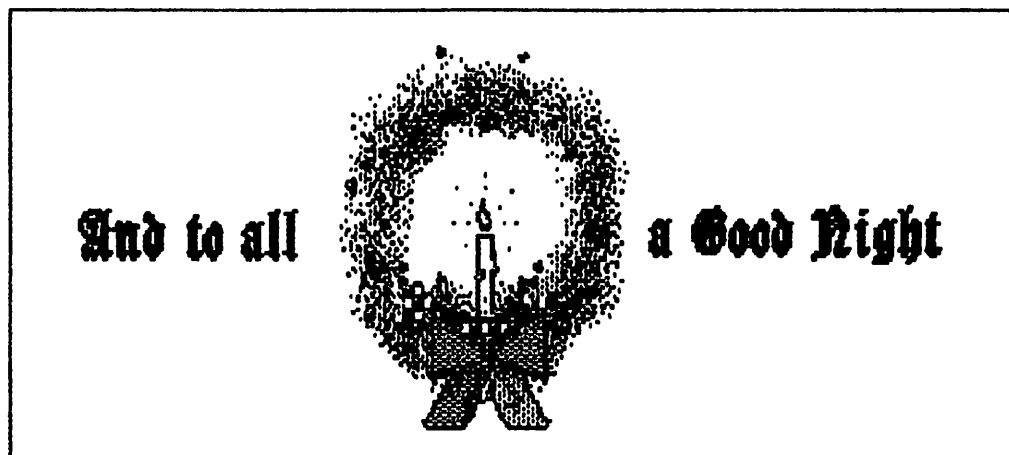
The Nominating Committee had a meeting November 18th and will try to compile a list of nominees by the next meeting. The Johnson School auditorium has been reserved for February 6th.

Tom Sinnott received another letter from Police Chief LaDeur. The letter reported that during the last seven-month period thefts and burglaries were down. However, service calls made by the department were increasing.

Route 59 issue - petitions and letters were distributed and we hope to achieve favorable results soon.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 PM. The next meeting is to be held December 19th at the Murphy residence, at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cheryl Soelke, Secretary



- 16. Winter Wonderland
- 17. We Three Kings
- 18. Jingle Bells
- 19. Away in a Manger
- 20. Go Tell it on the Mountain
- 21. We Wish You a Merry Christmas



### Christmas Wreath

- 1 bag small round pretzels
- 1 bag Christmas M&M's
- 1 1 1/2 pound package of almond bark



Melt almond bark slowly in saucepan (or microwave). Line up pretzels on wax paper. After bark is melted, carefully spoon bark into each center of the pretzel. Press a M&M into each center while bark is still soft. Let harden and enjoy!

**Chocolate Raspberry Mousse Cake** - It takes time, but it's well worth it. Must be made a day in advance.

#### CAKE:

- 5 large eggs
- 2/3 cup sugar
- pinch salt
- 1-1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 2/3 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/3 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted and slightly cooled

#### MOUSSE AND GLAZE

- 2-1/2 teaspoons unflavored gelatin
- 1 package (10 ounces) frozen raspberries in syrup, pureed, strained
- 2-2/3 cups whipping cream
- 8 ounces bittersweet or semisweet chocolate, finely chopped
- 2 tablespoons raspberry brandy or kirsch

1

- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/4 cup seedless raspberry preserves
- 1 pint fresh raspberries, plus additional for garnishing

For cake, heat oven to 350 degrees. Butter a 9 inch springform pan. Line bottom with a circle of wax paper and butter paper. Combine eggs, sugar, salt and vanilla in a large mixer bowl. Over low heat set a pan with simmering water. Place the bowl over the pan so it is just above the water. Warm mixture, stirring constantly, until almost hot to touch. Remove bowl from water and beat with an electric mixer on high speed until thickened and triple in volume, about 5 minutes. Reduce mixer to medium and beat 5 minutes longer. Combine flour and cocoa in a sifter and sift over egg mixture. Gently fold in with a rubber spatula. Add 1/2 cup batter to melted butter then gently fold butter mixture back into remaining batter. Transfer to springform pan and bake until set in center, 27 to 33 minutes. Cool in pan then remove sides from springform. Invert onto rack, remove pan bottom (and wax paper) and wrap tightly in aluminum foil. Let stand 8 to 24 hours before using.

2

For filling, sprinkle gelatin over 2-1/2 tablespoons cold water. Cook raspberry puree until reduced to 1/2 cup. Remove from heat and add gelatin mixture; stir to dissolve. Bring 1 cup cream to a boil. Add chocolate and stir until melted; add 1 tablespoon brandy. Measure out a generous 1/3 cup of the chocolate mixture and stir into raspberry mixture. Cover remaining chocolate and set aside at room temperature. Refrigerate raspberry mixture until it begins to set up but is not firm, about 20 minutes.

To assemble cake, split cake layer horizontally into thirds. Whip remaining cream with sugar. Fold whipped cream and vanilla into raspberry mixture. Return one cake layer to springform pan (save bottom layer for the top of the assembled cake). Stir remaining 1 tablespoon brandy into preserves. Evenly cover layer in pan with half of raspberry mousse. Sprinkle with half of berries. Top with second cake layer and press down evenly. Top with preserves, then mousse and berries. Put top layer in place. Cover and refrigerate at least one hour.

3

Remove sides from springform; place cake, on metal bottom, on wire rack.

Stir remaining chocolate mixture until smooth and flowing. Pour over cake, letting it drip down sides. Spread with a long metal spatula, then tap on a counter several times so excess chocolate drips off. Let stand until glaze begins to set. Transfer cake, still on metal bottom, to serving plate and refrigerate at least 2 hours. Garnish with additional berries if desired.

4