



By **Bill Parsons**, Vice Chairman, Seven Oaks CDD

SEVEN OAKS IN DECEMBER



Seven Oaks water fountain at intersection of S.R. 56 and Ancient Oaks Blvd.

In 2003, the CDD Board authorized \$7,326 to rent holiday lights/decorations from a vendor during the holiday season. The vendor's price included installing and removing his lights/decorations. The same arrangements were made in 2004 (\$9,485), 2007 (\$8,950), and 2008 (\$8,800).

When the CDD Board became resident controlled at the end of 2008, the economy had gone south and people, to include residents at Seven Oaks, were having financial issues. The resident controlled CDD Board decided in 2009 not to spend the almost \$10,000 for lights/decorations as had been done in previous years. Instead, CDD employees installed lights/decorations only at the main entrance to the clubhouse and inside the clubhouse.

In 2010, the CDD Board decided that it would increase the lights and deco-

rations over several years by purchasing some each year and storing them for future years. For that year, we spent about \$400 to purchase lights for the entrance to Seven Oaks at Ancient Oaks Blvd and some wreaths for other locations. In 2010, it cost \$600 to install and remove the lights/decorations.

This year, we bought 40 strands of 9 ft garland with LED lights for \$2,560 and 20 strands of lights for \$330. We also added power outlets at Summergate and Mystic Oak Blvds for \$1,720. This allowed us to add lights/decorations at the other two entrances to Seven Oaks. It will cost \$800 to remove and install the 2011 decorations. On the next page are pictures of some of the decorations at Seven Oaks this year. Next year, the CDD Board plans to purchase additional decorations.

Continued on page 7





Gathering Room



Christmas Tree Cafe



Outside Clubhouse.



Ancient Oaks Blvd.

Some residents have asked how we can spend \$30,000 on the water fountain pictured on page 6 and so little on the decorations for the holiday season. One reason is that the water fountain is visible 12 months of the year while the holiday decorations are only up for 1/12 of that time and lighted for only a few hours in the evening.

But the primary reason is that the CDD Board felt that the water fountain was an investment that would help all residents of Seven Oaks with their property values. As most of you know when you buy property, the first three rules are location, location, location. Seven Oaks has that with being close to the interstate, a new mall, new hospital and community college under construction, etc. Realtors also believe that 50 percent of shoppers decide to purchase a home based on curb appeal before they even get out of their car. For this reason, we want Seven Oaks to have the best curb appeal possible from S.R. 56 where thousands of cars pass it each day and prospective buyers enter the community. ❖