

January 2026

LEGENDARY TIMES

A monthly newsletter for the residents of Kissing Tree



KISSING TREE[®]

SAN MARCOS ★ TEXAS

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Dear Community,

Happy New Year, Kissing Tree!

As we step into 2026, I can't help but feel energized and excited about what's ahead. A new year always brings fresh momentum — and this one is already shaping up to be a great one for our community.

Here's a peek at what we're looking forward to in the year ahead:

Growing Our Team: We'll be welcoming new team members to both our Engagement and Community Assets teams. These additions will help us continue building meaningful programming, maintaining our beautiful campus, and supporting the day-to-day experiences that make Kissing Tree feel like home.

New Fitness Offerings: Our fitness program continues to evolve! You'll see new classes, experiences, and opportunities designed to support strength, wellness, and connection — whether you're just getting started or looking to challenge yourself in new ways.

Supporting New Residents: As our community continues to grow, we remain committed to educating, welcoming, and supporting new residents so everyone feels connected, informed, and at home from day one.

Parking & Golf Cart Improvements: With the addition of overflow golf cart parking, we'll also be rolling out more structured and consistent parking policies. These changes are focused on safety, organization, and making sure our shared spaces work well for everyone.

Preparedness & Safety:

Emergency preparedness remains a priority. In 2026, we'll be launching CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training, continuing Red Cross CPR training, and expanding education to help our community feel confident and prepared.

A New Landscape Partnership:

We're excited to officially welcome Agave Landscape Design as our new landscaping partner. Their expertise and collaborative approach will help us continue enhancing and caring for the beautiful outdoor spaces we all enjoy.

There is so much to be excited about in the year ahead, and none of it happens without the incredible spirit of this community. Thank you for your engagement, your feedback, and the pride you take in Kissing Tree. Here's to new beginnings, continued growth, and another great year together. We can't wait to share what's next.

Warmly,

Rebecca Rounds-Burger,
Executive Director



January Featured Events

Wednesday, Jan. 7

Coffee With The ED

This is an informal unstructured time to ask questions at the Independence Hall activity room with Executive Director Rebecca Rounds.

Friday, Jan. 9

Comedy Night

Get ready to laugh! Join us for Comedy Night—an evening of great jokes, good vibes, and nonstop fun. Bring your friends and enjoy a night of laughs you won't want to miss!

Sunday, Jan. 11

Music Bingo

Join us for Music Bingo at Independence Hall. Enjoy 16 games across four music genres with Stan the DJ Man, plus a chance to win Lifestyle Buck\$

Tuesday, Jan. 13

CERT Training

Partnering with Hays County and COSM, this course prepares residents to respond confidently to emergencies, covering disaster preparedness, medical aid, fire safety, and search and rescue.

Tuesday, Jan. 20

All Request Piano

Sing along to your favorite songs and enjoy the talented musicians at Independence Hall!

Wednesday, Jan. 28

Trivia Night

Put your brain to the test, gather your team of four, and let the brainpower battle begin!

For more information, navigate to the [electronic calendar](#) on our resident website

The Repair Report

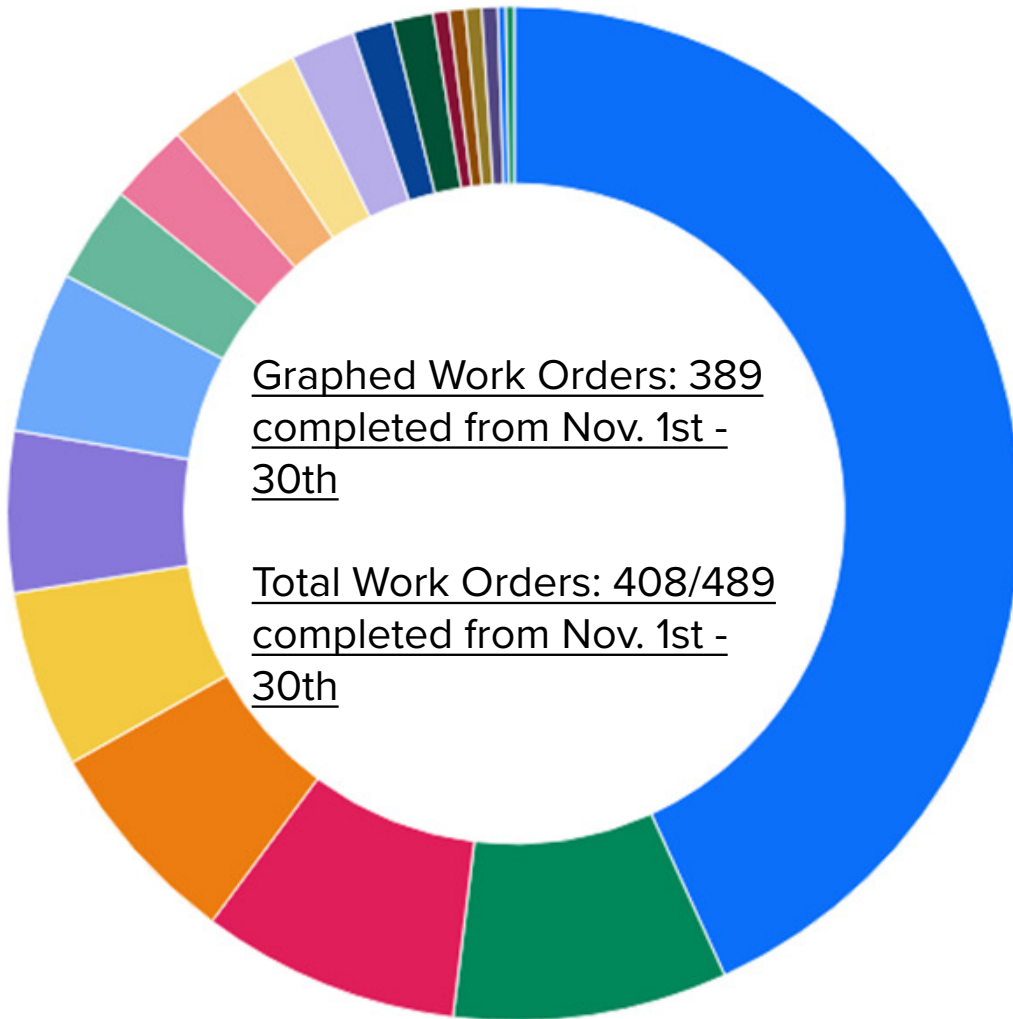
Preventative Maintenance

- All gates have undergone preventative maintenance. Operators, Barrier arms, Batteries, Reflective Tape have all been inspected and repairs made where necessary. Additionally, all gate hinges have been oiled and lubricated to reduce noise level.
- Fitness Center AC leak has been repaired.
- Drain cleaning and clog prevention applied to all amenity buildings.
- Time clock adjustments for daylight savings.

Projects

- Kissing Tree Star and entrance lighting repaired and reprogrammed.
- Grand Central Bathroom lock repaired then replaced.
- Pedestrian gate lock repairs.
- KT Sign behind guard shack lighting repaired.
- IH/Pool drainage issue underneath bridge was resolved and rock has been installed.
- Speed Sign installation on Flying Orchid near crosswalk to facilitate safer pedestrian activity.
- IH bathrooms repainted.
- Christmas Lighting coordinated and installed.
- New signs by Bolivar gate and removal of old Brookfield sign.
- Achieved a new department weekly work order completion record of 136 (Week of November 17th, 2025).

The Repair Report



- Inspection 43.19%
- Gates & Fences 8.74%
- Pond & Storm Water Systems 8.23%
- General Repair & Maintenance 6.68%
- HVAC 5.66%
- Irrigation & Landscaping 5.14%
- Community Concerns 5.14%
- Engagement Requests & Set Ups 3.08%
- Pool Maintenance & Repair 2.57%
- Lighting & Electrical 2.31%
- General Housekeeping 2.06%
- Plumbing 2.06%
- Fire Life & Safety Systems 1.29%
- Entryways & Doors 1.29%
- Pressure Washing 0.51%
- Appliances 0.51%
- Site Signage & Monuments 0.51%
- Preventative 0.51%
- Sports Courts 0.26%
- Fitness Equipment 0.26%



I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays!

Please be aware that all holiday related decor and lighting must be removed no later than January 15th.

Kylee Holte, Community Standards Coordinator

Micahmendations

The Real Basics of Fitness for Older Adults

When we talk about fitness for older adults, the goal isn't chasing records or extremes—it's independence, confidence and continuing to do the things you enjoy. The science is clear: complicated or high-intensity workouts aren't required. Consistent movement, strength, balance and everyday activity matter most.

How much exercise is enough?

Guidelines recommend adults over 65 aim for:

- **150 minutes per week of moderate activity** (such as brisk walking, cycling, swimming or water aerobics)
- **75 minutes of vigorous activity.**
- or a combination of both.

That's about 20–30 minutes most days and doesn't need to be done all at once.

In addition, strength training at least two days per week along with regular balance activities, especially for those concerned about falling.

The key takeaway: Some activity is always better than none. You don't have to be fit to start—you get fit by starting.

Why strength training matters with age?

Muscle loss accelerates as we age and threatens independence. Strength training helps maintain muscle and bone density, improve posture and joint stability, and support daily tasks like climbing stairs, carrying groceries or standing from a chair. Heavy weights aren't required—bands, light weights, machines or bodyweight exercises are effective. The goal is steady progress, not exhaustion.

Micahmendations

Balance: the most overlooked skill

Falls are a leading cause of injury, but the solution is training balance, not avoiding movement. Balance exercises improve coordination, strengthen stabilizing muscles and boost confidence. Simple activities like single-leg stands, heel-to-toe walking, tai chi or yoga can make a big difference.

Aerobic activity supports the whole body

Regular aerobic movement lowers blood pressure, improves cholesterol and blood sugar, reduces heart disease risk, and supports brain health, sleep and mood. Walking remains one of the most accessible and effective options.

What counts as exercise?

Exercise doesn't have to look like a workout. Walking, gardening, dancing, water exercise, carrying groceries and playing with grandchildren all count. If it raises your heart rate, challenges your muscles or improves balance, it's beneficial.

Staying safe while staying active

Start gradually, focus on good form, use support when needed and consult a healthcare provider if you have medical concerns. Discomfort may happen, but pain and fear should not.

The real goal: independence

Fitness at this stage of life isn't about looking younger—it's about staying capable. Strong muscles, good balance and a healthy heart support energy, confidence and quality of life. It's never too late to begin.

Micah Ross,
Fitness Manager

TARBOX & BROWN

As we step into a new year, I want to take a moment to sincerely thank each of you for making 2025 such an incredible year for our Food & Beverage program. Your enthusiasm, feedback, and continued support are what make this community so special, and it has truly been a joy to serve you.

Looking back on 2025, we were proud to host a wide variety of experiences—from wine, spirits, and beer tastings to intimate chef dinners and celebrations for just about every occasion. We refreshed our menus multiple times throughout the year, always striving to keep things exciting, seasonal, and reflective of your preferences. One of our proudest moments was being honored with the 2025 Diners' Choice Award from OpenTable, a recognition that belongs as much to our residents as it does to our culinary and service teams.

As we look ahead to 2026, we are incredibly excited for what's to come. We have new ideas, new flavors, and new experiences in the works, all with the same goal we've always had—to create welcoming spaces, memorable meals, and moments worth gathering around.

Thank you again for an amazing year. We can't wait to share what's next with you.

Brooke Roseland
Assistant General Manager

We had a great fall and holiday turn out for all the events we sponsored. I encourage you to follow the KT Food and Beverage page on Facebook. This is where we first advertise events and special parties that we put on for the community. Although we can also send announcements to weekly emails, I still regularly hear that residents don't know what is going on at Tarbox & Brown. So take a look. We are planning a few events in January and February to help ease you out of the holiday aftermath!

David Rhoads
Executive Chef

KT Golf Club

Happy Holidays to all Kissing Tree residents!

I am very excited to be returning to Kissing Tree and truly look forward to working diligently to make our golf course the premier facility in the area. While many things have changed since my first tenure here, I am encouraged by the positive direction and excited about the many improvements still ahead.

As I continue to get settled and reacquainted with our processes and procedures, I will be spending the next few weeks observing, listening, and learning. My commitment is to provide you with the level of service and quality you deserve, and I look forward to building on the strong foundation already in place.

We also have some wonderful dinners planned for the holiday season, and I invite you to visit the Tarbox and Brown website for details. I hope you will join us and enjoy some truly outstanding dishes prepared by our exceptional chef and culinary team.

Thank you to everyone who has stopped by to welcome me back, it has been greatly appreciated. I am fully committed to making Kissing Tree Golf Club one of the most respected and revered facilities in Texas.

Wishing you and your families a happy, healthy, and joyous holiday season.

Dave Carlisle
KT Golf Club General Manager

Updates From The Green

Many of you may not know, but Kissing Tree Golf Club is one of 100 Audubon Sanctuary Golf Courses in America. This title entails yearly visits from their Environmental Program Specialist. She checks to make sure we are in compliance with maintaining wildlife habitat, protecting naturalized areas, water conservation, education and outreach, and other areas.

This year we have also joined the Audubon's "Monarchs in the Rough" program, which provides us with one acre of Milkweed seed to plant for the Monarch butterfly habitat.

With the cooler weather arriving, frost delays are imminent. We will delay as long as necessary to protect the turf from cart and foot traffic. Your understanding is greatly appreciated.

John Mckay
Kissing Tree Golf Club Superintendent

Happy New Years Everyone,
Hope the Holidays allowed for some much-needed family time and good cheers!
'Tis the season where we all write down resolutions for the new year in hopes of becoming better people. However, I tend to set high goals for myself and unfortunately end up falling off track at some point. I'm sure this feeling is common among most of us, so let's all start off small! I always say it is an evolution not a revolution!

As most of you know by now, I've been recovering from a recent broken shoulder which has not been ideal. Taking time away from golfing, which is what I love to do the most, has been extremely challenging for me. Heading into this new year my main goal is simple! I WILL become healthier physically to prevent any other potential hindrances. If I can motivate anyone else along the way who shares this same goal, then that would be perfect.

So, my challenge to y'all is to dedicate one extra day a week to the sport of golf this year. Just one extra day a week, that's all! To start this year off right, I will be hosting FREE 1-Hour practice sessions from 3-4pm every other Friday going forward. By blocking my schedule in this biweekly way, my hopes are that everyone finds it within themselves to practice on their own as well! My door is always open for any questions or concerns, but I hope to see us all out bettering ourselves and practicing more this year!

All the best,
Gabe Ross
Kissing Tree Gold Club Pro

2026 TOWN HALLS

MASTER

QUARTER 1: MARCH 25TH

QUARTER 3: SEPT. 23RD

QUARTER 2: JUNE 24TH

QUARTER 4: DEC. 9TH

COTTAGES

QUARTER 1: MARCH 26TH

QUARTER 3: SEPT. 24TH

QUARTER 2: JUNE 25TH

QUARTER 4: DEC. 10TH

VILLAS

QUARTER 1: MARCH 26TH

QUARTER 3: SEPT. 24TH

QUARTER 2: JUNE 25TH

QUARTER 4: DEC. 10TH

COMMUNITY LIFE TEAM

Rebecca Rounds - Executive Director

Kevin Wilson - Director of Community Engagement

Martha Perkins - Director of Community Operations

Andy Pina - Manager of Community Assets

Sandee Miller - Manager of Community Care

Micah Ross - Manager of Fitness

Anitra Martinez - Design Review Coordinator

Linda Mott - Community Engagement Coordinator

Ashlyn Wilson - Communications Coordinator

Kylee Holte - Community Standards Coordinator

Ivan Smith - Community Assets Coordinator

Reagan Porter - Fitness Coordinator

Johnny Rogerio - Custodial Engineer

Jeremy Mott - Custodial Engineer

Ty Klender - Custodial Engineer

Richard Salinas - Custodial Engineer

Cesar Bernal - Custodial Engineer

Trent Rodgers - Lead Fitness Attendant

Cindy Santiesteban - Front Desk Ambassador

January 2026

BRANCHING OUT

An action-packed, fun-filled monthly update featuring Lifestyle event photos, resident spotlights, club and group highlights, special interest stories, and advertising from our valued Trade Partners.



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Resident Car Show



It's All About Vines & Hops

By Resident Lisa Breaux

KT Craft Beer Group

Seven years ago, a small crew of 10–15 Kissing Tree neighbors gathered in the back room of The Mix with a simple idea: share a favorite craft beer, swap a few recommendations, and enjoy some good conversation. That “humble beginnings” meet-up has grown into today’s KT Craft Beer Group—a lively, come-as-you-are community that now draws 350–400 neighbors over time, with new faces joining all the time.

At the heart of it all is founder Jon Fiese, who helped plant the seeds for a group that’s become one of KT’s most fun and friendly ways to connect. Jon’s vision was never just about what’s in the glass—it was about building community. And it shows.

Our gatherings are open to all residents and truly feel like a neighborhood social—welcoming to women and men alike, whether you’re a craft beer enthusiast, a casual taster, or someone who simply enjoys meeting people in a relaxed setting. We also love the idea of Kissing Tree as one community (not separate neighborhoods), so our events are designed to bring neighbors together from all across KT.

Yes, we enjoy local craft beer—but the real “brew” here is friendship. Join us for happy hour, dinner, laughs, and plenty of conversation.

And if beer isn’t your thing every time, no worries—most places offer wine options, too. (Because in Kissing Tree, we believe everyone should have something to sip!)

You’ll find us meeting monthly at local tap houses and breweries such as The Craft House or Middleton Brewing in San Marcos, and favorites in the Wimberley area like Shady Llama and Lone Man Mountain—all an easy drive for a fun evening out. Want to be added to the mailing list? [Email Jon Fiese](#). Cheers to new neighbors, new favorites, and a community that keeps getting better—one pint (or glass) at a time.

We Love Wine Group

Love wine and good company? KT We Love Wine Club brings neighbors together for monthly themed wine tastings that are as social as they are fun.

Each month features wines from different countries or varieties, plus festive décor and themed outfits that keep things light and lively. Tables of eight enjoy fun giveaways like centerpieces or even a bottle of wine to take home — just one more reason these events sell out every month.

Sippin' in Style

We Love Wine Group

This popular club is run by a dedicated team that's been working together for over five years:

- **Sassy Youngstrom** - Club Lead
- **Barbara Smithson** - Culinary
- **Jeff Smithson** - Treasurer
- **Kathy Purnell** - Registrar
- **Linda New** - Communications
- **Lisa Walling** - Decorations
- **Dave Smith** - Wine Steward

The final tasting of the year took place on December 17th, at The Mix, and the new season starts in February at an off-site location. Want to guarantee your spot? Year-long passports are available each January.

As Sassy says, “It’s really about the social part — the wine just helps.” Come sip, socialize, and enjoy the fun.

Cheers!

Meet Jane Nickles

Sip, Learn & Have Fun! Jane Nickles moved to KT a couple of years ago with her husband, Shields Hood — better known as KT’s Focaccia King — and promptly turned our neighborhood into a smarter (and happier) place to drink.

Jane runs several popular groups, including GET LIT AT KIT Wine & Book Club, KT Learn About Wine—Serious! Wine! Education!, and the spirits-loving KT Tipplers. Don’t let the fun names fool you — by day, Jane is the Director of Education and Certification for the Society of Wine Educators, which means she literally writes the wine and spirits textbooks.

Her KT Learn About Wine—Serious! Wine! Education! group is a lively Facebook hangout of about 230 members, filled with tasting tips, local wine finds, and spirited food-pairing debates. She also hosts tastings and classes at her home, starting with WineSpeak 101 — the gateway class before diving into master classes and casual “cellar raids.” She’s taught it 32 times at KT, and the waitlist keeps growing.

More into spirits? KT Tipplers (about 250 members) explores Bourbon, gin, Scotch, rum, tequila, and more — with fun, informative classes and plenty of laughs. Jane keeps her groups private, but KT neighbors can reach her at missjane@prodigy.net.

Best part? Thanks to trade samples, events at her house are always free. Smart sipping, good company, and zero cover charge — cheers to that!



Wacky Olympics



Blues Brothers Tribute





KTVG Veterans Group



SantaCon

KT Cares

A group of passionate Kissing Tree residents is turning ideas into action through Kissing Tree Cares — sprouted from the S.P.A.R.K leadership program this resident-led initiative focused on connection, creativity, and giving back. Made up of neighbors who care deeply about our community and the greater San Marcos and Hays County area, Kissing Tree Cares brings people together to create meaningful, hands-on ways to help.

Their newest project, Kissing Tree Cares, is all about neighbors helping neighbors — not just within our gates, but beyond them. The goal is simple but powerful: foster long-term engagement, strengthen local connections, and make a real, lasting impact.

Each quarter, Kissing Tree Cares will announce a Day of Giving, inviting residents to rally around a shared goal and make a collective difference — one quarter at a time.

First Project: Two Tons of Caring

The inaugural Kissing Tree Cares project is aptly named “Two Tons of Caring.” The goal? To collect two tons of food for the Hays County Food Pantry, supporting San Marcos and Hays County families in need.

Residents are invited to participate by dropping off food donations beginning February 1 at The Mix, with collections continuing through February 24. Every bag, box, and can donated helps turn compassion into action.

This effort reflects what makes Kissing Tree special — a community where people show up for one another and believe that small acts, done together, can create big change.

To learn more about Kissing Tree Cares or how to get involved, [contact info@ktcaresconnect.com](mailto:info@ktcaresconnect.com) or [visit KTCaresConnect.com](http://KTCaresConnect.com).

Because when neighbors come together, caring becomes contagious.

SCS Bocce Ball & SCS Run/Walk





SCS 2025



ALL SPORTS CHAMPION RACE

Women's TOP 10

1st	Cindy Gee	780
2nd	Jennifer Ward	590
3rd	Megan Bird	580
4th	Leoni Wallace	500
5th	Debbie Norton	470
6th	Evelyn Sorrels	430
7th	Laurie Hall	300
8th	Cheryl Kinsley	285
9th	Randi Bartelson	255
10th	Kelly Engel	220

Final results for 15 of 15 events

Men's TOP 10

1st	Bill Zimmerman	940
2nd	Brad Illing	900
3rd	Frank Gentry	890
4th	Eric Wallace	770
5th	Miguel Gonzalez	700
6th	Bill Sprague	680
7th	Ruben Castillo	610
8th	David Ward	520
9th	Ray Silvestri	470
10th	Brian Lawrence	460

**Congratulations to all of the 231 KT Sports
Champ Series athletes who competed this
year!**



SCS Pickleball Men's & Women's | Mixed Doubles





COMET Group & Pedernales Falls Hike



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KT welcomed 2026 with a lively New Year's Eve celebration at The Mix, featuring music from the Cactus Flats Band and resident parties across the community. Happy New Year!