

The Magnolia



Columbus Garden Club Newsletter

October, 2025



CGC Meeting – Wednesday, October 8

Place: The Lighthouse – St. Paul's Lutheran Church
201 Veterans. Dr. St., Columbus, TX 78934

Date: Wednesday, 10/8/2025

Time: Social – 9:30 am, Program – 10:00 am

Program: How to Grow Wildflowers Successfully

Speaker: John Thomas: Owner of Wildseed Farms in Fredricksburg, Texas, a Colorado County native who is familiar with the area and which wildflowers grow best in the area.

Hostesses: Lead Hostess – Regena Williamson

Members – Ann Pavliska, Sandra Barrett and Brenda Boehm

Doug Welsh says “Texas is lucky to have one of the largest wildflower seed companies in the nation, Wildseed Farms (located 7 miles east of Fredericksburg). **John Thomas, founder of Wildseed Farms**, has the unique perspective of a successful rice farmer who realized the many benefits of using wildflowers on roadways, commercial landscapes, and home gardens. He describes himself not as a wildflower lover but “a user of wildflowers” to create beauty, traffic stopping color, and reduced mowing requirements for road crews, landscape maintenance professionals and you, the homeowner.”



Invite a friend or neighbor to enjoy this fantastic opportunity to hear and speak with John Thomas this coming **Wednesday, October 8**. Find out what is happening at Wildseed Farms in Fredericksburg.

This is an opportunity to ask your questions and hear all you have ever wanted to hear about Texas wildflowers.



**KEEP COLUMBUS BEAUTIFUL
YOUTH ART SHOW
Live Oak Art Center
Sept. 10 – 19**



Poster Contest and Recycled Materials Art Show. Student artists grades 1-8 were encouraged to apply to the contest and exhibit and to create and showcase artwork featuring the Keep Columbus Beautiful message. Youth were invited to create posters (8-1/2 x 11) featuring a **Keep Columbus Beautiful** message; **Please Don't Litter; Reduce, Reuse, Recycle; Keep Texas Beautiful, Don't be a Litter Bug.** Youth were also invited to create Recycled Art (canvas or sculpture) utilizing recyclable materials in the Recycled Materials Sculpture Contest.

It looks like it was a fantastic success...



....and it looks like it was so-o-o much fun!



Rhonda Schonenberg (below right) helping hang student art.





Kyria Waddell, Kyla Arrison, Savannah May, Issa Jackson and Tadeas Thompson. Not pictured: Vivienne May, Jewel Kelley, Wyatt Kelly, Lynlee Hollingsworth, Loralye Hollingsworth.



Lawson Werland – Keep Texas Beautiful – Recycle

Thanks to all of the participants of the art show and to Marian Schonenberg and her helpers for organizing this educational and fun event.

Youth Art Show poster contest winners: Issa Jackson, Jewel Kelley, Wyatt Kelley, Loreley Hollingsworth, Lynlee Hollingsworth, and Vivienne May.

Top participation award to Marissa Ortiz-Verde, Director Boys & Girls Club of Champion Valley Columbus.



TEXAS
MASTER GARDENER
TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION
Bluebonnet

2025 AUSTIN COUNTY

LUNCH N LEARN

SERIES-FALL



TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

HOSTED BY: BLUEBONNET MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

AUSTIN COUNTY AGRILIFE EXTENSION OFFICE FREE/OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

800 E WENDT ST BELLVILLE, TX 77418

REGISTRATION: 11:50AM - 12PM BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH

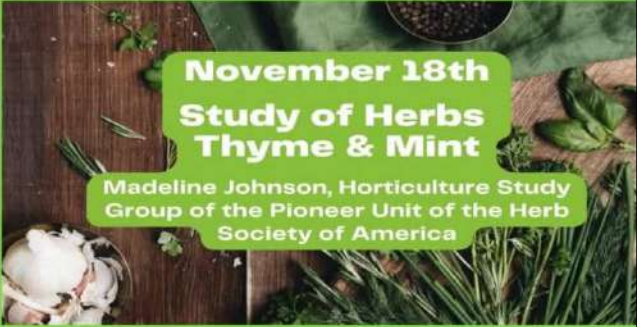
PROGRAM: 12PM -12:55PM LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED



October 21st

Native Fall Wildflower Planting

Alyssa Harmon, Sycamore Hill Nursery



November 18th

Study of Herbs Thyme & Mint

Madeline Johnson, Horticulture Study Group of the Pioneer Unit of the Herb Society of America

SCAN TO REGISTER



REGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED BUT IS ENCOURAGED. TO REGISTER CALL THE OFFICE OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [HTTP://AUSTIN.AGRILIFE.ORG](http://austin.agrilife.org)

QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL:
TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION
SERVICE OF AUSTIN COUNTY AT
979-865-2072

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES WHO REQUIRE AN AUXILIARY AID, SERVICE OR ACCOMMODATION IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS ACTIVITY ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTACT THE EXTENSION OFFICE IN AUSTIN COUNTY AT LEAST EIGHT DAYS PRIOR TO THE PROGRAM FOR ASSISTANCE.
THE MEMBERS OF TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE WILL PROVIDE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES, EDUCATION, AND EMPLOYMENT TO ALL PERSONS REGARDLESS OF RACE, COLOR, SEX, RELIGION, NATIONAL ORIGIN, AGE, DISABILITY, GENETIC INFORMATION, VETERAN STATUS, SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER IDENTITY AND WILL STRIVE TO ACHIEVE FULL AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES. © 2025 Texas A&M Agrilife Extension

Senior Outreach Committee Readies for Fall Gardening

In addition to the Columbus Oaks project begun last year, the new CGC Board established a new club committee, Seniors Outreach, to expand from Columbus Oaks to other areas of Columbus that can benefit from gardening advice, a little manual labor, or an activity or program.

Wanda Anglin worked with Kris Steward, Activities Director at Columbus Oaks, and residents of the center and gardener extraordinaire, to evaluate the two raised bed planters' readiness for fall gardening. At their request, Wanda picked up fall seeds including greens, chard, lettuce, and carrots, from the Sprout to Share Free Seed Library. She purchased soil and compost for the raised beds from Take Root and added the bags to the empty planters. (See last month's newsletter for pictures...especially Rex who really enjoys gardening.)

Brenda Wyman (Seniors Outreach committee member) and Niesha Evans (TLC Activities Director) are collaborating on a planting project at TLC (Tru Care Living Center).

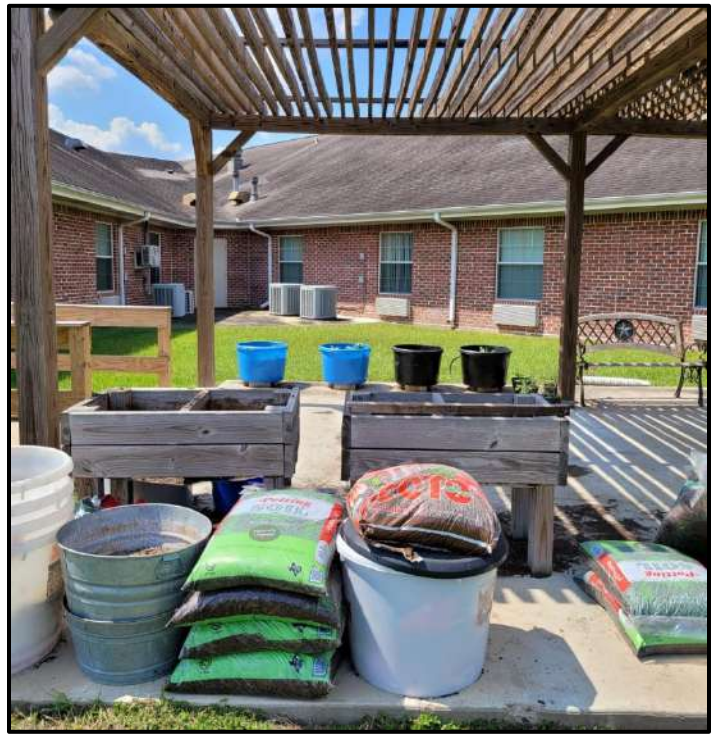


Niesha says “We are excited to have the help of Brenda Wyman and Columbus Garden Club for our fall garden. The residents will be so excited. We can’t wait to be able to cook with all the vegetables we grow this fall.”

If you have an interest in working with the seniors in our community or sharing the love of gardening, let Wanda know, 713-628-6545, wanda.anglin@hotmail.com .

Bren and her husband, David collected all of the supplies they would need for above ground planters. Above ground gardening is more accessible for residents in wheelchairs and using walkers.

G



Getting ready is sometimes most of the work.
Thank you, Bren and David







The tomatoes are blooming!

Bren says that they should have quite a crop! They planted radishes, lettuce, broccoli, cauliflower, carrots in the raised beds. In the buckets they planted 2 Red Snapper tomatoes, chard, cabbage and kale seeds. Bren took her rosemary, oregano, sweet basil and thyme and a plant stand from her garden for them to enjoy the fresh herbs.

“Thanks to Columbus Garden Club, Brenda Johnston-Wyman and her husband David for all their help. Our garden is complete now, we just need to water everyday and watch it grow” – Niesha Evans, Activity Director at TLC.



Member in the Spotlight



Carolyn Joan Obenhaus – Joan (yes, that is right - J-o-a-n but it is pronounced Joann) was named after her grandfather's mother and her mother's great grandmother. She has one brother, Larry, and one sister, Robyn. Her sister was born when Joan was 16 years old. Joan and JL met in high school. They went to Spring Branch High School. They married in 1960 and JL went into the Air Force shortly after they married. He was a Russian language specialist.

Joan and JL had three children: John who was born in Syracuse, N.Y., Julia who was born in Frankfurt, Germany and Jim who was born in Freeport.

Joan went to University of Houston at Clearlake to get her degree. She became an aide in the beginning but was making out the lesson plans and felt like she was always answering all the questions so decided "why not go back and get a teaching certificate." So she did.

She started teaching first grade, requested 2nd but skipped it, went to 3rd and 4th grades. She taught for 14 years.

She and JL had many wonderful times together. They enjoyed going on trips together, swimming, boating, white water rafting, fishing and some say even skinny dipping. Joan even caught a flounder once. Well, "caught" isn't really the right word....he actually jumped into the boat.

These days Joan enjoys her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, football games, church friends and garden club friends. When asked where she got her love of gardening she says from her mother, grandmother and aunt. She says, "I do believe my mother could saw off a broom or mop handle and stick it in the dirt and out would grow roots, leaves, and flowers."

Joan enjoys sitting in her backyard with her little dog Sadie. Sadie is a delight and lots of company. Joan says, "We spend lots of time on our back porch. We have 2 fans to keep us cool

and a clock to keep us on time. I enjoy looking at my plants and flowers and knowing they are going to be happy and I know I am. We had a good amount of rain in the Winter and Spring but the heat evaporated moisture out of the soil and air. Many plants suffered or died. Usually my back yard is full of beautiful blooms. My Vinca and Salvia are alive and well and have lots of blooms. Lots of birds on the bird feeders along with the squirrels. The hummers are few in count but those come to the feeders. I think I have learned a lesson. I think I am going to look for native plants when I go shopping in the Spring of 2026.



September's Meeting

Sherill Burge, Flower Show Judge, from Friendswood Garden Club and Four Corners Garden Study Club was a delightful guest to speak to our club on **“How to Get Your Plant Flower Show Ready”**. She was a delight! We all felt comfortable trying to learn some techniques on how to best display our plant. Is it standing straight? Is it more full on one side than the other? Is it in the best size container to show the plant to it's fullest potential? Why won't it stand up straight? What can I do about that?



(left) Brenda Boehm, (Middle) Sharon Roensch, and (Right) Sandy Barrett

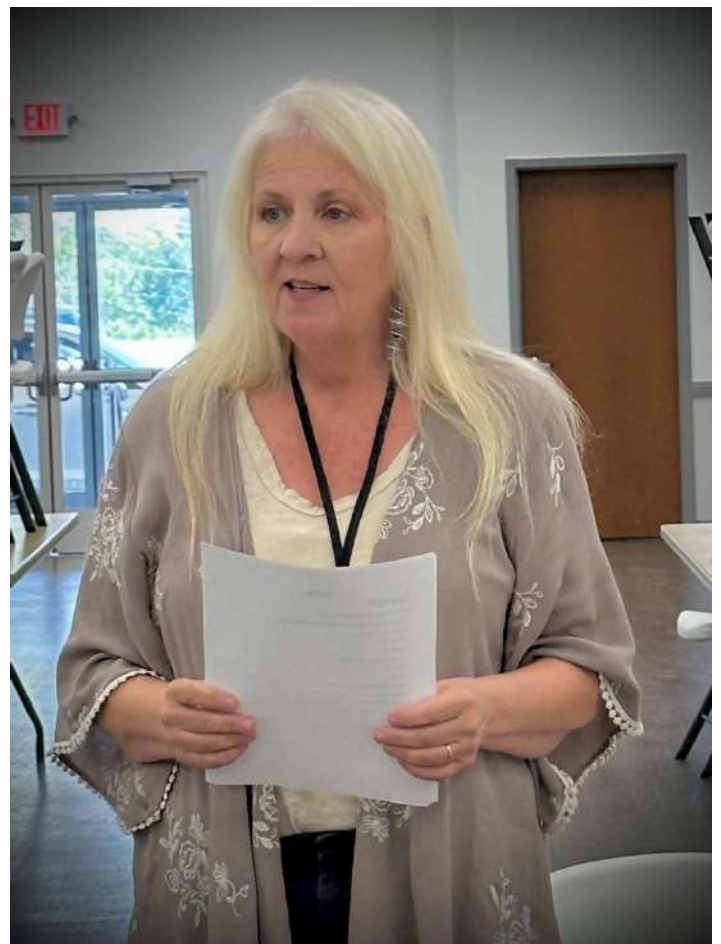
Just some simple items can help a large stem stand up straight in a clear vase....a plate, some tape? Yes, we had some fun.



Wanda Anglin, Sharon Heimann, Ann Pavliska, Dell Szymkowski, and Nancy Galloway – learning the little tricks.



Ida Sivley and Karen Payne are just having a great time.



Ann Pavliska “took over the books” as our new Treasurer. Wanda Anglin wears many hats in our club. She is once again “taking care of business”.



Joan Obenhaus and Sharon Weggenhoft visit a bit.

Regena Williamson and Cheryl Rose talk about Yearbooks



2025 Scholarship Quilt – “Vintage Inspired”

The name of the quilt is “Vintage Inspired”. It is a king size (106”X106”). I used only fabrics in my stash and did not repeat any blocks. I found the pattern in a quilt magazine that I get and though I didn’t use the same colors I felt that it was a way to use my fabrics. I think many will like the old fashioned look. We will have tickets ready for the October meeting.—Sharon Heimann.



2025-27 Columbus Garden Club Officers

And Hostesses for the September Meeting

(Back Row) Velma Harrington (Reporter-Publicity) (Historian), Regena Williamson (President), Wanda Anglin (Parliamentarian), Cheryl Rose (Second Vice President,)

(Front Row) Jennie Pritchett (Secretary), Ann Pavliska (Treasurer), Nancy Galloway (First Vice President)

Landscape Design School

Garden Clubs and Master Gardening Associations have additional specialized learning opportunities. One of these is **Landscape Design School located at the George Bush Library on the campus of Texas A&M**. Several of our garden club members have attended these classes. One course is usually 2 days long with 8 speakers ranging from college professors to speakers

that have made a huge impact on the garden club communities. At the end of the two days, a test is given, and you must pass it in order to get credit for the Master Gardener Program. This is the first time, I actually made a 100% on my test. The coordinator for the program brags that no one has ever failed their classes, which is good to know. When you have completed the 4 courses, you will obtain a certificate and a title of Landscape Design Consultant. Master Gardener's title is Landscape Design Steward.

I enjoy going to these classes to learn about new concepts for our garden club, and meeting new people is always a plus. I am definitely ready to share my knowledge of landscaping techniques that can be implemented into our gardens and/or events.

---Jennie Pritchett, MG



Helping members develop greater appreciation of the environment, both natural and man-made. Landscape Design Schools offer a series of four 10-hour courses. The courses cover learning about your ecosystem, the principles and elements of landscape design, the landscape design process, the history of landscape design and designing for the environment, among many other topics.

Since its founding in 1958, professional instructors have maintained the high standards originally incorporated in the study program. Students acquire the tools for making their own gardens more beautiful and easier to maintain. Students have been motivated to serve in political decision-making areas where awareness of the impact of a well-designed landscape can enhance the beauty and enjoyment of life in the public arena.

The courses are intended primarily for garden club members, but are open to the general public. Courses may be sponsored by member clubs, groups of clubs, councils, districts and state garden clubs. Garden club members completing the series of four courses are awarded the designation of NGC Landscape Design Consultant. To maintain Consultant status, continuing education is required. Single-subject and Multiple Refreshers provide advanced study opportunity and the occasion to interface with other Consultants. Participation in Consultant Councils is encouraged as one means of using the knowledge gained from this educational program.

Share Your Garden



Janet Johnson shared a green spider, sulphur butterfly, and Gulf Fritillary that were in her garden. She has spotted several black swallowtails and tiger swallowtails on top of hummingbirds!



Sandy Barrett shared her beautiful red hibiscus.



Someone asked me awhile back about a Keiki. It means child, young one, or youngster, and can refer to human children but also refer to the young of animals or even plants. A baby growing on an orchid is a keiki and can be removed from the plant and become a new plant.



Queen of the Night – Shared by Wanda Anglin

Mark Your Calendars

Saturday, October 11, 2025, 8:30 a.m.

Meet at Live Oak Rose Garden in Midtown Park

Students from Columbus High, Classical Conversations homeschool group, and The Challenge Academy will be helping us at our Live Oak Rose Garden and Butterfly Garden in Midtown Park. Please join us to work alongside them. The students are so fun to talk to! They ask lots of questions about plants and pollinators.

Even if you are not up to digging in the dirt, bring a chair to sit to keep us company and meet the students in Youth in the Garden!

The Live Oak Rose Garden and Midtown Butterfly Garden committees will work on the gardens on Saturday, October 11th, at 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Bring gloves, water, a few garden tools, and sun protection. We will meet at the Life Oak Rose Garden then split up into 2 teams.

Contact Sandy Barrett, 979-732-0281, or Janet Johnson, 713-248-8974 for work day details. Or Wanda Anglin, 713-628-6545 for info about Youth in the Garden



Graduation Day at Environmental School

After starting in 2023 the long journey to becoming an NGC Environmental Consultant I happily graduated.

In order to graduate, I had to attend 4 Environmental School sessions. Each covers 1 of 4 topics: Air, Earth, Water,

and Recycling. Each session covers one of the four topics. The school sessions last one weekend. Along with the classes, there are fun activities such as making crafts related to that session and interesting field trips.

Not only do you learn about the environment, but you also make lasting friendships. The friendships and memories that I've made at environmental school will always be kept close to my heart.



Help Columbus Garden Club earn funds by recycling your HP and Canon printer cartridges.

Keep HP and Canon inkjet cartridges out of the landfill.

The club earns funds to support beautification and wildlife habitat projects around town. Bring them to a garden club member or drop them off in one of the following Columbus drop-off locations:

- Nesbitt Memorial Library
- US Post Office
- Saint Anthony's Catholic School
- Chamber of Commerce

Keep in mind:

- Only HP and Canon brands
- Only INKJET cartridges for printers
- Toner cartridges NOT accepted.

Learn more: <https://www.columbusgardenclub.org/recycling>

IMPORTANT DATES

District IV, HFGC, and TGC



2025

September

- 12th HFGC General Meeting, @City Rise Church, 10AM
- 16th HAFSJ Meeting
- 19th-21st NGC, Inc. Environmental School IV – Water Series 10, Course 4 (See brochure)
- 29th -30th NGC, Inc. Landscape Design School, Course 14, Series 28th, (See brochure)

October

- 10th HFGC General Meeting @ City Rise Church 10AM
- 16th District IV Board Meeting, Bayland, Rooms 4 & 5 Time: 10AM-12
- 21st TGC Trustees Meeting, TGC Headquarters building, @1PM
- 21st TGC Finance Meeting, A TGC Headquarters building, @3PM
- 22nd-23rd “Circle the Wagons! TGC Fall Convention (See flyer)
- 27th-30th NGC, Inc. Flower Show School

November

- 1st Deadline for Awards to be turned into judges
- 14th HFGC General Meeting, @City Rise Church, 10AM

December

- 5th Christmas Celebration! HFGC (More details to come!)

2026

January

9th Arbor Day (Follows HFGC Meeting- Possibly @ Bellaire HS)
15th Presidents Reports Due

February

2nd-3rd NGC, Inc. Gardening Study School (Details to follow)
13th HFGC General Meeting, @City Rise Church, 10 AM

March

12th District IV Convention Hosted by Area 2 (Details to come)
13th HFGC General Meeting, @City Rise Church, 10 AM

April

7th – 9th TGC, Inc. State Spring Convention, District IV Hosting, Marriott Houston
North Hotel, 255 N. Sam Houston Parkway East, Houston, Tx 77060
10th HFGC General Meeting, @City Rise Church, 10 AM

May

8th HFGC General Meeting, @City Rise Church, 10 AM

Joys, Love and Concerns



Continue to remember all of our Gardeners Emeritus: Shirley Allmon, Shirley Barfield, Lyn Buescher, Sharon Heimann, Neva Lou Hubenek, Martha Jordan, Charlene Morrison, Joann Sebesta, Helen Strich, and Dell Szymkowski and so many of our members who are in need of our thoughts and prayers.

Sandy Coffman fell and broke her hip. She is having therapy and rehabilitation at TLC. She is in Room 108 and Ken says she would enjoy company.

Also at TLC is **George Harrington** after having a fall at home. He is receiving physical therapy and recovering from a fractured lumbar vertebrae. He is in room 316.

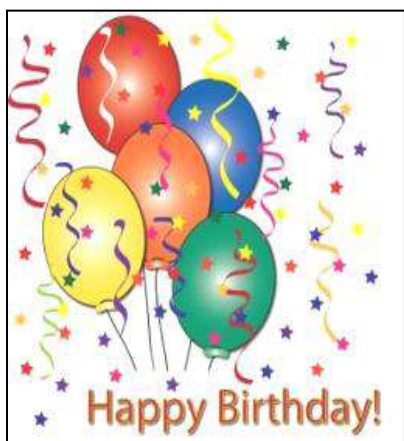
Also, remember **Lyn Buescher** is at TLC. Lyn would enjoy company (Room 406) however her daughter LB would appreciate your calling her (daughter) beforehand. LB is staying in Lyn's home during this time. (732-3834). Lyn has been enjoying the CGC gardening program there that Bren and David Wyman have been working on.



Sharon Wegenhoft went to see **Martha Jordan** in her home in Schulenburg. Martha was doing good. Sharon delivered the card the CGC members signed last month and she was thrilled to hear from everyone. She has a lovely room and even has her cat in the room with her. Martha sends her best wishes to everyone and says she misses Columbus.

Also, **Janet Johnson** has been "under the weather" for a little while. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

So that we can better communicate and express our love and concern for each other, if you know of a **garden club member or family of a garden club member who is ill or has had a death in the family** please contact: **Regena Williamson** – She will notify the appropriate members to communicate with the club or **Cheryl Rose** – She is the person in charge of notifying the club.



It's time to celebrate September Birthdays:

October	01	Sharon Roensch
	02	Sharon Heimann
	03	Sandra Coffman
	22	Janet Johnson
	26	Deborah Braden
	26	Beth Easterling

Yard of the Month – October

-

Alice Kallina

308 Front St.



October Yard of the Month was awarded to 308 Front St. This yard is about two-thirds xeriscaped offering very low maintenance and low water use. In addition to being ecologically sensible, it looks great year round. Light-colored rocks are used as “mulch” across most of the front yard punctuated with variegated yucca, a blooming yucca metal sculpture, and 2 red metal ants for a bit of whimsy. A lush St. Augustine lawn and a bed of periwinkles and vitex in the corner add a bit of traditional landscape design to soften the edges off the stark minimal southwestern design of the central part of

the yard. A native but oak on the left side of the yard will one day offer shade from the morning and noon sun for the welcoming porch featuring turquoise metal columns and red vintage glider. A couple of luxurious foxtail ferns in pots add fresh greenery in front of the porch.

Community Beautification Award - Colorado Valley Vet

1391 TX 71 Business

The October Community Beautification Award was awarded to Colorado Valley Vet at 1391 TX 71 Business. The entire front of this large building is smartly landscaped with low-water plants like variegated flax lily, foxtail ferns, and golden pacific juniper. A stand of red knockout roses add a bit of color in our extra warm fall while pittosporum give a reliable background of greenery. The boulders and sickle bar implement add a bit of country making this new building look right at home in its rural setting. Congrats to **Dr. Michael Ridley**, clinic owner, and for the smart beautiful choices in this commercial landscape.

