

North View News

December 2008

North View Christmas Caroling Night

Join us **Saturday, December 13th** at 5:00pm at the North View Community Center (Pool) for an old fashioned night of Christmas Caroling in North View.

Take a break from the hectic shopping, wrapping, baking & all the other stressful happenings during this time of year & Come out & enjoy the Holiday Season with your neighbors.

All that you need to bring is your voice, a flashlight and Your favorite Christmas Carol.

Dress in your favorite Holiday outfit & wear comfortable Shoes as we will be walking through the neighborhood.

Let's get into the Christmas spirit the Old fashioned way!

**For More info Contact
Belinda: 832 229-1443**

Christmas Home Decorating Contest!

Houses Decorated in North View for the Holiday Season will be judged for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners

December 13, 2008

1st Place will win a \$40 Gift Certificate, 2nd Place will win a \$30 Gift Certificate and 3rd Place will win a \$20 Gift Certificate

Be sure to light up your home for the season!

'Twas The Night Before Christmas (Texas Style)

'Twas the night before Christmas, in Texas, you know.
Way out on the prairie, without any snow.
Asleep in their cabin, were Buddy and Sue,
A dreamin' of Christmas, like me and you.

Not stockings, but boots, at the foot of their bed,
For this was Texas, what more need be said,
When all of a sudden, from out of the still night,
There came such a ruckus, it gave me a fright.

And I saw 'cross the prairie, like a shot from a gun,
A loaded up buckboard, come on at a run,
The driver was "Geein" and "Hawin'", with a will,
The horses (not reindeer) he drove with such skill.

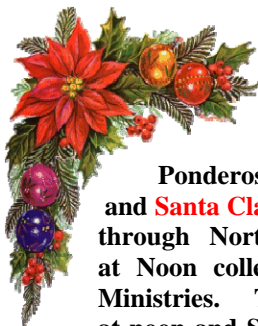
"Come on there Buck, Poncho, & Prince, to the right,
There'll be plenty of travelin' for you all tonight."
The driver in Levi's and a shirt that was red,
Had a ten-gallon Stetson on top of his head.

As he stepped from the buckboard, he was really a sight,
With his beard and moustache, so curly and white.
As he burst in the cabin, the children awoke,
And were so astonished, that neither one spoke.

And he filled up their boots with such presents galore,
That neither could think of a single thing more.
When Buddy recovered the use of his jaws,
He asked in a whisper, "Are you really Santa Claus?"

"Am I the real Santa? Well, what do you think?"
And he smiled as he gave a mysterious wink.

Then he leaped in his buckboard, and called back in his drawl,
"To all the children in Texas, Merry Christmas, You-all"



North View Food Drive Share Your Christmas Saturday, December 20th

Ponderosa Volunteer Fire Department and **Santa Clause** will be leading the Christmas Parade through North View on Saturday, December 20th at Noon collecting food for North West Assistance Ministries. The parade will start on North Rock at noon and Santa will be collecting canned goods and non perishable foods to help make Christmas special for needy families. Come out to greet Santa and be nice, not naughty, when you **donate to the Food Drive and Share your Christmas.**

Ponderosa VFD RoundUp December 2008



Have a Happy & Safe Holiday Season

Fireworks season is just about here. Our recommendation is to NOT buy them. But if you insist --- please supervise your children, and do not allow aerial devices near buildings. We have had many events that have caused injuries and fires. Also consider your neighbors with the noise and smoke, and please clean the area of debris.

It is time to prepare for our winter, and that means you need to have your home heating unit serviced by a qualified company. It is important to assure your furnace does not have rust buildup. Make sure and check your smoke detectors, and have a fire extinguisher available.

Carbon monoxide detectors are important for your family's safety. Do remember that a carbon monoxide alarm is NOT the same as a smoke alarm. Unless you are experiencing nausea, a headache, or have skin reddening, please observe the detector and possibly reset to prevent a false alarm. Read the instructions.

Voice Over Internet Protocol telephone service - Our position has not changed. It is a personal risk to use this product at this time. Some companies have a 9-1-1 system that works, some do not. In addition, if the internet quits working, so does your phone service! Remember Hurricane Ike.... It is simply not worth the few bucks of savings to NOT have 9-1-1 !

**IF YOU SEE SOMETHING...
SAY SOMETHING!**



With the Holidays right around the corner we sometimes are so busy that we don't notice what's going on around us. Remember! That's the perfect time for criminals to do their thing! Keep your car doors and your home locked and remember to keep your garage door closed. Don't leave Christmas gifts or other valuables in plain site in your vehicle. Look around you. If you see something that looks strange, not quite right, or suspicious, please, contact the Constable Precinct 4 office at **281 376-3472**. Tell them that you are a *North View resident* when you call. You can even tell them that you want to remain anonymous and that You do not want them to contact you and they will respect Your wishes. REMEMBER! We are their eyes and ears. Call them! If we all work together we can keep crime out of North View. **IF YOU SEE SOMETHING!**

Happy Holidays To Our Troops

Give the gift of a smile to a soldier. Send a Holiday greeting to our troops away from home during the holiday season. Just go to www.letsavthanks.com, select a card and the Xerox company will print and send your card to a soldier serving in Iraq.





Christmas Around America

Here in Texas we believe that Christmas is bigger and better than anywhere else, but throughout the country Christmas is one of the most special days of the year and everywhere, from Maine to California, it is different in each community, each home.

In the melting pot that is the **United States**, many Christmas customs are much the same from one side of the nation to the other, but there are also regional traditions celebrated.

The snow, evergreen trees, candle-lit villages and covered bridges of New England, make it the home of the stereotypical Christmas, but the holiday was not celebrated there until many years after it became popular everywhere else. The residents of colonial Williamsburg, Pennsylvania's Germans and New York's Dutch were all celebrating Christmas long before similar festivities were allowed in Puritan New England. Because of that many of the festivities of Christmas are restrained in the way that they decorate for the season but other cities and towns throughout New England more than make up for it. In Boston the Commons is ablaze with lights, and a giant tree sparkles at the Prudential Center. Festivities there begin late in November with the bells of Boston, a centuries old tradition brought from England. Over thirty choirs of bell ringers participate in the festival, and bell ringers perform in the city during the entire Christmas season. Tea time is another English tradition still observed in Boston at Christmas.

In the South-West, Spanish traditions have shaped Christmas customs. In California, Texas and New Mexico, Christmas time brings Peseta Processions and Christmas plays. Missions in Southern California offer pastas that blend scriptures with Mexican-Indian folklore. The theme is the conflict between good and evil and the plays characters include shepherds, two angels the Devil, and a hermit. The shepherds set out to see the Christ Child and as they travel, they run into many obstacles that the devil puts in their way, which they finally overcome and reach Bethlehem safely. Music and singing are woven through the plays that last anywhere from half an hour to half the night. Luminaries made from bags and a small candle glow around the South-West. The River Walk in San Antonio, Texas is lit with two-thousand luminaries that brighten the way for the annual Peseta procession.

In Northern California in one of the largest national parks in the U.S. a special Christmas celebration is held. The oldest hotel in the park stages a recreation of the fictional seventeenth century English Christmas feast in Yorkshire's Base Bridge Hall. Wandering minstrels, costumed Druids and the music of carolers are all part of the feast, and a medieval pageant is performed. Dinner includes a boar's head, wassail and Yorkshire pudding in an event that's been held every year since 1927.

The South is noted for honoring tradition, and historical tours and festivities are popular at Christmas. In some areas people still observe the old tradition of firing guns and setting off fire-crackers to welcome in the holiday.

In Williamsburg, Virginia, seventeenth century customs are revived at Christmas and the town's people wear colonial costumes, the buildings are decorated with garlands & wreaths, and an annual Dr. Whites Christmas party is held. A string Ensemble plays in the parlor of the Doctor's home as guests mingle and drink an old fashion fruit punch. Highlights are Christmas concerts, caroling parties, and reenactments of colonial sports events like foot races, wrestling and hoop races.

New York City bustles with shoppers finding gifts for their families & friends. Department store windows are filled with fantastic Christmas scenes. Up and down 5th Avenue Christmas music rings out from Salvation Army bands, raising money for the poor. Ice Skaters spin beneath a huge glowing Christmas tree at Rockefeller Center. Special Christmas displays and performances are everywhere. New York's enormous Metropolitan Museum has a beautiful Christmas tree and Nativity scene. Radio City Music Hall hosts a Christmas spectacular, and the New York ballet performs the Nut Cracker.

Throughout our country many African American families celebrate Kwanzaa, which means first fruits. Kwanzaa is a celebration shared throughout the community that began in 1966 during the struggle for civil rights, and is modeled after the African harvest festivals. For a seven-day period African American families celebrate this cultural Christmas tradition by focusing each day on one of the seven principles that are the foundation of Kwanzaa; Unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, & faith. Traditionally during the seven day celebration the youngest child lights a candle in a special candle holder & discusses one of the seven principles. On the sixth day of Kwanzaa there's a large feast shared with friends & family celebrating the history & culture of African Americans and the upcoming New Year.

In the Mid West, many families celebrate with the European traditions of their ancestors. Many Swedish families in Minnesota make sure to include traditional foods like white pudding in their Christmas meal. Families of Norwegian decent still follow the tradition of giving the year's largest sheath of grain to the children to hang up on a pole or tree as a treat for the birds.



It's not surprising that a celebration as ancient as Christmas has taken so many different forms over the centuries. Yet where ever and however it's celebrated it's still the same occasion of wonder, love and rejoicing that brings a huge portion of the world together in the same universal spirit. The spirit of Christmas! No matter what your Christmas tradition, or how you celebrate the season, we hope that you experience the spirit of Christmas.





Have you seen the new
CRIME STOPPERS
signs posted around
North View?

Our Neighborhood Watch Committee has made North View part of the Crime Stoppers program.

CRIME STOPPERS of Houston, started in 1981, is a community based organization dedicated to solving and preventing serious crime in partnership with citizens, media, law enforcement and the courts.

HOW DOES CRIME STOPPERS WORK?

- If you have information about a crime call the **CRIME STOPPERS TIPLINE**. (713-222-TIPS). *Your call is anonymous...you will NOT be asked for your name!*
- 10 officers answer the Tip Line. Callers with credible tips will be given a code number that will be used to keep you anonymous and allow you to pick up cash reward when due.
- Officer confirms the information, forwards it to a case officer, and if your tip helps bring the arrest and charging of suspect(s) caller is due a reward.
- Reward is picked up through a local bank drive through window using the code number given when you called.

HOW CAN CRIME STOPPERS WORK FOR YOU?

- You can solve crimes without giving your name.
- You can keep your neighborhood & family safe from Child predators & other criminals.
- You can earn cash rewards for helping police get criminals off the street.
- You can join Crime Stoppers today and make your contribution count towards the safety of you family and neighbors.



The North View Social and Recreational committee could use your help. If you would like to volunteer to help during one of the community events, such as the Easter Egg Hunt or Pool Opening next year, please contact Belinda Shelby at 832 229-1443.

North View Proud!

Attend A Meeting
December 4th at 6:00 PM
Ponderosa Fire Department
Imperial Valley Dr.
Know what's going On In
Your Community!



*Happy Holidays
North View!*

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Chaparral Management
Community Manager
Gloria: 281 537-0957 x24

Betty: ACC Applications, and to report park or pool area maintenance problems.

Gloria: Deed Restriction violations

Susan x21: Questions regarding your statement.

Centerpoint Energy:
www.centerpointenergy.com/outage/

713 207-2222 or 1 888 572-4399
Choose option 1 for English, option 4 for street light outages.

Emergency: Harris County Pct. 4
Dispatch: 281 376-3472

IMPORTANT WEBSITES

NORTHVIEW
(www.northviewnews.com)

Precinct 4 - Community Assistance:
www.cp4.hctx.net/cad/index/html

Precinct 4 – Constable Department:
www.co.harris.tx.us/pct4/

Harris County Health Department:
www.hd.co.harris.tx.us/Display.html

Harris County Vicious Dog Info:
www.countypets.com/webbad.html
(713 767-1147)

CCFCC: www.ccfcc.org

North View HOA
P.O. Box 681007
Houston TX 77268-1007

