

North View News

December 2009

North View Christmas Caroling

Join us for a night of old fashioned
* Christmas Caroling in North View *
Saturday, December 19th at 6PM
* at the North View

* Community Center Pool *
Just bring your voice, your smile
* and a flashlight. *

* Space is limited so please *
* RSVP To **Belinda: 832 229-1443** *
* Come & enjoy the Holiday Season *
* with your neighbors and *
* Get into the Christmas Spirit *
* The old fashion way! *



Holiday Home Decorating Contest!

Houses Decorated in North View for the Holiday Season will be judged for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners on December, 19th

1st Place wins a \$40 Gift Certificate, 2nd Place wins a \$30 Gift Certificate & 3rd Place wins a \$20 Gift certificate.

Be sure to light up your home for the season!

Gatekeeper Program



Watching Out For The Elderly

Many elderly people in our community live alone. They are often understandably determined to remain independent in the familiar comfort of their own homes, in spite of failing health & other challenges. With family members scattered, & no one checking on them regularly, a simple problem may lead to serious consequences. The Gatekeepers Program was created to make sure that every older person has a network of trained community representatives looking out for them on a regular basis. Gatekeepers are the thousands of public service and utility company employees trained to recognize danger signs indicating an elderly person may be at risk & to recognize signs of distress & take prompt action when necessary. When a problem is suspected, Gatekeepers contact the united Way Gatekeeper Program. The effectiveness of the Gatekeeper Program is the result of a strong community partnership between private (the North View community), public, (Postal, utility, fire & police departments) & social service organizations, such as the United Way, which serves as an entry point in conjunction with the 211 Texas help line. Be a good neighbor. Be the "Eyes & ears" of our community. Let's make an effort this Holiday Season to watch out for our seniors and make sure that they have a safe & happy holiday. For more information about the Gatekeeper Program, call: 713 685-2832.

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING... SAY SOMETHING!



With the Holidays right around the corner we're sometimes 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 & your home locked & 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!** If we all work together we can help keep crime out of North View. **IF YOU SEE SOMETHING.....SAY SOMETHING!**



2009 Where We Are...

2010 Where We're going...

It's that time of year when most of us look back to see how we've done in the past year & make plans for the New Year. We would like to do the same with our community, so with that in mind here are some things that have been done this year in North View & some things yet to come in 2010:

2009:

- Trees & Park Benches added to cul-d-sacs
- Beautification project at entrances
- Wood Deck at pool replaced
- Pool repairs including lights, inlays, chairs, grab rails, pumps & restroom renovations
- Clean up of pipeline
- Monument signs repaired
- Neighborhood Watch & Crime stoppers signs displayed
- 13 new street lights in community

2010:

- New canopies in play area
- New stone NV Monument signs
- Irrigation system at pool

ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, March 25th 2010

Ponderosa Fire Station on Rolling Creek
ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS
will be held at this important meeting!



10... 9... 8... 7... Where will You Be when the clock strikes midnight This New Years Eve?

Wherever you celebrate please remember these important safety tips:

*Never drink & drive. **6...** Choose a designated driver even before leaving home.

*Beer **5...** & wine are just as intoxicating as hard liquor, & mixers don't dilute alcohol.

*When celebrating **4...** away from home, most people don't think about their homes during New Years parties, but burglars can, and do, use the holiday as a chance to break in. Be sure to lock your **3...** house and car before leaving home to **3...** celebrate.

*Lighting fireworks can be fun, but it can also be dangerous. If you're celebrating in an area that **2...** allows fireworks, be sure to keep water **2...** nearby and keep kids away.

*Children are often forgotten during adult home parties. Be sure to keep doors locked, stairs gated, & fireworks and alcohol closely monitored by an **1...** adult where they are not accessible to **1...** kids.

*Candles, Kids & pets don't mix. Keep them away from each other.

Remember to be responsible this New Year because a safe end to 2009 is the best way to start 2010!



Need A New Years Resolution?

For most of us there's no shortage of things we want to resolve to do in the New Year. Here's a suggestion: Be a good neighbor. Do you have a vacant house next door to you? Take an extra 1/2 hour when you're cutting your lawn to cut that lawn too. When homes' & lawns near you look bad, your home looks bad too. Take a little extra time this year to Be A Good Neighbor



Christmas Decorations

Please remember to take all of your holiday decorations & lights down as soon as the season ends. When Chaparral Management inspects our subdivision after the New Year, deed restriction letters could be sent to residents that do not take down their holiday decorations in a timely manner.

Thanks for your cooperation!

The History Of Christmas Decorations

Around December every year it happens - out come the boxes of tinsel, the tree baubles & the lights. Kids go with dad to find the best tree or if they're lucky enough to live in the country, to chop down their own tree. The hunt for holly, mistletoe and other evergreens to decorate homes in festive style is on. But why do we do it? Even the grumpies, who moan & groan about the fuss and the bother will still decorate a tree....grumbling the whole time. Some say the reason we do it is that's it's inherent in man to do so because thousands of years ago ancient man believed decorating the bushes in the winter would make them attractive for the spirits that they believed had fled for shelter from the harsh winter. Others say it began as a festival honoring the autumn equinox. Whatever the reason, the tradition is here to stay.

Most of the Christmas decorations that we see today evolved from many different cultures. When America was young, people came from all over the world to live here, to make this land their home, & to make it the "melting pot" that it is today. We have saved out of the past nearly all that was good, & all of the things from our childhood that have made Christmas special to us. At the mention of holly, mistletoe and lights, visions of Christmas with all of it's wonderful memories fills our thoughts. We think of Christmas Decorations on trees, snow covered hills, (even in Texas where snow is rare) carolers singing, ringing bells & Christmas decorations lighting up the night. In the winter when most native plants lose their leaves, flowers & fruits, the evergreens, holly, ivy & mistletoe are winter wonders to admire, so it's no wonder that these winter delights were used as Christmas decorations to brighten up the cold dark days of winter.

The popularity of Christmas tree decorating in America grew when imports from Europe began in the 1870's. In 1880 F.W. Woolworth, (Woolworth Stores), was amazed when his first shipment of German Christmas ornaments sold out in a couple of days. The early Christmas stores stocked silver foil icicles, chains of tiny Czechoslovakia beads, and crinkly wire tinsel to add sparkle to the Christmas tree & spark memories of Christmas' past from those early American's homelands. Ornaments made of cardboard, tin metal, & paper were popular in the Christmas store until the 1900's, when stores introduced holiday ornaments made of mostly plastic.

In America, the tradition of hanging a wreath on the front door became a welcome gesture of friendship, & the original American tradition of outdoor Christmas lights is now a cheerful delight throughout the holiday season.

Whether your traditions are brought from a far away land, or whether they were started right here in America, We hope that you enjoy them & that they make this holiday season a very special time for you and your family.

* * * * *

Tradition of the Yule Log was brought from Europe & varies slightly in each area but the basics are the same. On Christmas Eve a big log was brought into the home. Songs were sung, stories were told & Children danced. Offerings of food, wine & decorations, were placed on the log & personal faults, mistakes, & bad choices were burned so everyone's New Year would start with a clean slate. The log was never allowed to burn completely down. A little was always kept to start the next years log to bring good luck.

Looking for an inexpensive, traditional & thoughtful gift to give this year? Get a small pine or cedar log, decorate it with pine cones, balsam & berries that you've gathered yourself. Add a few cinnamon sticks and wrap with a colorful holiday bow. What better gift to give to someone that you care about than a fresh start and clean slate with no personal faults, mistakes or bad choices in the New year?



Annual Christmas Parade

North View Share Your Christmas Food Drive
Saturday, December 19th



Ponderosa Fire Department & Santa Clause will lead the Christmas Parade through North View December 19th at Noon collecting food for North West Assistance Ministries. The parade will start on North Vista & Imperial Valley & Santa will collect canned goods & non perishable food to help make Christmas special for needy families in our area. Come out, greet Santa & be nice, not naughty, by **donating to the Food Drive & Sharing your Christmas.**

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.letsaythanks.com select a card & the Xerox company will print and send your card to a soldier that is serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.



Upcoming Events For 2010

- March: North View Homeowners Annual Meeting
- April : Easter Egg Hunt
- April-September: Yard Of The Month
- May & November: North View Garage Sale
- June: North View Bar-b-que
- October: National Night Out
- October: Fall Festival
- December: Christmas Caroling in North View

Thank You North View Volunteers!

Throughout this year North View residents have “Stepped Up” & volunteered for things including serving on the Board, helping with social events, & forming committees to help North View. The purpose of all this is to bring our community closer & make our neighborhood an even better place to call home. Some of the events that volunteers helped with are listed above, & some of the committees that volunteers formed are:

- ACC/Deed Restrictions
- Landscape
- Social & Recreation
- Neighborhood/Crime Watch
- Newsletter
- Yard Of The Month

If you're interested in joining any of these events, please contact Belinda at: 832 229-1443
If you're interested in helping on a committee please contact Gloria at: 281 537-0957 x27

If you notice a North View Volunteer, including our Board Members, out and about making North View a better place to live, please remember to say “Thank You”!

GOT INK? If you have any type of printer ink jet, ink cartridge, or toner that you usually throw away when they are empty **STOP!** We're collecting printer cartridges & recycling them to help pay for the cost of our newsletter. If you would like to donate empty ink jets or cartridges please contact Barbara at: northview.barbara@sbcglobal.net

STUFF THE BIN This Holiday Season!
Please remember to bring all of your catalogs, gift wrap, old Christmas cards & paper to the Green & Yellow recycling bin at the Ponderosa Fire Station! Recycling helps pay for North View Social Events.



Christmas gift suggestions: *To your enemy, give forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To a customer, service. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect.* - Oren Arnold

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Chaparral Management
Community Manager
Gloria: 281 537-0957 x27

Betty: ACC Applications

Gloria: Deed Restriction Violation
Report park or pool area
maintenance problems.
Questions regarding your
statement and accounting.

Precinct 4 Constable
Department:
Emergency: 281 376-3472

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.

Harris County Vicious Dog Info:
www.countypets.com/webbad.html
281 999-3191

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

Cypress Creek Flood Control
Coalition: www.cfcc.org

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

