

North View News

December 2010

North View Christmas Caroling

Join us for a night of old fashioned
Christmas Caroling in North View
Saturday, December 11th at 6PM
at the North View Community Center Pool.
We will be riding through the neighborhood
Singing carols and ringing in the
Holiday Season!

Just bring your voice, your smile
and a flashlight, and wear your
favorite holiday attire!

Space is limited to the sleigh and
One pickup truck so please
RSVP To Barbara: 281 468-6375

Come & enjoy the Holiday Season*
with your neighbors and
Get into the Christmas Spirit
The old fashion way!

Holiday Home Decorating Contest!

Homes Decorated in North View for the Holiday Season will be judged for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners
the week beginning December 20th

Be sure to light up your home during that week for the Holiday season!

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

Christmas Around The World

North View, like America itself, is a community made up of many cultures from around the world. People have been coming to our country for over 200 years and bringing their home land traditions with them as they blend into the culture that they have chosen to call home. Here in North View there are many different nationalities and below are just a few of the ways that North View residents, and their families before them, traditionally celebrate the holiday season:

The Christmas season in Italy goes on for three weeks, starts 8 days before Christmas and is known as the Novena. During that time children go from house to house reciting Christmas poems & singing, and in some areas shepherds bring musical instruments into villages to play & sing Christmas songs. In the week before Christmas children go from house to house dressed as shepherds, playing pipes, singing & reciting Christmas poems & are given money to buy presents. A strict fast is observed for 24 hours before Christmas Eve & is followed by a celebration meal in which a light Milanese cake called panettone & chocolate is presented. Presents & empty boxes are drawn from the Urn of Fate—Lucky Dip, which always contains one gift per person. By twilight, candles are lit around the family crib, known as the Presepio, prayers are said & children recite poems. At noon on Christmas Day the Pope gives his blessing to crowds gathered in the huge Vatican square. According to tradition, children wait until Epiphany, January 6, for their presents, which are delivered by a Kind but ugly witch called Befana, on a broomstick. It was said that she was told by the three kings that the baby Jesus was born, but she was busy and delayed visiting Him. She had a change of heart, an epiphany, and left to see the child, but she missed the Star, lost her way and has been flying around ever since, leaving presents at every house with children in case He is there. She slides down chimneys filling stockings & shoes with good things for good children and leaves coal for children who are not so good.

Christmas preparations in Germany often begin before December 1st. On the 5th a shoe or boot is left outside the door & on the morning of the 6th, Nikolaustag (St. Claus day), presents are found in them (if you were good) or a rod (if you were bad). An advent wreath of holly is laid on the table, with four red candles in the center & one candle is lit each Sunday, with the last one lit on Christmas Eve. Special nights are set aside for baking spiced cakes, cookies, beautiful gingerbread houses, gifts & decorations, & children leave letters decorated with glue & sugar to make them sparkle, on windowsills for Christkind, a winged figure dressed in white robes & a golden crown, believed to be a messenger from the Christ child, who distributes gifts. The traditional visitor is the Christkindl who is the Christ Child's messenger, but she recently, since the early 1990's, has competition from another Christmas Eve figure called Weihnachtsmann, or Christmas Man, that looks like Santa Claus & brings gifts. In some homes a room is locked up before Christmas and on Christmas Eve the children go to bed but are woken up at midnight by their parents & taken down to the locked room. The door is opened & they see the tree all lit up, with piles of parcels on little tables. Many homes in Germany have several Christmas trees, & in all towns across the country they are seen glittering & glowing with festive lights.

Mexico shares many traditions with the Spanish. In Mexico the main Christmas celebration, which lasts 9 days before Christmas, is called *La Posada*. It is a religious event where Mexicans accompany the "Peregrinos" (Mary & Joseph) in a procession that reenacts their search for shelter before the birth of the baby. Santa Claus is not predominant, but the bright red suit is represented in the traditional flower of the season, the brilliant red star-shaped *poinsettia*. It is believed that a young boy walking to the church to see the nativity scene realized on the way that he had no gift to offer the child, so he gathered up some plain green branches as he walked and was laughed at when he placed the branches near the manger, until suddenly, they started to bloom a bright red poinsettia flower on each branch. Throughout the country markets are visited to prepare for the feast, and bakeries offer Rosca de Reyes, an oval sweetbread, decorated with candied fruit. On Christmas Eve, Mexicans attend a midnight mass service, called la Misa el Gallo or "the rooster's mass," where they sing lullabies to Jesus. On Christmas day Mexican children are blindfolded and try to break a decorated clay piñata which, once broken, they clamber to recover the candy that was inside. Those children who have been good also receive a gift from the Three Wise Men on January 6th. The Mexican Christmas season extends to February 2nd, when the nativity scene is put away, and another family dinner of delicious tamales and hot chocolate is served with great love and happiness."

Christmas celebrations in the Philippines start nine days before Christmas with a mass known as Misa de Gallo. At this mass the story behind the birth of Christ is read from the Bible. The Panunuluyan pageant is held each Eve and a couple are chosen to re-enact Joseph and Mary's search for shelter. Mass is held hourly on Christmas Day so that everyone can attend. Religious services include pastore, or play, based on myth of the birth of the Christ Child. The Pastore closes with a star from the upper part of the church sliding down a wire and coming to rest over the church's Nativity scene. These Christmas celebrations may have evolved from old tribal customs mixed with other influences. Serenading cumbancheros, or strolling minstrels, end their performances by singing Maligayang Pasko to the tune of "Happy Birthday".

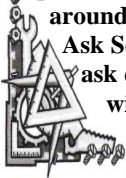
Christmas in the Caribbean Islands shares many traditions with it's African and Spanish heritage. Made up of over 7000 island countries, there are a lot of different Christmas traditions in the Caribbean. All over the world the Christmas holidays have evolved to meet the unique needs of the cultures celebrating it, & nowhere is that more apparent than in the Caribbean. The common theme of good food and good times is achieved through a diverse collection of unique island traditions. Christmas traditions began with the first Spanish settlement at La Navidad, founded on Christmas Day 1492. A favorite Christmas tradition is Jonkono, or boxing day, believed to have it's origins as an African slave holiday, & Parang, similar to caroling, is brought from South America. Pork, oxtail, turkey, curried goat, & meat filled pasties called pastilles are contributed from South America & with a strong history in rum trade, it's no surprise that many recipes involve it's use. Emphasis on the gathering of family is a common theme brought from all of these countries contributing to the island culture.

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 this season. Just go to www.letsaythanks.com select a card & the Xerox Company will print & send your card to a soldier that is serving in Iraq or Afghanistan.



Remodeling for the Holidays? Is your "New Year Resolution" to spruce up the house? The *North View News* will be running a question and answer format about remodeling and maintenance tips around the house; "Ask Square Corner"© in our newsletter. Ask Square Corner will offer homeowners the opportunity to ask questions about maintenance & remodeling. Your answers will come from a lifetime of over forty years in the residential and commercial field of construction. Direct questions to



ASK SQUARE CORNER © asksquarecorner@sbcglobal.net

Ponderosa Fire Department Fire Prevention Tips



Safe Holiday Cooking: As Jack Frost blows cooler air our way & we warm our kitchens with our favorite holiday dishes of the season, it's important to keep safety on the front burner. Careless cooking is the number one cause of residential fires & unattended cooking is the primary cause of kitchen fires. Turkey fryers are extremely dangerous & should only be used with extreme caution. Always use turkey fryers outdoors NOT in garages, & keep them away from anything that can burn, including wooden decks. Never leave the fryer unattended or let children or pets near the fryer, even hours after use. Don't overfill the fryer, (no turkeys over 14 pounds), & make sure the turkey is thawed completely & dried thoroughly. For any cooking-outdoors or inside-always keep an all purpose fire extinguisher nearby to extinguish a fire.

Space Heaters Need Space! As the temperature drops the PVD urges residents to exercise caution when using a space heater. Kids can knock over space heaters & may stick paper or toys in the grates. Never leave children unattended in a room with a space heater. Combustible materials, including people, should always be at least three feet from the heater and open-face heaters should have a screen. Homes should have a working smoke alarm installed on each level of the home, in the hallway outside bedrooms and in each bedroom.

Fireworks season is almost here. Our recommendation is DON'T buy them, but if you insist, please supervise your kids & don't allow fireworks near buildings. We've had many events causing injuries & fires. Consider your neighbors with noise & smoke & please clean up debris.

Have your furnace serviced by a qualified company. It's important to assure your furnace doesn't have rust buildup. Check smoke detectors & have fire extinguishers available. Get a carbon monoxide detector to keep your family safe. Observe it closely if experiencing nausea, headache or reddening of the skin. REMEMBER! It is not a smoke detector!



The Next
North View
Homeowners
Meeting will be held
December 9th at 6:30
At Ponderosa Fire station
On Imperial Valley Dr.
Attend a meeting & be
North View Proud!

Holiday Season Safety

Follow these suggestions to help make your holiday merry and safe.

Decorations: Wear gloves if decorating with spun glass "angel hair." It can irritate your eyes & skin. A common substitute is non-flammable cotton. Both angel hair & cotton snow are flame retardant when used alone, but if artificial snow is sprayed on them, the dried combination burns rapidly. When spraying artificial snow on windows or other surfaces, be sure to follow directions as the sprays can irritate your lungs if inhaled.

Toys and Gifts: Be careful choosing toys for infants or small children. Be sure anything you give them is too big to get caught in the throat, nose or ears. Avoid toys with small parts that can be pulled or broken off. If you're giving toys to several children in one family, consider their age differences & the chances that younger kids will want to play with older kids' toys.

Plants: Small children may think that holiday plants look good enough to eat, but many plants can cause severe stomach problems. Plants to watch out for include: mistletoe, holly berries, Jerusalem cherry, & amaryllis. Keep all of these plants out of children's reach.

Candles: Never use candles near trees, boughs, curtains or drapes.

Fireplaces: Don't burn evergreens or wreaths in the fireplace or a wood stove to dispose of them. They could flare out of control & send flames & smoke into the room. Don't burn wrapping paper in the fireplace as some contain metallic materials that are toxic if burned.

Food and Cooking: The holidays often mean preparing large meals for family & friends. Wash hands, utensils, sink, & anything that comes in contact with raw poultry & remember that a stuffed bird takes longer to cook. Refrigerate or freeze leftovers in covered shallow containers immediately & date leftovers for future use. For questions about turkey prep & cooking call the Meat & Poultry Hotline at 1-800-535-4555.

Alcohol, Parties and Driving: Being a smart party host or guest should include being sensible about alcoholic drinks. More than half of all traffic fatalities are alcohol-related. Use designated drivers, people who do not drink, to drive other guests home after a holiday party.

Stress: The holiday season is one of the most stressful times of the year. You can't avoid stress completely, but you can give yourself some relief. Allow enough time to shop rather than hurry through stores & parking lots. Plan to do a reasonable number of errands. Take time out for yourself. Relax, read, or enjoy your favorite hobby at your own pace.



Annual Christmas Parade

North View Share Your Christmas Food Drive
Saturday, December 18th

Ponderosa Fire Department & Santa Clause

Will lead the Christmas Parade through North View
December 18th 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 community.

Come out to greet Santa and
Be nice, not naughty, by
Donating to the Food Drive and
Sharing your Christmas



Congratulations September Yard Of the Month Winner!

907 Northside
906 Vista Bend

Thanks for making North View such a great place to live! Winners receive a \$50 gift certificate from Houston Plant & Garden World.

Thank You! Throughout 2010 many North View residents have volunteered for everything from social events & donating ink jets, to driving for Neighborhood Watch & serving on the board, making NV an even better place to live & bringing our community closer. Special thanks to our official photographer, Mike Levand & all of our North View volunteers. "Thank You!"

The North View HOA Board Members are a Group of 5 volunteer homeowners that are elected by you, the residents of North View, to represent & protect the interests of North View. Below are a few of the things that the Board, with your input & help, has accomplished in 2010:

- *Replace 3rd pump in pump room pool with "Intelligent Pump"
- *Installed sprinkler system at pool
- *Installed 2nd water meter at pool to reduce water cost.
- *Replaced Volley Ball net
- *Replaced Tennis Court nets and poles
- *Replaced outdated electrical box
- *Removed trees & shrubs from pipeline

2011 ANNUAL MEETING

March 24th at 7pm

Ponderosa Fire Station Imperial Valley
ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS
held at this important meeting!



Upcoming 2011 Events

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

*Tis The Season...To Recycle

It's that time of year. All those holiday catalogs are arriving in the mail & stacking up all over the house. They are all recyclable & make money for North View.

Please bring all of your catalogs, magazines, newspapers, school & office papers plus that annoying junk mail, to the green and yellow Abatibi recycle bin at the Ponderosa Fire Station on Imperial Valley. It makes a great gift to...YOU! All money collected goes towards our North View Social Committee for events held throughout the year.

Be North View Proud! Recycle!



Join us at Spring Woods UMC for the Holiday Season!

December 4th: Breakfast with Santa 9:00am-10:30am

Enjoy a pancake breakfast with Santa!

Saturday: Frolics/Stay and Play 10:30am-4:00pm

Drop off the children for a day of making seasonal crafts, storytelling and a hot dog lunch while parents enjoy a day of shopping for Santa

December 5: Home for Christmas Concert 6:00pm

Christmas Carol with the Spring Woods Choir

December 24th: Christmas Eve Services

5:00pm: Family Worship Service & Children's musical

8:00pm: Candlelight Service, lesson & carols-Holy Communion will be offered

We are located between Ella & Kuykendahl at 1711 FM 1960 West, Houston TX 77090
281 444-6468 info@sw-umc.org



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



I will hold Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it there all year"~Charles Dickens

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

