

The Woodland WORD



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The Villages of
Woodland Springs
Homeowners' Association

The purpose of a homeowners association (HOA) is to maintain, enhance and protect the common areas and interests of the subdivision or neighborhood. Individual homeowners, as members of the association, pay periodic assessments, support & utilize neighborhood amenities (ponds, pools, parks, tennis courts, etc.). The assessments pay for community expenses such as entrance monuments, landscaping, amenities like clubhouses, tennis courts, or walking trails, insurance for commonly-owned structures and areas, an on-site management company, or any other item delineated in the governing documents or agreed to by the homeowners' association.

Board Members

President.....	Jim Houston
Vice President	Tony DeVito
Treasurer/Secretary	Frank Friar
Member	Lora Fulmer
Member	Frank McArthur
Member	Charles Stark
Member	Shirley Gansser

The Villages of
Woodland Springs
Homeowners' Association

The Villages of Woodland Springs Homeowners Association Professionally Managed by FirstService Residential



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FirstService Residential

Customer Service: 877-378-2388

Please use this telephone number to report all non-emergency complaints and information.

On-Site Management Team:

Craig Asaff, General Manager
Craig.Asaff@fsresidential.com

Claudia Lindsey, Assistant General Manager
Claudia.Lindsey@fsresidential.com

Jessica Chandler, Administrative Assistant
Vows.Admin@fsresidential.com

VOWS Office email - vows.admin@fsresidential.com

The On-Site office is located at the Amenity Center at
12209 Timberland.

On-Site Hours: Monday- Friday 9am-6pm
Saturdays 10am-4pm

On-Site Number: 817-741-1719

On-Site Fax: 817-741-1720

Account Services: 877-378-2388

www.woodlandspringshoa.com



At FirstService Residential we have very strong values!

We strive to meet these values every day for our residents and hope you will join us in recognizing those individuals who go above and beyond in delivering great customer service.

- ▶ **Have you witnessed an associate doing something great?**
- ▶ **Have you been exceptionally pleased with the service you have received?**
- ▶ **Do you want to let others know how awesome someone is?**

Help us show recognition to our Star Performers. Please email your feedback to starserviceonsite@fsresidential.com. Be sure to list the Star performers' name and community. Thank you for allowing us to serve you.

Your HOA Management Team



FirstService
RESIDENTIAL

The Woodland Word

Is the only authorized and official monthly publication for the residents of the Woodland Springs Community with news and a calendar of community events endorsed by the Woodland Springs HOA & its members.

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ADVERTISEMENT SALES

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**Advertising Deadline for the January 2019 Issue
Is November 30, 2018**

Woodland Springs and Community News Connection (CNC) do not in any way endorse or support, nor does it take any credit or responsibility for any of the services, paid or volunteer, listed herein. The Woodland Word is not paid for by the home owners' dues and is not funded by the HOA in any way. The Woodland Word is not a negative publication. It is a community publication created to inform and serve the community. The Woodland Word strives to report only good news; we do not allow articles on politics, religion, controversial topics or any editorials. We also reserve the right to refuse any advertiser or article submission that we feel is not right for this "community philosophy" or not a good fit for this publication.

COVENANT CORNER



Are you getting ready to make an addition to your house or build a new shed or fence in your back yard? Before you break out the miter saw, make sure to get your plans approved by our association's architectural committee.

While it may seem arbitrary from an individual homeowner's standpoint, the architectural committee looks out for the entire community. Aside from stopping residents from painting pink polka dots on their houses, the committee's job is to make sure that the size and style of the project, the type of building materials being used and the overall look of the new structure adhere to the association's design requirements. Not only does this keep the community looking cohesive, it also helps to keep property values up by preventing individual structures from standing out. Of course, it's also important to note that unapproved structures might legally have to be removed at the owner's expense, so save yourself money and headaches by getting approval before building.

So when you're ready to start your new project, or if the design of your project changes midway through building it, send your plans to the architectural committee first so that we can make sure they're in compliance with the association's design standards. If we do find any issues, we'll let you know what they are and try to help you come up with other options. We appreciate all the hard work residents have done to make their homes and this community beautiful—help us keep this association looking great by keeping us in the loop of all your building projects.

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NOTARY ON SITE

Notary Public services are now at the VOWS HOA office. Services are provided by appointment only.

Please call or send an email to claudia.lindsey@fsresidential.com to schedule and appointment.

Services are free to VOWS residents.



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11845 Alta Vista Road in Keller, 76248

Restrictions apply, see Center Director for details. Offer valid only once per family at Children's Lighthouse Woodland Springs location only.

CODE BLUE CONNECTION

Winter Safety

Before the chilly temperatures of winter set in, make sure your vehicle is prepared for the conditions, especially if you have plans for a winter road trip.

- Visit a mechanic for a tune up and routine maintenance check
- Make sure you know how your vehicle handles in snow covered or icy roads. Does your vehicle have anti-lock brakes? Know what to expect.
- Check all sensors, lights and cameras to make sure they are working properly
- When the temperature drops, so does the battery power. For gas and diesel engines, it takes more battery power to start your vehicle.
- For Electric and Hybrid Electric vehicles, the driving range is reduced when the battery is cold
- Make sure your washer reservoir has fluid with de-icer
- Inspect your tires for proper tread.



When the outside temperature drops, so does the tire inflation pressure.

Check your owner's manual or driver's door for the correct pressure.

- Check your spare tire

When traveling in winter, carry all supplies you might need in an emergency

- Blankets
- Jumper cables
- Flashlight and Flares

- Shovel
- Food and Water

Here are some Winter Safety Tips

- Don't leave your vehicle warming up with the keys in the ignition.
- Always secure your children in safety car seats
- Never text and drive or drink and drive
- Drive slowly, don't rush on snow and ice
- Leave extra room in-between your vehicle and the one ahead
- When driving in poor visibility conditions, use your headlights
- Never leave valuables in plain view in a parked vehicle
- Always lock your vehicle

From Officer Barry Sawyer and the Woodland Springs Citizens on Patrol we want to wish you a Happy New Year! Officer Barry Sawyer is our Neighborhood Police Officer (NPO) and can be reached at 817 994-3453 or barry.sawyer@fortworthtexas.gov.

We Build CONFIDENCE

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Avoiding Conflict with the Neighbors

We all *can* just get along. The key? Communication. It's often the best way to prevent and resolve conflict before it reaches the legal system. You don't have to be friends or spend time together to achieve a peaceful coexistence, but you should try to be a good neighbor and follow these tips:

Say hello. At the mailbox, while walking the dog or when you see a moving van arrive, introduce yourself. Learn your neighbors' names and regularly offer a friendly greeting.

Provide a heads up. If you're planning a construction project, altering your landscaping or hosting a big party, contact your neighbors beforehand.

Do unto others. Treat neighbors as you would like to be treated. Be considerate about noise from vehicles, stereos, pets, etc.

Know your differences. Make an effort to understand each other. Differences in age, ethnic background and years in the neighborhood can lead to different expectations or misunderstandings.

Consider the view. Keep areas of your property that others can see presentable.

Appreciate them. If the neighbors do something you like, let them know. They'll be pleased you noticed, and it'll be easier to talk later if they do something you don't like.

Stay positive. Most people don't try to create problems. If a neighbor does something that irritates you, don't assume it was deliberate.

Talk honestly. Tolerance is important, but don't let a real irritation go because it seems unimportant or hard to discuss. Let your neighbors know if something they do annoys.


Be respectful. Talk directly to your neighbors if there's a problem. Gossiping with others can damage relationships and create trouble.

Remain calm. If a neighbor mentions a problem they have with you, thank them for the input. You don't have to agree or justify any behavior. Wait for any anger to subside before responding.

Listen carefully. When discussing a problem, try to understand your neighbor's position and why he or she feels that way.

Take your time. Take a break to think about what you and your neighbor have discussed. Arrange to finish the conversation at another time.

4th Annual
**CHRISTMAS PAWS
 FOR A CAUSE**
 benefitting




THE POUR SHACK
 (fka Bronson Rock)

DECEMBER 09 2018
250 S MAIN STREET, KELLER TX 76248

4PM - 10PM

Music, Dancing, Door Prizes, Basket Drawings, Silent Auctions,
 Visit from Santa, Food & Drink Specials, Plus So Much More!

 Search 4th Annual Christmas Paws for a Cause on Facebook.



As a nonprofit hunger relief organization, we distribute donated, purchased and prepared foods through a network of more than 340 Food Assistance Partners in 13 counties. Every day, we support the nutritional needs of children, families and seniors through education, advocacy and strategic partnerships.



North Texas Food Bank
4500 S. Cockrell Hill Road
Dallas, TX 75236-2028
214.330.1396
ntfb.org

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

*If you'd like to inform residents of a club, group, hobby, or interest, let us know - email the management office at [vows.admin@fsresidential.com](mailto:admin@fsresidential.com) with the subject **ACTIVITIES**. Only residents who are current with VOWS HOA assessments may participate. All meetings below are at the Amenity Center unless otherwise noted. Please note that scheduled activities or details may change after The Woodland Word goes to print, but up-to-date info can be found at: www.woodlandspringshoa.com/community-events-calendar/*

VOWS OWLS

Over 50? Meet fun folks at our weekly event. Bingo, card games, exercise classes and potlucks are just a few of the future activities planned. Our goal is to bring together senior residents in our community for fun activities. Meets every Wednesday at 10:00 AM in the Amenity Center.

DAYTIME CRAFTERS

Crafters group that meets monthly at the Amenity Center. Open to anyone in the HOA. Bring any project you want to work on or just come and see what others are doing. Bring your own food and drink and feel free to come and go at any time. This is a great opportunity to meet your neighbors, share ideas and have fun. Email Janas Horner at janashorner@earthlink.net for more information.

ADULT INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS ENGLISH CLASSES

Meet new friends as you learn English! Classes are available at beginning, advanced beginning, and intermediate levels. Focus is on vocabulary, grammar, and conversation as well as on learning everyday tasks like banking, shopping, making appointments, and completing job applications. Students from varied backgrounds and language groups are welcome. Contact Dorothy O'Grady (817.337.7458) or Lawrence Duhon (817.431.2545) to register. Location: First Baptist Church of Keller, 225 Keller Parkway, Keller, TX 76248, Room 224. Fee: \$5 total for class book and workbook.

VOWS BOOK CLUB

Meets the second Thursday of the month at 8:00 pm. Books are nominated and voted on by members. Add yourself to the Facebook group "woodland springs book club" for more information.

WALKERS/RUNNERS/BIKERS/TRI-ATHLETES

Saturdays 6:30 am; meet at Bray Birch Park to go for a walk, run, or bike ride. Walkers/Runners are diverse in experience.

HOMESCHOOL GROUP

VOWS residents who homeschool children are invited to join the homeschool group, created to support each other. Please contact Holly Bender by email at vowshomeschool@gmail.com with HOMESCHOOL in the subject line.

PLAYGROUP

Bray Birch Park after school 3:00 pm. Everyone is welcome!

TODDLER PLAYGROUP

Playgroup for preschool age children. Please go to the VOWS Facebook page at facebook.com/woodland.springs and search "VOWS Playgroup in the search box for more information on this group.

CRAFT NIGHT

VOWS hosts a craft night each month – see calendar for date. Admission is an item to share for the potluck meal; please bring your own drink. (No alcohol). For more info: dikes1@aol.com with the subject "CRAFT NIGHT".

THE COWTOWN STACKERS CUP STACKING CLUB

This group meets Thursdays from 5:00 pm -6:00 pm at the VOWS amenity center on Timberland Blvd. Stackers from ages 5-95 with skill levels from beginner to expert are invited to attend. Cost is free but please bring your own cups, timer, and stack mat. For more information, contact Jimmy and Carmen Griffith at jcgx4@sbcglobal.net.

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Call 972-396-8855

or email

info@communitynewsconnection.com
for ad rates and sizes.



Yard of the Month is taking a break.

See you next Spring!

VOWS OWLS

Older, **W**iser, **L**ively **S**eniors



Every Wednesday
VOWS Amenity
Center
10 AM – 11:30 AM

Over 50? Meet with fun folks at our weekly event. Bingo, card games, exercise classes and potlucks are just a few of the activities planned. Our goal is to bring together senior residents in our neighborhood for fun activities. We plan to meet weekly on Wednesdays at 10:00 AM in the Amenity Center.

For more information, please contact the HOA office at 817-741-1719.

Animal Care & Education

The City of Fort Worth provides numerous tools for pet owners within the community. They offer educational courses on how pet owners can best treat and care for their four-legged companions. You may register for one of these classes by submitting the form which can be found at <http://fortworthtexas.gov/animals/education/>.

One concern for residents, is noise complaints. If you experience this issue, please keep a record of each disturbance and call the City of Fort Worth non-emergency police number 817.392.1234.





DECEMBER GARDEN CHORES

Planting:

- Plant pre-chilled tulip and hyacinth bulbs (late December/early January). Plant daffodil and grape hyacinth.
- Plant pansies, flowering kale and cabbage, dianthus, cyclamen, violas and other cool season annuals.
- Continue to plant shade trees, fruit trees, and evergreen shrubs.

Pruning:

- Prune evergreen trees such as magnolias, live oaks, and wax myrtles if needed.
- Re-shape evergreen shrubs if needed.

Plant Care:

- Mulch leaves from the lawn. Shred excess leaves and add to planting beds or compost pile.
- Water lawn and all other plants once every three weeks or so, if supplemental rainfall is less than one inch in a three-week period.
- Fertilize cool-season color plants early in the month. Apply root-stimulator fertilizer to all newly transplanted trees and shrubs.
- Protect pansies, tender shrubs and other plants from hard freezes by covering with lightweight landscape fabric weighed down with bricks or rocks.

What your Board of Directors does for You



As a recognized homeowners association, our community has a board to help our HOA run smoothly. The board consists of volunteers who execute a wide variety of tasks you may not be aware of; however, their work affects every single resident.

One of the most important things the board does is create and enforce the association rules. While some residents may not like being told what they can and can't do, ultimately the board is looking out for the greater good. By enforcing the rules, the board is doing its best to keep property value up and conflicts down. Of course, the board wants to make sure the rules are beneficial for the majority—and hopefully all—residents. You are welcome to raise concerns about the rules at open board meetings.

Another major responsibility of the board is to collect assessments from homeowners. Collecting this money is important for the stability of the association, because the assessments pay for the common elements enjoyed by all residents. Assessments also help to replenish the reserve funds, which pay for any major repairs the association may need. The board is responsible for the association's finances, and collecting assessments is how it ensures that the association remains solvent.

Finally, the board acts on behalf of the association by hiring managers, attorneys, contractors and other professionals who help better the association. Board members also help conceive and lead many of the projects that will improve the HOA.

While it's a big job, board members are happy to serve the residents and make the community a great place to call home. So why not learn more about what these volunteers do by talking to your board members, attending an open board meeting or even running for a seat on the board during our next election? The more people we have looking out for our association, the stronger it will be.

Get Your Business Noticed Advertise Here

Call 972-396-8855 or
info@communitynewsconnection.com
for ad rates and sizes.

PREVENTING PACKAGE THEFT

It's the most wonderful time of the year — until your package gets stolen from your doorstep.

With more than 75 package thefts reported in just one section of Capitol Hill at the beginning of this year, UPS says parts of the District are the worst in the region for package thefts.

Want to avoid these “crimes of opportunity”? Here are a few tips to keep your packages safe during the holidays:

1. Ask for a tracking number to know when your package is delivered. Track your packages and try to be home at the time of delivery, the Alexandria Police Department suggests. When you're placing an order, try to schedule shipment for a day you expect to be home, if possible.
2. Not sure if you'll be available for your tracked package's delivery? FedEx and United States Postal Service (USPS) suggest scheduling your delivery beforehand to set a time you know you'll be home.
3. FedEx also suggests requesting a signature for delivery. This will ensure the package won't be left at your door without you there to sign and bring it safely inside.
4. Want your package placed at the back door or behind a porch plant instead? Leave a note specifying what less conspicuous spot you would like it left. The FedEx Delivery Manager lets you leave delivery instructions on where you want your deliveries to be dropped off.
5. Have your packages delivered somewhere else. If you know you won't be home when your package will be delivered, FedEx and United Parcel Service (UPS) tell you to opt for delivering it to a neighbor who is home or to your workplace, if allowed.

6. Another option is to deliver your packages to a retail store or locker, where they'll stay safe until you can pick them up at your convenience. Many retailers will let you place online orders and then pick up your items in the store. You can also look into the Amazon Locker service, which delivers Amazon orders to a “locker” in your area; you're provided a pickup code that will unlock the door for you. And the U.S. Postal Service suggests taking advantage of their Request Hold Mail service, which securely holds letters and packages at your local post office until you're back in town. FedEx and UPS also have similar location delivery services.

7. UPS suggests signing up for a service called “UPS My Choice,” which allows users to request their packages to be held at a UPS store for pick-up and more. You can control the service through text or email; it includes features such as delivery notices and the option to re-route your packages to a different address if you won't be home. You can also re-route your packages using the FedEx Delivery Manager.



Did you know that VOWS has a Facebook page???

The number of users on our neighborhood Facebook page is growing! We find this to be a great tool to get the word out about everything from lost pets to community events and everything in between.



Visit
facebook.com/woodland.springs
today!

It's important to note that the Facebook page is not monitored or endorsed by the Homeowner Association or FirstService Residential. It was created by residents as a tool to help inform neighbors of things such as missing pets, items for sale and barter, small groups and events, and so much more.

Give the gift
of **DANCE**
this holiday
season!

Ages 2 - Adult
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Keller, Texas 76248
817-428-8232
northcentralballet.com

**2 weeks of
FREE
ballet
lessons**
*new students only



SANTA IS COMING TO VOWS!

Saturday, December 1st

**Enjoy breakfast and have
your picture taken with Santa
at the Amenity Center on
Saturday, December 1st.**

Residents can attend either a breakfast
session at 8:30 or 10 a.m., or the photo
only session at 11 a.m.

Registration is required.

Registration opens on 11/1/18,
<https://vowsbreakfast.athlete360.com/>

Under Contract
12444 Wood's Edge Trail

Just Sold
3213 Gidran
2065 Normandy Drive
4813 Lake Side Circle
5516 Annie Creek



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AMENITY CENTER RULES & REGULATIONS

Thinking of renting the Amenity Center for a party or event?

**Please call the office today at
(817) 741-1719 to reserve your spot.**

The Amenity Center can be rented by VOWS homeowners for their personal use. However, in the interest of maintaining the Center, avoiding extra work for the on-site staff, avoiding potential damages and keeping the Center in good condition, rules and regulations have been established for its use. A few rules are as follows: No Alcohol, no pets, and no fog machines. For a complete list of rules visit our website at www.woodlandspringshoa.com.

When each homeowner rents the Amenity Center, a contract must be signed signifying their understanding, acceptance, an agreement to follow the rules and regulations regarding the rental. Violation of any of these rental conditions is cause for denial of future rentals.

A deposit of \$500 is also required. This deposit will be returned in full after the event if the Amenity Center is cleaned, put in order, and determined to be damage-free. A list of the charges that will be deducted from the deposit for non-compliance is provided each renter at the time the rental contract is signed.

Each renter should take pictures and provide them to the office staff to verify the condition of the Amenity Center when the rental is started in order to avoid potential deductions from the deposit amount.



Cut Down Your Own Christmas Tree

Christmas memories are some of the best memories for many of people. The traditions that have been passed down, delicious holiday dishes served year after year and families gathered around the Christmas tree are favorite celebrations during the season.

This year perhaps make a new memory or bring the tradition back to your family and go to a Christmas Tree Farm to cut down your own tree. There are several Christmas Tree Farms near the North Texas area. Here two farms you might want to visit.

4D Christmas Tree Farm Weatherford

3900 Upper Denton Rd • Weatherford, TX 76085

(817) 313-2914

www.4dfarm.com

Saturday: 9-4

Sunday: 1-4

Take the family to 4D Farm, just 30 minutes west of Fort Worth to choose and cut your Christmas tree or select a pre-cut Frazier Fir, enjoy a tractor pulled hayride, shop in the artisan holiday market or sip hot apple cider and eat homemade holiday cookies.

Mainstay Farm

1004 W. Bethesda Rd • Cleburne, TX 76031

817-295-6772

www.mainstayfarm.com/christmasfarmadventure

Saturdays 10-5:30 and Sunday 12:30 - 5:30

Open November 27-29, and following Saturdays and Sundays through Dec 16.

Mainstay Farm, 25 miles south of Fort Worth has over 70 acres of fun activities, rides and attractions for hours of holiday entertainment. You can search the fields for your perfect Christmas tree, choose a pre-cut Christmas tree, shop in the Haymarket, take a ride on a tubing hill or roast marshmallows at the S'more Station. Your kids can also visit Santa in the barn. Tickets purchased online are available at a discount or full price purchased at the gate.

PARKING IN VOWS

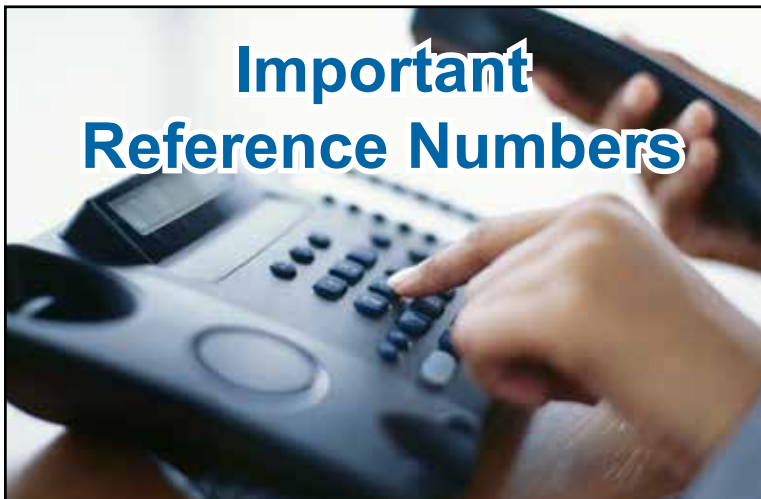
- Be considerate of your neighbors and do not park or let guests park in or in front of your neighbor's driveway.
- Remember, RV's, Trailers, and Inoperable Vehicles are not allowed on property.
- Repairs or restoration of vehicles other than routine short-term maintenance.
- Community parking is limited, so please try to park in your garage and driveway whenever possible.
- Do not allow your car to overhang the sidewalk when parking in your driveway. This forces pedestrians and children to walk in the street, which is unsafe.
- If you park vehicles on the street, please ask visitors to be considerate and park in off street lots or in your driveway so that they don't take a neighbor's street parking.
- If you own more than 2 cars or have cars that won't fit in your driveway, please find an off-street parking lot to park these vehicles. Only park on the street as a last resort.
- Ensure that you are not blocking a resident's driveway and that your car is not making it difficult for another to enter or leave their driveway. Please park at least two feet from the farthest edge of any driveway.
- Obey all parking signs (such as "no parking" signs).
- Obey and ask guests to obey all speed limits to keep our neighborhood safe.



**Here's a
Bright
Idea**

Advertise in this publication and reach the colorful characters right in your own neighborhood.
Contact us today!
 972-396-8855
info@communitynewsconnection.com

Important Reference Numbers



Important Reference Numbers

Animal Control.....	817-392-1234
Code Enforcement.....	817-392-1234
Fire (non-emergency).....	817-922-3000
Graffiti.....	817-392-3670
Police (non-emergency).....	817-392-1234
Trash/ Recycle.....	817-392-1234
Water.....	817-392-4477
VOWS (onsite office).....	817-741-1719
VOWS (after hours).....	877-378-2388



DIY CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN CALENDAR

How many days to Christmas? When does Santa Claus come? When can I open presents? These are questions that children ask over and over during holiday break in anticipation of the big day. This year make your own countdown to Christmas calendar using this idea.

SHOE ORGANIZER CALENDAR

Supplies:

1. Over the door pocket shoe organizer
2. 24 Plain or colored Note Cards
3. Clothes Pins
4. Christmas candy and wrapped trinkets or small toys

This easy countdown calendar can be created fairly simply and can be displayed on a closet or hallway door. Hang the shoe organizer over a door, write the numbers 1 to 24 on the note cards and use the clothes pins to attach the note cards to each pocket. Place a Christmas candy or one wrapped toy in each pocket. Each day your child can remove the number and receive the surprise in the pocket.

<https://bit.ly/2CZsB3s>

MUFFIN TIN CALENDAR

Supplies:

1. Metal 24 muffin tin
2. Colorful Christmas paper cut into 24 circles slightly larger than the muffin cup opening
3. Marker or pen - write the numbers 1 to 24 in the center of the circle
4. Christmas candy and small toys or trinkets
5. School Glue

Place a Christmas candy, toy or trinket in each muffin cup, and glue the numbered paper circles over the muffin cup. Let your child punch through one muffin cup each day to countdown til Christmas. (School glue washes off the muffin tin easily.)

<https://bit.ly/2EXFGx9>

HOLIDAY BOOKS CALENDAR

Quickly becoming a Christmas tradition is collecting 24 holiday books to use as a countdown to Christmas. Wrap your favorite short story holiday books in Christmas wrapping paper. Let your kids unwrap a book and family members can take turns reading aloud each day until Christmas day. 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas', 'The Polar Express', and the 'Night before Christmas' are a few holiday book suggestions to collect or borrow from your local library for a Holiday Book Calendar.

North Central Ballet
presents

The Nutcracker

December 1, 7:30 PM
&
December 2, 2:00 PM

Will Rogers
Memorial Auditorium
3401 W. Lancaster
Fort Worth, TX 76109

**1/2 PRICE
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(with purchase of
regular priced ticket)

Enter Promo Code: BALLET
Tickets: \$35.00 *plus service fee

Tickets available at
www.nutcrackertickets.com





Planning to be out of town? Even with a neighbor or a friend watching the house, it's a good idea to contact the VOWS Off Duty Officers to come do a Vacation House Check. (available year round)

Homeowners just need to email them a week in advance, please include the details of the attached sheet, you'll get a response it was received. They really need at least a week to hear from you in case more info needed, so don't wait until the last minute to email them!

Off Duty Officers that VOWS hires will come by and check on the house, NOT just drive by. They will check the door, etc.

Just email : Police4VOWS@gmail.com

Save the Date!



**If you are not currently receiving emails from the HOA, please email us so that we can add you to the list:
vows.admin@fsresidential.com**

December 2018 Upcoming Events:

December 1st Breakfast With Santa
December 4th Board Meeting
December 13th Craft Night
December 25th Christmas



Peanut Blossoms

The perfect treat for holiday cookie exchanges!

1 3/4 c. flour	1/2 c. sugar (white)
1 t. baking soda	1/2 c. brown sugar
1/2 t. salt	1 egg (unbeaten)
1/2 c. shortening	1 t. vanilla
1/2 c. peanut butter	36 chocolate kisses

Sift flour, baking soda and salt. In a separate bowl, cream shortening and peanut butter. Gradually add sugar (white) and brown sugar. Cream well. Add egg and vanilla. Beat well. Blend in the dry ingredients. Mix thoroughly. Shape dough into balls using a well rounded teaspoonful for each. Roll balls in sugar and place on greased baking sheet. Bake in 375° oven for 10 minutes. Remove from oven. Top each cookie with a chocolate kiss, pressing down firmly. Return to oven. Bake 2-5 minutes longer. (Cookies will crack around edge)

DECEMBER 2018 LANDSCAPE TIPS



Here are some great things to do in our landscapes in the month of December. Here's just a few of those tips:

- Put your FREEZE PLAN in effect
- Mulch beds for protection during winter months
- Continue to check your irrigation system monthly, and make sure you have a rain/freeze stat to shut it down when temperatures drop
- After the second freeze, if it happens this month, begin to cut back your perennials. You can mulch over them for some extra protection.
- And don't forget garden gifts for your favorite gardener during the holiday season.



Plant of the Month: Cyclamen

A common winter flower used in the landscape is the Cyclamen. It is not very winter hardy so you must consider covering in sub-freezing temperatures. It can do quite well throughout the winter except for those low temp nights. You can cover lightly with freeze cloth. It is best planted in somewhat protected areas near homes or buildings but is very colorful (reds, pinks, white, fuchsia) in shade or sun.



Ever wonder about Poinsettias?

How about a few fun facts...and myths about these beautiful Holiday plants.

- Joel Roberts Poinsett introduced the poinsettia plant to the U.S. from Mexico.
- In Mexico the poinsettia is a perennial shrub that will grow 10-15' tall.
- There are more than 100 varieties of poinsettias available today. Most noted varieties are red, white, pink and speckled.
- The showy colored parts of poinsettias are not the flowers of the plant, but instead are actually colored bracts (modified leaves).
- Poinsettias are not poisonous has some would like to believe. A study at Ohio State University showed that a 50 lb. child would have to consume more than 500 leaves to have any harmful effect... besides the taste is probably awful.
- Best to keep pets away from snacking on poinsettias as it can cause gastric distress...and all that is implied with that!
- The plant does ooze a milky sap which may cause skin reactions/ rashes, especially those with latex allergies.
- December 12th is Poinsettia Day, which marks the death of Joel Roberts Poinsett in 1851.



CHIMNEY SAFETY

There's nothing as serene as a warm, crackling fire on a cold, winter night. There's also nothing more dangerous if your chimney is damaged.

Broken or cracked chimneys can let heat, smoke and toxic gasses, such as carbon monoxide, into your home. Your home could even catch fire. Chimney damage is often obvious, but sometimes it can be hidden. Use the following checklist, provided by Ready Virginia!, to help ensure that you can enjoy your fireplace and avoid problems—or even a disaster:

- Check to see if bricks have fallen or the chimney is leaning.
- Look for shiny areas on your exterior metal chimney pipe. This could mean the chimney has shifted—during the recent East Coast earthquake, for instance.
- Look for cracks at joints where the chimney connects to the firebox, at the roofline and in the attic.
- Check for debris that may have fallen into the fireplace.
- Use a screwdriver to check the mortar between the bricks or stones. If it crumbles when you pick at it, the chimney may be a hazard and probably needs work.
- When in doubt, consult a licensed engineer or contractor. For the name of an inspector, call your insurance or mortgage company.

Remember, disasters can happen even in the best of homes. That's why every home should be equipped with carbon monoxide and smoke detectors. Here are a few tips:

- Install carbon monoxide and smoke detectors in sleeping areas and on every level of your home and away from air vents. Interconnected smoke alarms are best, because if one sounds, they all sound.
- Test smoke alarms monthly, and change alkaline batteries at least once a year. Use a familiar date, such as your birthday or when you change your clocks, as a reminder.
- Prepare and practice a fire escape route with everyone in your home, including children.

For more information, visit www.usfa.dhs.gov/smokealarms.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS – DECEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Breakfast With Santa 8:30am
2	3	4 Board Meeting 6:30pm	5 VOWS OWLS 10-11:30am	6 Cowtown Stackers 5-6pm	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 Daytime Crafters 10am-2pm Cowtown Stackers 5-6pm Craft Night 6-10pm	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 Cowtown Stackers 5-6pm	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 New Year's Eve 31		Christmas				



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