

# 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.....	Tony DeVito
Vice President .....	Jim Houston
Treasurer .....	Chad Pack
Secretary .....	Frank Friar
Director .....	Chuck Stark
Director .....	Chris Collins
Director .....	Frank McArthur

The Villages of  
**Woodland Springs**  
Homeowners' Association

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



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**On-Site Management Team:**

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

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

Taunya Pair, 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**



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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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**Advertising Deadline for the January 2020 Issue  
Is November 21, 2019**

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# 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](mailto:vows.admin@fsresidential.com)

## December 2019 Upcoming Events:

Board Meeting ..... December 3rd  
Breakfast with Santa... December 7th  
Daytime Crafters..... December 12th  
Christmas ..... December 25th



**Yard of the Month is taking a break.**

*See you next Spring!*

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## QUARTZ



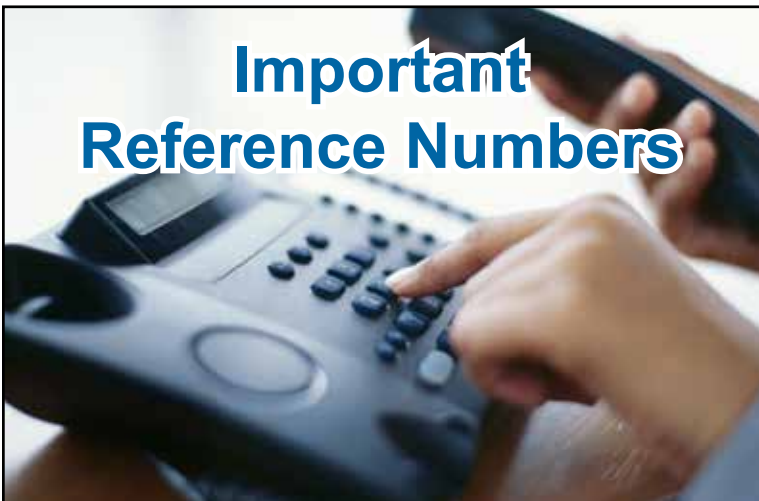
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## Important Reference Numbers



### 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).....	817-392-4222
Trash/ Recycle.....	817-392-1234
Water.....	817-392-4477
VOWS (onsite office).....	817-741-1719
VOWS (after hours).....	877-378-2388

## Late Fees on Past Due Assessments

Semi-annual assessments are due on January 1st and July 1st each year. Please pay the full amount due by January 30th and July 30th respectively, or late fees will occur. Payments can be made online at ClickPay.com, the online payment provider for FirstService Residential. Homeowners can make one-time payments or set up monthly payments through ClickPay. Payments can be made by e-check (ACH) for free, or by credit/debit card for a small processing fee. Get started by creating your account at [www.ClickPay.com/FirstService](http://www.ClickPay.com/FirstService). For help getting started, visit [www.ClickPay.com/GetHelp](http://www.ClickPay.com/GetHelp) or call 1-888-354-0135.



### Late fee schedule as follows:

**30 Days late:** \$270.00 Dues + \$25.00 1st Late fee + \$15.00 Reminder Notice = \$310

**60 Days late:** \$310 Balance + \$25.00 2nd Late fee + \$15.00 Second Notice = \$350

**90 Days late:** \$350 Balance+ \$25.00 3rd Late fee + \$80.00 Demand Letter = \$455

A late fee of \$25.00 will be applied each month until the balance exceeds \$800.00. Once the balance exceeds \$800.00, the account will be transferred to the attorney for collection and homeowner will incur substantial additional legal expenses.

## North Central Ballet *presents* *The Nutcracker*

December 7, 7:30 PM  
&  
December 8, 2:00 PM

Will Rogers  
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# SANTA IS COMING TO VOWS!

**Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Enjoy breakfast and have  
your picture taken with Santa  
at the Amenity Center on  
Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>.**

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

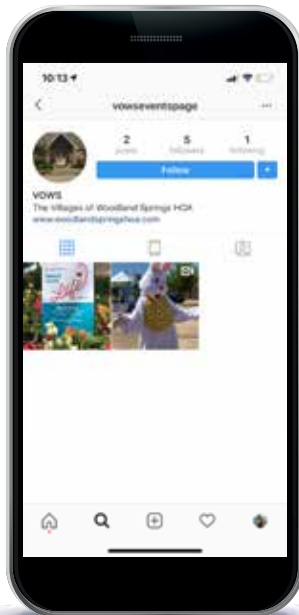
*Registration is required.*

Registration opens on 11/1/19,  
<https://vowsbreakfast.athlete360.com/>

## FOLLOW US!

### The Villages of Woodland Springs is on Instagram!

Follow @VOWSEventsPage for  
event updates and featured  
volunteers! If you see someone  
doing a good  
deed in the  
neighborhood  
please be sure  
to tag the new  
page!



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[ntfb.org](http://ntfb.org)

## YEAR AT A GLANCE

**December 7th**  
Breakfast  
with Santa

**12** 2019  
DECEMBER





## 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](mailto:claudia.lindsey@fsresidential.com) to schedule and appointment.

Services are free to VOWS residents.

## COVENANT CORNER

# TRASH CARTS: Pick Up and Storage

Fort Worth provides residential curbside garbage pickup one time per week in the residents choice of three brown cart sizes. The city also offers weekly collection of recycling in the blue carts and yard waste in the green carts. All weekly collections take place on the same day.

For items that are too large, heavy or bulky to fit into the brown garbage cart, curbside collection is made monthly.

- All garbage must be contained in garbage bags within the brown cart.
- The lid must be completely closed.
- Overstuffed carts will not be picked up.
- Bags left outside the cart will not be picked up (except city-issued Pay Bags).
- The cart must be at the curb by 7 a.m. on your pickup day.
- You may set out your cart after 6 p.m. the night before your pickup day.
- Place cart so that the handle faces your house and the serial number faces the street.
- Place cart a few inches from the curb or edge of the street; do not place cart in street.
- Retrieve cart from curb by midnight on your pickup day.
- City ordinance requires residents to store carts so they can't be seen from a public street while standing in front of the house.

Please see the chart from the City of Fort Worth on proper placement of carts.

### Here is what your HOA DDD&R's state about trash storage:

- 5.2.3 Dumping and Trash. No Lot or other area on the Property shall be used as a dumping ground for rubbish or a site for the accumulation of unsightly materials of any kind, including, without limitation, broken or rusty equipment, disassembled or inoperative cars, other vehicles or discarded appliances, furniture and/or grass clippings. Trash, garbage or other waste shall not be kept on any Lot except in sanitary containers hidden from view of the street. All incinerators or equipment for the storage or other disposal of such material shall be kept in clean and sanitary condition. Materials incident to construction of improvements may be stored on Lots during construction so long as construction progresses without undue delay.

## DFWHS Pet of the Month

### Meet Brownie!

For any of you concerned about your diet, I'm a Brownie that doesn't come with the guilt! I'm big and beautiful as well as playful and energetic. I love toys and running and water and playing and fetching and loving. I could go on, but I have to save some mystery for when you come to meet me. I am a friendly 3-year-old gal. I am best suited as your only fur baby due to my size and energetic personality. I like a lot of attention. I will be a loyal companion. Let's meet— at DFW Humane Society ([www.dfwhumane.com](http://www.dfwhumane.com))



Brownie is ready for her loving forever home and includes the following:

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- Microchip Enrollment
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- Leash

If you'd like to express interest in adopting, please contact us at [www.dfwhumane.com](http://www.dfwhumane.com) or call 972-721-7788

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# WAYS TO PUT A SPAM FILTER ON YOUR POSTAL MAILBOX

**S**ome days it seems like all you get is junk mail delivered directly by your local mail carrier to your home. To save you some time and aggravation and make the earth a little greener, here are some options to reduce unwanted mail delivered by the local post office:

## Stop all those miscellaneous catalogs from being mailed to you

You can selectively choose which catalogs you put an end to by going to this free site [www.Catalogchoice.org](http://www.Catalogchoice.org) where they walk you through a list and give you directions to put an end to all those unwanted catalogs (if you are not a customer). It gives you directions if you have been a customer and no longer want those catalogs how to contact the companies to stop them too.

Ever get tired of throwing away all those endless weekly mountains of coupons and newspapers each Wednesday from

RedPlum publications? You can put a stop to that mountain of unwanted stuff by going to this site and unsubscribing:

[www.redplum.com/tools/direct-mail-preferences](http://www.redplum.com/tools/direct-mail-preferences)

Along those same lines, we've all received those blue Valpak envelopes on what seems like a weekly basis with lots of local coupons. You can stop those from hitting your mail box by going to this site:

[www.valpak.com/coupons/show/maillinglistsuppression](http://www.valpak.com/coupons/show/maillinglistsuppression)

But if there are some coupons you do want, you can just go directly to their site and print them out for your use.

## New Bank accounts, insurance or credit card offers – Opting Out

Go to [www.optoutprescreen.com](http://www.optoutprescreen.com) online or you can phone at no charge this number 1-888-5-OPT-OUT (1-888-567-8688) to opt out of receiving unsolicited offers for both insurance and credit cards. Four of the major consumer reporting companies, operate this “opt out” service and it gets rave reviews for being effective.





For either 5 years or permanently, you can block those pesky insurance and unsolicited credit card offers – your choice! If you go this route, you will have to provide pertinent personal information, including your Social Security number, birthday and phone number. This option can also be reversed, should you ever decide you want to receive offers again.

The Federal Trade Commission states that these types of offers for bank accounts, credit cards and insurance are more than just a trash irritation. As these mailed items are typically preprinted with your personal information, they can pose a financial risk to you if your mail falls into the wrong hands, since thieves could open fraudulent accounts in your name without you knowing about it. So to be totally safe, it's a good idea to shred anything which has any of your personal information, address or bar coding on it. It's a hassle but better safe than sorry!

### There's an App for that!

We found two different apps to help in your question to opt-out of junk mail either on your computer or phones or your mailbox.

For your phone or computer we found this app named Unroll.me This new app is makes it simple to unsubscribe from email updates, newsletters, social media updates, airline/travel deals of the day and other annoying notifications. Unroll.me works on most phones but not all. It works with most of the major email providers – Windows Live, MSN, Outlook,

Yahoo, Gmail, iCloud, AOL and Hotmail. So take a look and see if your provider is covered!

The Second App we found was [www.paperkarma.com](http://www.paperkarma.com). You download the PaperKarma app and take a photo of the unwanted mailing with your smartphone. Now the PaperKarma app attempts to do all the unsubscribing work for you.

### Last but not least - Go Old School and do it yourself one piece at a time

Old School is slower and takes valuable time out of your busy day, but is still a very effective way to opt-out. Start by collecting all the catalogs you don't want to receive any longer and one by one either phone them or contact them online. Most major catalogs will have a customer service tab on their site and lots have an unsubscribe option. Before I found those sites listed above, I sat down once a week for maybe 30 minutes and before long saw the fruit from my labors!

You can't stop some things in life so no matter what, as election days come close, you will still receive political mailings. Some political committees and organizations may have contact information on the bottom which you can contact and opt-out, but for local elections we found no sites where you can stop the mailings.

Now that you've cleaned up your mail boxes and have less clutter in your life, you can get back to doing more fun things with your new found time!

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# What your Board of Directors does for You



**A**s 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.

**The Board of Directors elections are coming up in February 2020. If you would like to run for the Board please fill out the nomination form that will be going out with the January 2020 statements.**

**VOWS Safety/Security Committee:  
VACATION HOUSE CHECKS**

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)

Home owners 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](mailto:Police4VOWS@gmail.com)**



## Reach Your Neighbors! Advertise in this Magazine!



Contact Community News  
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for more information:

**972-396-8855**

**[info@communitynewsconnection.com](mailto:info@communitynewsconnection.com)**

# CODE BLUE CONNECTION

## STARTING 2020 OFF RIGHT

The New Year is right around the corner. I'm happy to say that 2019 has been one of the safest years in Woodland Springs! When a neighborhood is the size of a small city, this could be a momentous occasion. We have all been warned to lock our cars, take our belongings and watch out for suspicious people/vehicles. So why the downturn in crime? More residents are investing in home surveillance systems. Some may even get them as Christmas presents. The most popular RING doorbell not only allows you to see who is at your door, it also lets the homeowner speak to the person, while it records the moment.

FYPD has a surveillance "Camera Program" where you register your address as a camera owner. If crime is reported in your area, you may get a call from FYPD to view your video. You can register your residence at [police@fortworthtexas.gov](mailto:police@fortworthtexas.gov).

Residents are also becoming involved and aware of what's happening on their block. There's nothing wrong with keeping a watchful eye on your street while you are home. Your block will be safer for it. The

police department sponsors a program call "Crime Watch" and trains the residents to be vigilant homeowners. Rosalind Mendoza is the Crime Prevention Specialist at North Division and can answer any questions you may have. [Rosalinda.Mendoza@fortworthtexas.gov](mailto:Rosalinda.Mendoza@fortworthtexas.gov).

As a VOWS resident, part of your homeowner's dues goes to pay for FYPD Officers, who work here as Off Duty Officers. They work in their off hours, as Off-Duty Officers in full capacity. They drive the neighborhood looking for speeders, suspicious people and curfew violators. If a call comes through Dispatch in VOWS, the Off-Duty Officer can respond immediately, cutting response time. Our Off-Duty Officers have a Vacation Watch Program, where a resident can report they will be on vacation and the Officer will check their residence, making sure the doors are secure and no packages were left on the porch. Contact: [police4vows@gmail.com](mailto:police4vows@gmail.com).

For 17 years Woodland Springs has had a Citizens on Patrol Group. We currently have 13 members who volunteer their time doing a variety of duties.



Some don't care to drive around the neighborhood and prefer to help at City Sponsored Safety Events. Others enjoy manning a police radio and monitor the patrollers who drive the area, from the comfort of their own home. Then we have our patrollers who drive around both day and night to deter crime. The magnetic signs on their cars lets the residents know we are there as eyes and ears for the police department. We carry a police radio and have direct communication with Dispatch (if we need

it). Officer Barry Sawyer #3199 is our Neighborhood Police Officer in charge of our Citizens on Patrol Group in VOWS. His email is [Barry.Sawyer@fortworthtexas.gov](mailto:Barry.Sawyer@fortworthtexas.gov). The Coordinator for the North Division Citizen on Patrol Program is Cindy Strause and her contact information is [Cindy.Strause@fortworthtexas.gov](mailto:Cindy.Strause@fortworthtexas.gov).

From Officer Sawyer and all of us in the VOWS Code Blue Group, we would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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# 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:vows.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/](http://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](mailto: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. Now offering citizenship classes.

## 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](mailto: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](https://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](mailto: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](mailto:jcgx4@sbcglobal.net).



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# VOWS OWLS

Older, Wiser, Lively Seniors



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.

## City of Fort Worth

Get connected and stay informed about city services and programs

The City of Fort Worth is launching a new information delivery service to help you get connected to your city government and stay informed about services and programs.

With the addition of this new GovDelivery platform, subscribers can choose the topics they wish to read about and determine when and how often these topics are delivered to them. Daily and weekly digest of information will be available.

All city departments will be using GovDelivery as their mechanism for news and information to residents. No content is going away – it will just look a tad different and be delivered in a new, more convenient format.

If you are an existing subscriber or member of a city email list, we have transferred your email to this new program.

Visit the subscriber preference pages at the link below to manage your subscription, sign up for new topics and tell us how often you want to receive updates so you continue to receive important community news.

[https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/  
TXFTWORTH/subscriber/new](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXFTWORTH/subscriber/new)



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



## CONNECT RESIDENT PORTAL

For resident specific questions, governing documents and account information visit the resident exclusive website

<https://thevillagesofwoodlandsprings.connectresident.com/>

Residents Can:

- Download meeting minutes and financial documents
- View or pay their account balance
- Sign up for text and voice community alerts
- Manage their emergency contact information
- View a calendar of community events
- View or download community forms and documents
- Contact the 24/7 Customer Care Center



Calling  
**AFTER-HOURS**  
877-378-2388

After regular business hours, our management company has a very efficient emergency response system in place in order to respond to appropriate emergencies, which are situations that can cause the damage of property. You may reach out Customer Care Center after hours at 877-378-2388.

Our management company can do little about your neighbor's dog barking at 3am. We recommend calling the police non-emergency number at 817-392-1234. The best way to handle this kind of situation long term, is for you and other affected neighbors to report it in writing each time an incident occurs and submit it to the City of Fort Worth.

Prowlers and vandals are best handled by the local law enforcement officials. The quickest, most effective response and enforcement will come from the Police department.

However, if a broken common area sprinkler or irrigation timer is threatening property, the management company should be notified by calling the Customer Care Center number listed above. Our staff is on call, and will handle the emergency as soon as possible.

A rule of thumb to remember when determining whether or not to call the management company after-hours is that if the property threatening situation can be addressed by one of the Association's contractors, and if not reported immediately will cause personal or property damage, then call.

Remember, our Board of Directors and management depend on the eyes and ears of the community to make sure that all of community's needs are met. Please don't hesitate to contact management during normal business hours with any questions you may have about the after-hours policy.

## 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](http://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.

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[info@communitynewsconnection.com](mailto:info@communitynewsconnection.com)

# RECIPES from our cookbook CHRISTMAS party

## OLD FASHION FUDGE

You will need a candy thermometer and a strong arm!!!

- $\frac{2}{3}$  cups cocoa
- 3 cups sugar**
- $\frac{1}{8}$  tsp. salt
- $1\frac{1}{2}$  cups milk
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup butter
- 1 tsp. vanilla**
- 1 cup chopped nuts**

Mix sugar, cocoa and salt together. Gradually add milk bring to a boil and reduce heat until it reaches 232 F.

Remove pan from fire and add butter **BUT DO NOT STIR IT IN!!!** Let fudge cool at room temperature until it reaches 110 degrees. Add vanilla & nuts. Stir until stiff and glossy (takes 5-8 minutes of constant stirring) & then quickly smooth out flat in dish – It hardens instantly! Wait 30 minutes for it to set completely before cutting into serving pieces.

## SAND TARTS

- $\frac{1}{2}$  pound of butter (2 sticks)
- 2 cups sifted cake flour**
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup sifted powdered sugar
- 1 cup chopped pecans**
- 1 tsp. vanilla**

Cream butter; add sugar. Stir well and add flour, nuts and vanilla. Shape into balls or crescents and bake in oven at 325 on ungreased cookie sheet for 20 minutes or until lightly brown. Cool; roll in powdered sugar. Makes about 4 dozen.

## SWIRLY CHRISTMAS SUGAR COOKIE

There are a million different versions of this recipe with slightly different ingredients and different color variations for



OLD FASHION FUDGE

different holidays but this one is my favorite!

- 2 cups all purpose flour**
- $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp. baking powder
- $\frac{1}{4}$  tsp. salt
- $\frac{2}{3}$  cup unsifted powdered sugar
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup granulated sugar
- $2\frac{1}{2}$  sticks unsalted butter (cut in chunks)**
- 1 tsp. vanilla**
- $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp of food coloring of your choice (and/or  $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp of any desired extra extracts)
- $1\frac{1}{2}$  cup holiday sprinkles (2 jars)**

1. With mixer, combine flour, baking powder, salt, and sugars on medium until well blended.
2. Add butter in, gradually, and continue mixing. Add in vanilla extract. At this point, your dough will form a ball on your paddle.
3. Remove all your dough and divide into two equal parts. Return one portion back in to the mixer and add the food coloring and any extra extracts. I used Wilton gel food coloring in leaf green and vanilla extract for this batch. Also, if you are using liquid food coloring, you will need to add a few tablespoons of flour to keep the dough from becoming too wet. Mix until the color is spread out evenly.
4. Roll out each portion of your dough, between two sheets a wax paper until it reaches about 11 x 9 inches and is  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch thick. Slide both onto a cookie sheet and chill in the refrigerator for at least 2 hours.
5. When firm, remove the top

sheets of wax paper from both. Brush the uncolored vanilla dough lightly with water using a pastry brush. Then flip the colored dough onto the vanilla uncolored dough so they are stacked atop each other and even. Press the edges lightly with your fingertips to seal them together. Using a small knife, trim the edges of the dough to make straight, even lines.

6. Pour out sprinkles on a sheet of wax paper and set aside. Be sure your dough is still cold, but flexible. Once it's ready, begin rolling the long side of dough into a swirl, jelly-roll style. Now, don't get nervous if the outer layer of uncolored dough tears a bit. It's no problem, just pinch and pat those tears then just keep rolling.

7. Now gently lift your dough log onto the sprinkles and roll away. Cover the log completely with your sprinkles. Wrap the colorfully decorated log in plastic wrap twice. Depending on when you want to bake the cookies, either place the wrapped dough into refrigerator for about 3-4 hours or you can put it the freezer and keep for up to 2 months.

8. Slice your dough into  $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{8}$  inch slices and bake on parchment lined baking sheets. Bake at 350 for 15-17 minutes until edges are slightly golden. Let the cookies rest on the baking pan for 5 minutes, then move them to a cookie rack to finish cooling.

## CHERRY ALMOND DROP COOKIES

- 2 cups flour**
- $\frac{2}{3}$  cup brown sugar
- $\frac{2}{3}$  cup sugar



WASSLE

- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup shortening
- $\frac{3}{4}$  tsp. salt
- $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp. baking soda
- $1\frac{1}{2}$  tsp. baking powder

\* Use 3 cups of this cookie mix with the following ingredients:

- 1 egg**
- 1 tsp. almond extract**
- $\frac{2}{3}$  cup chopped Maraschino cherries
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup chopped almonds

Mix all ingredients together and roll into balls and flatten. Place 2 inches apart on cookie sheet. Bake in oven at 375 for 10-12 minutes or until lightly brown. Makes 2 dozen.

## WASSLE

Party Size – Enough for a crowd!

- 1 gallon apple cider**
- 48 whole cloves (or 2 tsp. ground)**
- 2 cups of sugar**
- 12 sticks of cinnamon (or 1 tsp. ground)**
- 1 cup orange juice (pulp free)**
- 6 tbsp. lemon juice**

Enough for Two

- 2 cups apple cider**
- 6 whole cloves (or  $\frac{1}{4}$  tsp ground)**
- $\frac{1}{4}$  Cup of Sugar**
- 2 Sticks of Cinnamon (or  $\frac{1}{8}$  tsp ground)**
- $\frac{1}{8}$  Cup Orange Juice (pulp free)**
- $2\frac{1}{2}$  tsp Lemon Juice**

Mix ingredients together, heat and enjoy! Store in refrigerator up to the expiration date of your juices and drink it a cup at a time!





## 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)

## REAL OR FAKE CHRISTMAS TREES?



In the 1930's artificial or fake Christmas trees began being made interestingly by a toilet brush company. Since that time, artificial Christmas trees have grown in popularity with millions being sold. Many people believe it saves money in the long run. Buy a fake tree and use it year after year. A fake tree is also convenient, has perfect shape, no watering necessary or falling needles on the floor. However, there are a few disadvantages to having an artificial tree such as most are made of PVC plastic and some older trees can harbor lead, both of which can cause health issues. Most of the fake Christmas trees are shipped to the U.S. from China. Artificial trees cannot be recycled.

Many people love having a real Christmas tree, with the fragrant evergreen smell filling their homes. Countless people believe having a real tree is the only way to celebrate the season. Almost all real Christmas trees are grown by U.S. farmers and help employ thousands of workers. Trees keep the air clean and can be shelter for wildlife during their growth season. Real Christmas trees can be recycled. Real trees also come with disadvantages such as the cost of purchasing a tree each year. Real trees come with maintenance issues like watering and cleaning pine needles from floors.

Whether you love a real or fake Christmas tree, enjoy the season of giving and celebrating with family. The true reason for the season is beyond the tree.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS – DECEMBER 2019

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



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