



Carriage Hills Telegraph



December 2007

www.carriagehillscia.com

A Message From The Directors

The next Property Owner's Meeting will be held on February 19th. The meeting is scheduled to be held at the Fire Station at 7 pm.

Due to increasing costs, the maintenance fees for 2008 will be increased by 3% as allowed in the Deed Restrictions. Residents should expect to receive the invoices in early December. The due date for the maintenance fees is January 31st. Please check the Carriage Hills website www.carriagehillscia.com often for information regarding events that are happening in the neighborhood.



Wishing all Residents A Very Merry Christmas And a Happy New Year!

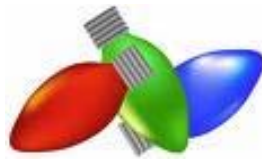
ACC Meeting Nights

The AC committee meets the **first and third TUESDAYS of the month**. Applications must be submitted by the Sunday night prior to the meeting. All improvements (fence, deck, pool, home, or garage, etc) need to be submitted for approval to the ACC. There are applications and regulation agreements to be filled out and signed on all items submitted for construction. These forms are available on the website. Deposits are required on new home construction. Please contact one of the following ACC committee members: Jeff Schrick (Chairman) 271-0313, Willard Sutton 273-3748, Ray Furchak 321-1871 or Pete Kaptain 273-3249.



Welcome New Residents

We would like to welcome all of the new residents to Carriage Hills. We hope that you enjoy living in the Carriage Hills community. If you have not received your residential vehicle stickers, deed restrictions, directory or community information, please contact Susan at Investment Management at 936-756-0032.



Christmas Light Decorating Contest

1st Place

\$50 Home Depot Card

Second Place

\$35 Home Depot Card

Third Place

\$25 Home Depot Card

Judging will take place on December 22nd at 7:00 p.m. Date Change (due to weather) will be posted on the Entrance Sign.

Winners will be contacted and posted in the January newsletter.

*Sponsored by:
D&T Contracting
David & Terri Henry*

Breakfast With Santa



All Residents Invited!

**Saturday
December 8th**

8:00 am to 11:00 am

**Needham Fire
Department**

**Bring Your Cameras
&
Holiday Spirit!!**

**Volunteers Needed to:
Decorate, Set-Up,
Cook, & Clean-Up**

*Set-Up, Decorating & Cooking
begins at 6:00 am*

**For information
please contact:
Jeannette Lemieux
At: 936-321-5725**



Dates to Remember

December 8

Breakfast with Santa

December 22

Christmas Light Contest

December 24

Christmas Eve

December 25

Christmas Day

December 31

New Years Eve

Community Clean-Up Day

The first Community Clean-Up Day was held on Nov. 6th and a lot was accomplished. We got most of the first phase done, but there still is a lot to do. The next date will be announced at a later time. If not for the volunteers who came out and gave their time, the amount of work completed would not have been possible. Everyone worked very hard. There was a great sense of community and everyone had a great time getting out and meeting their neighbors. We would like to thank the following volunteers:

Linda Bilides
Karson Davis
Mike Davis
Bill & Gail Royster
Mark & Cathy Phillips
Sophie Stuttler
Lisa LeBlanc
Markie LeBlanc
Kody Soeder
Brandon Mabry
Blake Ryan
Lance Stephens
Kelsey Lincoln
Kristin Bunch
Grant Bonnette
John Bonnette
Tracy MacEwan
Justin MacEwan
Steven MacEwan

A special thank you to Tracy MacEwan and John Bonnette for the use of their trailers. We have big plans for the Park/Tennis court areas, so please watch for the next Community Clean-Up Day.

Items Needed for Upcoming Phases:

Landscape Timbers
Cement
Railroad Ties
Stain
Paint
Mulch

Commercial:

Playground Equipment
In-ground mounted Tables & Benches

If any resident has any resources for the above items that could possibly be obtained at a discount, please contact Lisa LeBlanc at 936-321-6690.



A Season for Sharing in Fire Safety

Each year fires occurring during the holiday season injure 2,600 individuals and cause over \$930 million in damage. According to the United States Fire Administration (USFA), there are simple life-saving steps you can take to ensure a safe and happy holiday. By following some of the outlined precautionary tips, individuals can greatly reduce their chances of becoming a holiday fire casualty.

Christmas Tree Fire Hazards

Movie segments demonstrating how fast a live Christmas tree can become fully engulfed in flames. Special fire safety precautions need to be taken when keeping a live tree in the house. A burning tree can rapidly fill a room with fire and deadly gases.

Selecting a Tree for the Holiday

Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needle should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long, has probably dried out, and is a fire hazard.

Caring for Your Tree

Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree. Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.

Disposing of Your Tree

Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood burning stove. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The best way to dispose of your tree is by taking it to a recycling center or having it hauled away by a community pick-up service.

Holiday Lights

Maintain Your Holiday Lights

Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory.

Do Not Overload Electrical Outlets

Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires - they should not be warm to the touch.

Do Not Leave Holiday Lights on Unattended

Holiday Decorations

Use Only Nonflammable Decorations

All decorations should be nonflammable or flame-retardant and placed away from heat vents.

Never Put Wrapping Paper in a Fireplace

It can throw off dangerous sparks and produce a chemical buildup in the home that could cause an explosion.

Artificial Christmas Trees

If you are using a metallic or artificial tree, make sure it is flame retardant.

Candle Care

Avoid Using Lit Candles

If you do use them, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked down. Never leave the house with candles burning.

Never Put Lit Candles on a Tree

Do not go near a Christmas tree with an open flame - candles, lighters or matches.

Finally, as in every season, have working smoke alarms installed on every level of your home, test them monthly and keep them clean and equipped with fresh batteries at all times. Know when and how to call for help. And remember to practice your home escape plan.

Welcome
2008

"Destiny is not necessarily what we get out of life, but rather, what we give."



--Cary Grant



Walkers Joggers Runners

There have been several requests from residents to ask walkers, joggers and runners to please make themselves more visible, especially at night. There have been several close calls, and we want to make sure all of our residents are safe. Remember Texas Law states that pedestrians only have the right of way at crosswalks. Here is the information from the Texas DMV Handbook.

Pedestrian Safety

The driver should always pay special attention to the pedestrian and the bicyclist. However, there are certain safety rules which pedestrians and bicyclists should follow.

THE PEDESTRIAN (person on foot)

Laws and Other Safety Tips For Pedestrians

- Obey all traffic control signals unless you are otherwise directed by a pedestrian control signal.
- Do not cross the street between two intersections. It is dangerous to cross in the middle of the block.
- Use sidewalks when available, and do not walk in the street.
- Walk on the left side of the road if there are no sidewalks. Step off the pavement when a car approaches.
- If you cross a street at any point other than within a crosswalk at an intersection, you (the pedestrian) must yield the right-of-way to all vehicles.
- If you cross a street without using a pedestrian tunnel or



overhead pedestrian crossing which has been provided, you the pedestrian must yield the right-of-way to all vehicles.

- When crossing at a crosswalk, keep right if possible.
- Blind, partially blind, or disabled persons may carry a white cane while walking. **Others must not display such a cane on any public street or highway.**
- No person may stand in the roadway for the purpose of soliciting a ride, contributions, or business. A person may stand in a roadway to solicit a charitable contribution if **authorized to do so by the local authority having jurisdiction over the roadway.**
- Do not suddenly walk or run into the street in the path of a vehicle. These sudden actions may make it impossible for the vehicle operator to yield.
- **Wait on the curb**, not in the street, until the traffic signals change to green or read "Walk."
- Always wear white or light colored clothing, or carry a light or reflector when walking at night.
- **Look both ways before crossing** the street and before stepping from behind parked cars.
- Be extra careful when getting off a streetcar or bus.
- Get in and out of cars on the curb side of the road when possible.
- Do not walk on a roadway when you are under the influence or consuming an alcoholic beverage. Alcohol is a contributing factor to pedestrian traffic crashes.
- If you see a pedestrian crossing or attempting to cross the street, slow down, use your horn if necessary, and be prepared to stop.

- Be alert to a pedestrian guided by an assistance animal or carrying a white cane. A driver shall take the necessary precautions to avoid injuring or endangering a pedestrian crossing or attempting to cross the street. The driver shall bring the vehicle to a full stop if injury or danger can only be avoided by that action. Remember, the white cane indicates the person may be blind, partially blind, or disabled.
- Watch especially for blind persons at bus stops, intersections, business areas, and near schools for the blind.
- Pedestrians should be aware that local authorities (cities, counties) may have ordinances that require pedestrians to comply strictly with the directions of an official traffic control (signals, signs, etc.) and prohibit pedestrians from crossing a roadway in a business district or a designated highway except in a crosswalk.

Directories

All the new Carriage Hills directories have been delivered. If you have not received one, please contact Maureen Arceneaux at 936-271-4005.

Vehicle ID Stickers

Many ID stickers have been already delivered. Some have been delivered to homes by volunteers and some were picked up at the November Property Owners Meeting. Due to the inability to catch residents at home for hand delivery, the remainder of the ID stickers will be mailed out along with the 2008 Maintenance Dues invoices.

Board of Directors

Cathy Phillips
321-4059
David Henry
321-6541
Lisa LeBlanc
321-6690
Heath Westfield
281-380-2495
Bill Royster
321-9129

Carriage Hills Community Improvement Association

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936-756-0032