



CALENDAR

DECEMBER

12-7-RECYCLE
12/12-Board Mtg
12/21-RECYCLE
12/25-
CHRISTMAS
OFFICE
CLOSED

JANUARY

1-1 holiday-
office closed
1-4 - RECYCLE
1-9-Board Mtg
1-16 - Singles
Meeting 7pm
1-18-RECYCLE

FEBRUARY

2-2- RECYCLE
2-14-Board Mtg
2-16-RECYCLE
2-16-Annual Mtg
2-20-Holiday Of-
fice closed

MARCH

3-2-RECYCLE
3-14-Board Mtg
3-16-Recycle
3-30-RECYCLE

THE TOWN CRIER

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TOWNGATE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION
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DECEMBER 2023

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Message from the President

By Patricia Hartley

Message from the President As always, as Christmas approaches, I have a sense of joy and exhilaration. My heart is happy, and I would like to think that all is well with the world. I reflect on what Christmas meant in years gone by. This holiday was a time of buying and wrapping presents for loved ones. For me, it was always more wonderful to get that special present for that special person than the thrill of what I might receive. It was a time of baking cookies, brownies, cakes and pies. The smell of the baking of these precious treats still lingers in my mind. The Christmas holiday was a time when loved ones, neighbors and friends got together for shared hugs and laughs. It was always extra special when loved ones came from out of town, especially for me with such a small family. The holiday was a time of beautiful decorations and lights everywhere. We had a tradition of trimming the tree on Christmas eve while listening to church hymns and other Christmas music. I was always so excited when the tree lit up! The holiday was a time of good-will. Mother always bought gifts for random people whom she felt had very little. Most importantly, Christmastime was holy – at least that’s what I was taught. It was 48 years ago at Christmastime that I moved here to Towngate. Over time. I have noticed that the “holy” has been taken out of Christmas for so many people. With this phenomenon, I feel a sense of sadness during this holiday when I see on the news how our world seems to have gone mad. It breaks my heart when I see the increasing numbers of “smash-and-grabs” and thefts of delivery trucks and delivery truck drivers delivering Christmas presents. I feel a sense of sadness at knowing I could too easily become the victim of a mugging as I walk from a store to my car on a parking lot. I feel helpless at times, wishing I could do something about the horrible things I see on the news, especially at Christmastime. Then I think about how much I love going around and seeing the lights during the holidays. I love to drive around looking at the lights. I love to walk around enjoying the neighborhood lights. Then it occurred to me. I can’t do much, but I can be a light! I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope all of Towngate will join me in being a light. Let your light so shine so that people may see your good works!

Tree Trimming Project for January/February

By Sheila

An effort is being made to clean up our trees by cutting out the dead, trimming the low branches that are in violation of the city code and cutting back the limbs that are very near the roofs. This trimming project will make way for the light to shine on the grass growing under some trees. Some of the huge trees that shade the ground will be getting some Asian jasmine planted in that space.

Oak Wilt is a problem for the oak trees. To prevent new infections, here are some suggestions. Remove and dispose of oak wilt-infected red oaks immediately. Paint all wounds and fresh stumps immediately regardless of season. Avoid wounding oak trees, including pruning from February through June. Red oak wood that is suspected of infection should not be stored. Google the topic oak wilt for some pictures of this disease.

Just a reminder about the trees in the backyards, they are the responsibility of the homeowner.

TOWNGATE SINGLES

We now have a Neighborhood Singles Group

Last week the singles of the neighborhood were invited to come to Town Hall to meet, eat, and have a white elephant gift exchange. The event was well attended with great food, happy people and a good time was had by all. Our next gathering will be Jan 16 at 7pm for a Game



A place for your Old Holiday decorations you
DO NOT WANT!!

A group of neighbors decorated Town Hall. Looks awesome! We are always looking for more decorations so you are welcome to donate any decorations and we will repurpose them. Just bring them to the office during office hours.

VOTING IN FEBRUARY

February 16 is the only Thursday the Board meets. This is for the Annual HOA meeting and the election of NEW Board members. If you are interested in serving your community by being on the HOA Board then submit your name at the office and a Board member will call and talk to you about the job and how the election process works.

WINTER ACTIVITIES

BY Mag Verástegui

- 1. Explore Holiday Lights:** North Texas comes alive with dazzling light displays during the winter months. Take a drive through Prairie Lights in Grand Prairie or the Vitruvian Lights in Addison to experience captivating holiday spectacles. Don't miss the Dallas Zoo Lights, where you can enjoy the magic of the zoo illuminated with thousands of twinkling lights.
- 2. Ice Skating:** Lace up your skates and hit the ice at one of the many outdoor ice-skating rinks that pop up across North Texas during winter. The Dallas Stars Ice Rink at the Galleria Dallas and Panther Island Ice in Fort Worth offer thrilling skating experiences for all ages.
- 3. Visit the Dallas Arboretum:** The Dallas Arboretum transforms into a winter wonderland during the holiday season. Stroll through the Twelve Days of Christmas exhibit, featuring elaborate displays inspired by the famous song. Enjoy the festive atmosphere, stunning lights, and live music performances.
- 4. Attend a Holiday Festival:** North Texas hosts several holiday festivals that are perfect for the whole family. The Grapevine Christmas Capital of Texas features a variety of events, including parades, light shows, and a charming Main Street decked out in holiday decorations. The Denton Holiday Lighting Festival is another favorite, with a tree lighting ceremony, live entertainment, and food vendors.
- 5. Go Hiking:** Winter is a great time to explore the picturesque hiking trails in North Texas. Head to the Cedar Ridge Preserve in Dallas or the Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge for scenic hikes amidst nature. Don't forget to bundle up and bring a thermos of hot cocoa to enjoy along the way.
- 6. Visit Museums and Galleries:** North Texas is home to a vibrant arts scene, with numerous museums and galleries to explore. Spend a winter day admiring the exhibits at the Dallas Museum of Art, the Nasher Sculpture Center, or the Kimbell Art Museum in Fort Worth.
- 7. Attend a Sporting Event:** Catch a Dallas Mavericks or Dallas Stars game for an exciting winter sports experience. The atmosphere in the arenas is electric, and cheering for your favorite team is a great way to beat the winter blues.
- 8. Indulge in Comfort Food:** Winter is the perfect time to savor warm and hearty comfort foods.

Merry
Christmas
& **HAPPY NEW YEAR**



Welcome to our new Homeowners:

**Jocelyn Sanchez
4021 Greenway**

**Anna Flor Hughes
2019 Towngate Drive**

**Million Mekonen
2024 Town Place**

ANTICS FROM ANNE

As I am in my 15th year here at Towngate I reflect on the many friends I have made and how dear each of you have come to me. I wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous happy 2024.

INFORMATION NEEDED

Over the course of time many have done away with their land line phones and only have cell phones but forget to update that information with the office. Please make sure the office has your current phone number and email address. Also, please provide a name and number of someone to reach in case of emergency. It is important for us to be able to contact someone in case of an emergency situation at your home. You can email the information to the office at garlandtowngatehoa@gmail.com.

Yard Contest for December

By Sheila

This month is the last yard contest for the year. The judges which are the kids of the neighborhood, vote on their favorite yard in three categories. If your child would like to participate, please call the office and leave your name and number and I will give you a call and explain how the judging works. The three categories for December are Best of Season, Traditional (which means Santa), and Most Creative. The judging deadline is December 22.

2023-2024 HOA Board and important numbers

PRESIDENT – Patricia – 214-546-3187

VICE PRESIDENT- Sheila – 214-274-6412

TREASURER – Nate – 479-530-4439

SECRETARY – Maggie D.- 214-957-1384

CLUBHOUSE/POOLS –
Maggie V. – 972-809-0915

LANDSCAPE – Sheila – 214-274-6412

ARCHITECTURAL – Jody – 469-323-7747

PAINTING – Phillip – 214-403-6075

Randy Dale- Landscaper/Pool Maintenance
214-882-4251

Code Enforcement 972-485-6414-

DaMoore@garlandtx.gov

Neighborhood GPD Officer -

morillosj@garlandtx.gov

City Councilman-Margaret Lucht- council5@garlandtx.gov

WEBSITE: www.tghoa.net