

# HNHA Connection

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2010

*Happy Holidays  
Highlands North!*



## Annual Winter Holiday Yard of the Month

The success of the Halloween Yard of the Month has been astounding! Let's make the Winter Holiday Yard of the Month even better. Just decorate your yards for Christmas, Chanukah or Kwanza and we will be driving the neighborhood on December 18th. to choose the most creative and beautiful yards. One winner on the North and one on the South will be selected. Winners will receive the Calloway's \$25 gift card plus a \$50 gift card to Target from your HNHA.

So start planning now. The holidays will be here  
before you know it!



*Winter*

*"Without having  
experienced the  
cold of Winter, one  
cannot appreciate  
the warmth of  
Spring."*

*~Chinese Proverb*

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#### *Editor*

Jacqueline Ferris

#### *Submissions*

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# Around the Neighborhood



## What's Going on Here!

City of Dallas Streets has cut down and removed the three dead Bradford Pear trees on the north side median in front of 7303 Campbell. The Bradford Pear trees that were planted by the Highlands North developer have outlived the estimated life span. The remaining pear trees are losing branches or growing into the wires on the south side, so there will be other cutting involved in the future. A few years ago, Dallas planted some new trees on the side medians keeping in mind the Oncor requirements. These trees planted with the anticipation of the Bradford Pear decline.

City of Dallas Parks will be removing some of the ducks from Twin Lakes as they did two years ago due to the over population of the ducks. The ducks will be relocated at a reserve in agreement with the land owner. The ducks are invasive of homeowner's property during the year and become a nuisance. Also their elimination increases the bacteria level of the lakes increases the growth of algae and pond weed. It was determined that the lakes are presently overpopulated.

The sign beds have been planted with shrubs and flowers, under the guidance of Marcia Weiss. The irrigation is now in place to water the beds automatically. The lights of the sign beds and fountains are to come on earlier in the evening due to the early sunset. If you notice an outage of lights or fountains, please let Jace Carrington know at 972-661-9018. If the irrigation gets stuck, please call the same number. You can leave a message.

Richardson Parks has maintained the easement on Coit next to the stucco wall again this year. They replaced the one shrub that was dead just north of Glenneagle. They will turn off the irrigation soon for winter weather. We continue to be grateful for their matching cost program with our Dallas neighborhood. It made such a difference in the entry of Highlands North from Coit Road.

Susan Carrington  
Liaison for Parks/Easements

## FYI...



### Street Light Outages

Reporting street light outages are easy—just go to [www.oncorgroup.com/](http://www.oncorgroup.com/) and follow the directions for Street Light Outage. It can be reported on-line or by the phone. Lights will be replaced within 5 days.



### Parking Tickets

Please remember to park the correct way when parking along the streets in our neighborhood! Neighbors are being ticketed by the Dallas Police Department (not our ENP Officers) for parking the wrong way in front of their house.



### Fall Social

Oops! I neglected to thank Jamie Harrison in last month's newsletter! Jamie, please accept my appreciation for the very helpful survey you ran in order to help the Social Committee make informed decisions to complete our task. You are a gem!

Marcia Weiss  
Fall Social Chair

Easy  
addre  
Street  
Light

# Around the Neighborhood



## Flag Volunteers!

A big thank you to the following families who have put out flags for our neighborhood on our patriotic holidays. Some of these families take care of several blocks, and have been doing it for years!

North	South
The Blacks – Cleary Circle (& part of Lauder)	The Benners – Burns Run
The Colemans – Queens Ferry	The Browns – Fallkirk
The Gesins – Dundrennan	The Durhams – Carta Valley Dr & Court
The Grossmans – Loch Maree	The Findleys – Applecross
The Hefners – Pennyburn	The Freemans – Scotia
The Hocks – (Bantry Ln & Circle., 7600 block of Mullrany)	The Kieslings – Kilbride Ln & Circle
The Kaners – Chadwick Cir.	The Knutsons – Dalmalley
The Matthews – Dunoon (& Campbell Rd)	The Levenos – Kilmichael
The McCords – Kevin Dr.	The Liscios – Glenneagle
The Miniguttis – Turnberry (& Fallkirk & part of Lauder)	The Livingstones – Lairds Ln (& Dornoch & Spring Cr.)
The Mitchells – Dunleer	The Sullivans – Pencross
The Thomases – Lone Moor Circle	
The Warrens – 7700 block of Mullrany	
The Youngs – Queens Garden	

If your street is in parentheses above and you would like to be the “flag family” for your street, please contact one of us. Thanks!

**Jennifer Livingstone**  
 South Block Captain  
 (972) 385-7044  
[jennlivingstone@yahoo.com](mailto:jennlivingstone@yahoo.com)

**Christy Hock**  
 North Block Captain  
 (972) 980-4410  
[candchock@sbcglobal.net](mailto:candchock@sbcglobal.net)



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### Neighborhood Classifieds

- 4 drapes that are light blue, custom made, 72 x 106.5t and hang on windows that are 23 x 90, with tiebacks. \$75.  
 Contact Hillary at: 972-983-6853 or [hillarydawnd@yahoo.com](mailto:hillarydawnd@yahoo.com).  
 Pictures can be e-mailed if needed.



## Sunshine and Shadows By Jamie Harrison

We need your news! Submit your items for publication to Jamie Harrison at 972-788-8076, or by e-mail to [jamie.harrison@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jamie.harrison@sbcglobal.net). If Sunshine and Shadows news is submitted by the 14<sup>th</sup> of the month, it will be included in the next month's newsletter!

### *In this month's news:*

**Sunshine:** Congratulations to Highlands North residents **Jeff Rosenfield** of Glenneagle Drive, and **Robert Burns** of Burns Run on their recent reelection to judicial office. Jeff Rosenfield was reelected as Judge of Dallas County Criminal Court of Appeals 2, and Robert Burns was reelected Judge of Criminal District Court 1.

**Sunshine:** Several neighborhood families will be volunteering at the North Texas Food Bank on December 30.

Throughout the month of December, they are collecting non-perishable food items to take with them as a donation. If you are able to help with this, please contact **Jamie Harrison** of Kilmichael Lane (972-788-8076, [jamie.harrison@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jamie.harrison@sbcglobal.net)), or **Wendy Evans** of Queens Garden Drive (972-233-5129, [wbevans328@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wbevans328@sbcglobal.net)) to arrange for a pickup or drop-off of your donation.

**Sunshine:** On November 19, the Oklahoma State University women's soccer team defeated Duke University 2-0 to earn its first-ever berth in the NCAA Women's Soccer Championship Elite 8! The Cowgirls have made it to the NCAA tournament the past 4 years in a row, but have never before made it past the second round. OSU freshman **Taylor Mathews**, daughter of **Cliff and Nancy Mathews** of Dalmalley Lane, is a player on the team. Taylor has appeared in all 25 of the games played and has 4 goals and 2 assists for the season.

**Sunshine:** J.J. Pearce High School junior **Adam Bull**, who is the defending UIL 4A state swimming champion in the 200-yard IM, was recently named a USA Swimming Scholastic All American. The Scholastic All-America Team is made up of high school athletes who have a grade point average of 3.5 or higher, and who have achieved the required time standard



Adam Bull

in a single event. Adam also swims for the City of Richardson Swim Club. Adam is the son of **Ed and Beth Bull** of Pennyburn Drive.

**Sunshine:** Congratulations to the J.J. Pearce High School varsity volleyball team on another outstanding season! The team won their second straight Region 2 4A championship, earning them a trip to the Texas State Volleyball Tournament at Texas State University in San Marcos, where they lost in the semi-final match with Austin's Lake Travis High School on November 18. Highlands North girls on the varsity team are sophomore **Lauren English** (**Don and Karen English** of Applecross Lane), senior **Stephanie Holland** (**Steve and Sarah Holland** of Dornoch Lane), senior **Katie O'Brien** (**Steve and Shannon O'Brien** of Carta Valley Drive), and senior manager **Maddie Line** (**Steve and Mindy Line** of Queensferry Lane).

**Sunshine:** In the October issue, I reported on this year's junior class at J.J. Pearce High School *appearing in the 2011 Guinness Book of World Records for having the most sets of multiples in one class in one academic year.* The class has one set of triplets, and ten sets of twins, including Sam and Haley Coleman of Queensferry Lane, son and daughter of **Allen and Susan Coleman**. The Channel 5 news story on the group of multiples aired on the 10:00 news on November 21. As of the writing of this article, the news clip can be accessed at: [http://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local-beat/Seeing\\_Double\\_and\\_Triple\\_at\\_J\\_J\\_Pearce\\_High\\_School\\_Dallas-Fort\\_Worth-109808894.html](http://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local-beat/Seeing_Double_and_Triple_at_J_J_Pearce_High_School_Dallas-Fort_Worth-109808894.html). In addition, the 2011 Guinness Book of World Records is now available, and the group appears on page 123!

**Sunshine:** Congratulations to the 4th grade Panthers and the 5th grade Falcons, who each won their respective Superbowl game in the Spring Valley Athletic Association league at Eagle/Mustang Stadium on November 20! The Panthers won 8-7, and the Falcons won 7-0. Aden Althaus, son of Duff and Lisa Althaus of Applecross Lane played on the 4th grade Panthers, along with Bowie Elementary teammates Wyatt Erickson, Noah Fulk, Alexander LaFamme, and J.D. Lee. The Panther coaches included Duff Althaus.



J.D. Lee and Aden Althaus



# Sunshine and Shadows By Jamie Harrison

Highlands North boys on the 5th grade Falcons are **Andrew Althaus (Duff and Lisa Althaus of Applecross Lane, J.R. Armbrister (Justin and Wendi Armbrister of Mullroney Drive), Glen Brown (Wade and Cara Brown of Fallkirk Drive), Carter Durham (John and Allison Durham), Sam Harrison (Scott and Jamie Harrison of Kilmichael Lane), Jack Line (Steve and Mindy Line of Queensferry Lane), Jack Liscio (Tony and Tricia Liscio of Glenneagle Drive), and Ryan McAfee (Randy and Barb McAfee of Kilmichael Lane)**. Other Bowie Elementary students on the Falcons team were **Wade Beckum, Jackson Duffy, Chase Elkin, Joseph Kelley, and James Monroe**. Falcon coaches are James Monroe (head coach), Tony Liscio, John Durham, Steve Line, and Duff Althaus.



5th Grade Falcons

**Sunshine:** Bowie 6<sup>th</sup> grader **Brian Kaner**, son of **Joey and Marni Kaner** of Chadwick Court, was recently featured in an article in the “Neighbors Go!” section of the *Dallas Morning News*. Brian originally wanted to do a bake sale for his bar mitzvah project, but he couldn’t find a place to hold it, so he turned it into an online bake sale. Brian’s baking project is now nearly a full-time job, and a great success. Brian, who attends Synagogue Shearith Israel, will sell his snacks online through October 2011, when he has his bar mitzvah. The proceeds of Brian’s baking project will benefit “Share Our Strength,” an organization working to end childhood hunger. Brian also won three blue ribbons in the youth cooking contest at the State Fair of Texas. Visit Brian’s website at [www.brianbakes.webs.com!](http://www.brianbakes.webs.com!)



Brian Kaner

**Sunshine:** Bowie Elementary recently held its annual Hoop Shoot competition, which is sponsored by the Elks Lodge. Highlands North winners were **Lauren Davenport**, daughter of **Bruce and Glenda Davenport** of Lauder Lane (10/11 year-old girls), **Sam Harrison**, son of **Scott and Jamie Harrison** of Kilmichael Lane (10/11 year-old boys), and **Reilly Minigutti**, son of **Andrew and Sondra Minigutti** of Turnberry Lane (12/13 year-old boys). 10/11-year old boys runner-up **Jake Rosenfield**, son of **Jeff and Marti Rosenfield** of Glenneagle Drive, represented Bowie at the district-level competition held on November 11 and came in fourth. Lauren Davenport and Reilly Minigutti each won their division at the district level, and will compete in the region competition on January 22.



## Honeydo's

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## CRIME CORNER BY JEREMY ROSENTHAL

### HNHA Crime Watch Stats–

Remember to be alert and report any crimes to the police first, then to the **hotline 214-967-5120**. Please be sure to leave a name, address and phone number!

#### Recent Crimes in Highlands North

Recently reported crimes in and around Highlands North include:

- On October 19, Auto Theft was reported in the **16500 block of Lauder Lane**
- On October 28, Theft was reported in the **16300 block of Dalmalley Lane**
- On October 29, Burglary was reported in the **7600 block of Bantry Circle**
- On November 9, Burglary was reported in the **7600 block of Dornoch Lane**

### Home Safety Tips for Holiday Travel

Here are some ideas from preventing your home for being a target if you're going away for the holidays:

#### *Maintain Appearances*

Make sure your house appears occupied. Don't allow newspapers to pile up in your front yard or your mailbox to be over-stuffed. It is also a good idea to have a lighting system with a timer installed so that your lights don't run constantly. Turn the ringer down on your telephone. If you are gone for a longer amount of time, you may want to make sure to have someone look after your yard.

#### *Protect your Home*

Burglar alarms a great way to secure your home while you are away. Also make sure that you use deadbolts on all doors and windows if they are equipped. This will make it difficult for thieves to enter your house. Never keep a key hidden outside as thieves know to look for them.

### *Be Careful About Who Knows You are Away*

While newspapers and the postal service will halt service if you make a request, it may be better to have a friend or neighbor collect your newspapers and mail. By making the request to strangers, you lose control of exactly who is privvy to the fact your leaving town. Also be careful about posting your whereabouts on social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter, as again, you may lose control of who knows your house is sitting vacant.

### Other Safety Tips to Consider for the Holidays

Christmas and the holiday shopping season is a peak time for crimes such as home burglaries and thefts.

- Don't display gifts and other valuables where they can be seen from a window or doorway.
- Beware of package deliveries where couriers have the "wrong" address. Write down tag numbers of suspicious delivery attempts.
- After Christmas, don't advertise your new electronics and/or other new valuables that you have just received by putting the boxes out on the curb for the garbage collectors. Break the boxes down and fold them to where the words are on the inside.



Jeremy Rosenthal  
Highlands North Crime Watch Coordinator  
HOTLINE 214-967-5120

## REAL ESTATE TIPS BY JO PRESSLY



Accurate Pricing is a critical considerations in a home sale

### Do you know your home's worth?

Despite the fact that you know your home better than anyone, you may not be able to easily gauge its value. Setting a price that will lead to a quick sale for the highest possible amount is no easy task.

### Don't count on it

Realistic pricing of any product requires two things: the ability to look at it with unbiased eyes and solid knowledge of the market for that product. When you put your home up for sale, you should consider it a commodity in a business transaction.

Many homeowners have a hard time emotionally detaching themselves from the home, and naturally so. It has been the setting for your family's memories for many years. Also, you probably invested a great deal of money and sweat in home improvement projects. Here's the thing about remodels and improvements, though: most projects return less at the time of sale than what you spent on them.

Seller expectations are not factored into the market value of a home. What you want out of the sale is irrelevant to what the home is actually worth.

What's the bottom line to you as a seller? Unless a factor directly influences what a buyer is willing to pay for a given property, that factor has no bearing on the market value of the property.

### Potentially Inaccurate.com

Many real estate websites provide tips, listings, warning, suggestions, news, opinions, interactive maps and property valuations. Some of this content is helpful and compelling; some of it is cynical, misguided, exceedingly general or utterly inaccurate.

How do these sites relate to pricing? Well, one of the most common real estate-related searches is "how much is my home worth?" In your search results, you'll see destinations like Realtor.com, Zillow.com and RealEstate.Yahoo.com. While these sites are loaded with good information and the results of your home valuation may be intriguing, I caution you against over-relying on them to accurately assess the market value your home.

Let's look at Zillow.com, as an example. The site provides an estimated market value, called a Zestimate, for millions of properties across the country. Zillow's own explanation of accuracy (last updated Sept. 15, 2010) shows that only 66 percent of Zestimates of recently sold homes in Texas were within 20 percent of the actual sales price.

That's quite a large range, even for the 66 percent of properties that are within it. Think about the 34 percent of properties that aren't even within 20 percent. Are you willing to price your home based on a number that could be tens of thousands of dollars too low?

### So what does count?

Local market conditions are extremely important. In a buyer's market, or when inventory is high, overpriced homes will sit... and sit... and sit. Eventually, the seller has to come down on the asking price to stimulate more interest. In a seller's market, properties get snatched up quickly, sometimes with multiple offers, which can end well for the seller.

Recently sold homes in close proximity to each other that have similar characteristics and amenities provide valuable information when developing an asking price. However, even next-door houses can vary significantly in square footage, number of bedrooms and baths, and improvements, creating a large disparity in market value.

A combination of location and buyer preference is also significant. Buyers will pay more for homes with location-based amenities they value, like a spectacular view, proximity to shopping, work or hospitals, a pedestrian or bike friendly neighborhood, and good school districts.

Outside factors also influence our market. Buyers' ability to borrow and lenders willingness to issue credit both heavily influenced by the pre-economic conditions. Interest rates available mortgage products and the down payment assistance program and other factors all influence what a buyer is willing or able to pay for a property.

### Here to help

Accurate pricing is a critical consideration in a home sale. Every property will sell, if priced correctly.

If you're selling your home, I recommend hiring a Realtor as your advisor. You Realtor can help you compare your home other nearby homes, educate you about local market conditions and provide effective strategies for developing the asking price to help you achieve the best outcome.



## Gardening Tips

### Callie's Garden Notes

News and Notes for Calloway's & Cornelius Garden Club Members

Specials | Ask Us | Tell Us | Update Profile | Refer-A-Friend | Gift Cards



### Mum Tips

by Neil Sperry



Nurseries have great supplies of "garden" mums right now. These are varieties that have been bred and selected to stay short and to produce quantities of small, cheerful flower heads. Here are some pointers.

- Mums require full sun to reach their full potential. They show best if there are low, evergreen shrubs behind them.
- Look for full, symmetrical plants that have lots of buds and fresh flowers.
- Choose colors that will complement their surroundings, and remember that masses of one single color show up far better than mixtures of colors.
- Space the plants 18 to 22 inches apart in well-prepared garden soil. At the most, they should barely touch one another.
- Allow them to bloom as long as they can. Then, once they're through flowering for the season, cut them back to within just an inch or two from the ground. Next year's stalks will come up from the ground.
- Don't be surprised if the plants produce flowers next spring. They bloom when nights reach a certain length, and there is a time in mid-spring, when nights are the same length as they are in the fall. Allow them to bloom for a few weeks, then prune off the flowers, fertilize the plants, and encourage them to produce vigorous vegetative growth.

### Winterizing Your Landscape



Living in Texas, you never know what to expect from Mother Nature. Being prepared for our extreme weather is the best solution! One simple thing you can do for your landscape plants is to provide a 2 to 3 inch layer of mulch. **Mulching** is beneficial year round but during the colder periods it provides a layer of insulation for the roots. Secondly, **water your landscape** well before a cold spell. A drought stressed plant is more susceptible to freeze damage. Thirdly, for more tender plants, purchase **frost cloth** for extra protection. Remember that many frost tender plants can be damaged even when the temperatures are in the high 30's. Frost cloth is a fabric which adds 3 to 4 degrees of warmth. Cover the plant completely allowing the edges to come all the way to the ground. That way, we are utilizing the heat which radiates from the ground.

Become a member of the Calloway's Garden Club and you will receive email notices prior to any weather crisis. Visit [www.mytexasgarden.com](http://www.mytexasgarden.com) to join.

[www.mytexasgarden.com](http://www.mytexasgarden.com)

## Exclusive Gift Card Offer from Calloway's and Cornelius Nursery



Share your love of gardening with a unique and thoughtful **Garden Gift Card** this season.

Starting today **through December 8, 2010** purchase a [Garden Gift Card](#) online and save! We'll mail the gift card for you in an attractive card with your custom message. The savings are:

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This special is good for Gift Cards purchased [online only](#) through **December 8. Order before Dec. 8 for Christmas delivery.** Discounted Gift Cards cannot be purchased in the store. Offer ends soon. Order your Gift Card today! Go to: [www.mytexasgarden.com](http://www.mytexasgarden.com) and let us make your Christmas shopping easier. Get your list out and start checking off names!



### Premium Red Poinsettias

Visit any Calloway's or Cornelius Nursery and choose fresh, red, premium **Poinsettias** for your holiday decorating. Our Poinsettias have more bracts and more blooms. Each Poinsettia carries five to seven blooms - that's two to four more than you'll likely find at a grocer or discount store. Choose Calloway's and Cornelius Premium Red Poinsettias! These beauties represent the finest quality and the greatest value.

# Halloween Contest Winners

The following Homeowner's yards won the 4th Annual HNHA Halloween contest and have received a \$25 Target gift card from HNHA and a \$25 gift certificate from Calloway's!

*Congratulations Homeowners!*



**Peter and Terry Kopel—7602 Kilmichael**

**Gregg and Sherri Allen— 7705 Lairds**

## Good Neighbor Coupon



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## Pet Corner



### The ASPCA Animal Behavior Center Offers Lifesaving Advice for a Trouble-Free Pet

#### Top Pet Peeves

As you celebrate the holidays, try to keep your pets' eating and exercise habits as close to their normal routine as possible. Be sure to steer them clear of unhealthy treats, toxic plants and dangerous decorations.

**Christmas Tree** Securely anchor your Christmas tree so it doesn't fall, causing possible injury to your pet. This will also prevent the tree water—which may contain fertilizers that can cause stomach upset—from spilling.

**Tinsel and Ornaments** Kitties love sparkly tinsel that's easy to carry in their mouths. But if swallowed, tinsel can obstruct the digestive tract, causing vomiting, dehydration and possibly require surgery. Also, keep glass and plastic ornaments out of paw's reach.

**Holiday Foods and Leftovers** Make sure to keep your pets away from the holiday table and unattended plates of food, and be sure to secure the lids on garbage cans. Remember, fatty, spicy foods—as well as bones—should not be fed to your pets.

**Toys** Choose safe gifts for your pet. Dogs can tear apart toys and swallow the pieces, which can then get lodged in the esophagus, stomach or intestines. Stick with indestructible chew toys, Kongs\* that can be stuffed with healthy foods, or chew treats that are designed to be safely digestible. And while stringy things are a feline's dream, the riskiest toys for cats involve ribbon, yarn and loose parts that can get stuck in the intestines. Surprise kitty with a new ball that's too big to swallow or a stuffed catnip toy, safer bets for furry felines.

**Mistletoe and Holly** Holly, when ingested, can cause nausea, vomiting and diarrhea in pets. Mistletoe can cause gastrointestinal upset and cardiovascular problems. Poinsettias, on the other hand, are considered to be very low in toxicity. However, they can cause mild vomiting or nausea. Either skip them altogether, or choose artificial plants

**New Year's Noise** As you count down to the new year, please remember that confetti can get lodged in a cat's intestines if ingested, perhaps necessitating surgery. Noisy poppers can terrify pets and cause possible damage to sensitive ears.

**Meds** Make sure your medications are locked behind secure doors, and be sure to tell your guests to keep their meds zipped up and packed away, too.

**Candles** Don't leave lighted candles unattended. Pets may burn themselves or cause a fire if they knock candles over.

**Cocktails** If your celebration includes holiday beverages, be sure to place your unattended alcoholic drinks where pets cannot get to them.

**Too Much Celebrating** Give your pets his own quiet space to retreat to—complete with fresh water and a place to snuggle.

For more information about keeping your pet happy and healthy this holiday season, please visit [www.aspc.org/holiday tips](http://www.aspc.org/holiday_tips).

### Prestonwood Pet Clinic

Gary Bridges, DVM

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Dallas Highlands North Homeowners Association

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Once-Weekly Collection Service for Garbage and Recycling:

North Side—Tuesdays

South Side—Mondays

Bulky Trash Pick-up the Week of:

**December 6th**



# HNHA CALENDAR December 2010



*December 1st*

*Hanukkah Begins*

*December 6th*

*Week of Bulky Trash Pick-Up*

*(Do not set out before Thursday, December 2nd)*

*December 21st*

*First Day of Winter*

*December 25th*

*Christmas Day*

*December 26th*

*Kwanzaa Begins*

*December 31st*

*New Year's Eve*

