

HNHA Connection

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2011



From December to March, there are for many of us three gardens - the garden outdoors, the garden of pots and bowls in the house, and the garden of the mind's eye."

~Katherine S. White

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Happy Holidays Highlands North!

Annual Winter Holiday Yard of the Month

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!



Special Thanks!

I'd like to give my special thanks to Marcia Weiss, Jamie Harrison and Dee and Tony Smith for all of their hard work to bring us the Highland's North Family BBQ and Budget Meeting this past October!

Thanks also to Carol Ann Miller, Liz Wood, Cori Pratt, Susan Carrington, and the other Highlands North Board Members who helped with the Membership Drive.

Have a safe and happy Holiday Season ~

Jeremy Rosenthal,
Highlands North President

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Editor

Jacqueline Ferris

Submissions

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Around the Neighborhood

Halloween Party

The 8th Annual Neighborhood Party was held at the Ferris' on Dalmalley Lane. This year it was a "Carnival theme and included a special performance by the Pearce Theater lead performers for the upcoming production of Phantom of the Opera in February!



HIGHLANDS NORTH BLOCK PARTY!

Pam and Mike Harvey held a block party in October at their home on Dornoch Lane to welcome our new neighbors, Roxanna Ruiz-Felter and Daniel Felter. It was potluck style and was well attended by Highlands North members!



Front Row, L to R: Sheila Legan, Chris Marcus, Phyllis Mills, Roxanna Ruiz-Felter, Pam Harvey, Leyta Sesi. Middle: Susan Carrington Back Row: George Marcus, Jace Carrington, Ghanim Sesi, Cliff Mathews, Daniel Felter, Marty Mills, Neal Legan. (Not pictured who also attended--Mel and Ingeborg Brooks, Derrick and Catherine Stratman, and Mike Harvey, who took the picture)

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mom's night out. Contact: Jennifer Far-
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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. If Sunshine and Shadows news is submitted by the 14th of the month, it will be included in the next month's newsletter!

Sunshine: **Jo Alch** of Glenneagle Drive, a Registered Nurse, was recently selected as a finalist for the "D Magazine Excellence in Nursing Award". Jo is the owner of "Acappella in Home Care," a private duty nursing and caregiver agency in North Dallas. The article will appear in the March issue of "D Magazine!"

Sunshine: **Taylor Lauren Mathews**, daughter of **Cliff and Nancy Mathews** of Dalmalley Lane, scored the winning goal for the Oklahoma State University Cowgirls soccer team in OSU's Big 12 Conference Championship game in November 2011! While at J.J. Pearce High School, Taylor, now a sophomore at OSU, was the leader of Pearce's back-to-back Texas State UIL girls soccer championships in 2009 and 2010! At the time this article was submitted, OSU was scheduled to compete with Stanford University in the NCAA quarterfinals on November 25 in Stanford, California.



Taylor Mathews

Sunshine: Among the four J.J. Pearce High School student-athletes who signed National Letters of Intent in early November are longtime Highlands North friends and neighbors **Adam Bull**, son of **Ed and Beth Bull** of Pennyburn Drive, and **Cade Storey**, son of **Steve and Louann Storey** of Queens Garden Drive. Adam, a two-time USA Swimming Scholastic All American and Texas 4A record holder in the 200 IM, will be headed to the University of Florida – Go Gators! Cade, who has made UIL 1st Team All-District for the past three years, All-Region two years, and All-State one year, will be headed to Texas Tech University – Go Red Raiders! Congratulations to these two outstanding student-athletes!



Adam Bull and Cade Storey on signing day.

Sunshine: Bowie Elementary recently held its annual Hoop Shoot competition, which is sponsored by the Elks Lodge, and Bowie P.E. teacher Linda Goldman is very proud of her winners! Highlands North winners were **J.D. Schroeder**, son of **Jed and Diana Schroeder** of Queens Garden Drive (8/9 year-old boys), **Lynn Dahan**, daughter of **Simon and Oshat Dahan** of Cleary Circle (10/11 year-old girls), and **Glen Brown**, son of **Wade and Cara Brown** of Fallkirk Drive (10/11 year-old boys). J.D. Schroeder came in fourth at the district-level competition. Congratulations to these students!



Mandatory Watering Restrictions to begin Dec. 12

See permitted watering schedule here.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Dallas will enter **STAGE 1** of the Drought Contingency Plan on December 12th. Although our reservoirs are less than 25% depleted, other factors have developed that make it prudent to initiate our Drought Contingency Plan before the lakes are depleted to the level recommended in the Plan. For more information go to: <http://savedallaswater.com/droughtcontingency/>

STAGE 1 WATERING SCHEDULE - Dallas Drought Contingency Plan

Last Digit of Address	Watering Days Allowed
0, 2, 4, 6 or 8 (even numbers)	Sundays and Thursdays
1, 3, 5, 7 or 9 (odd numbers)	Saturdays and Wednesdays
No address number	Sundays and Thursdays

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Support Your Local School



The Phantom is coming February 2012 and We Need Your Help!

Nationally recognized JJ Pearce Theater group will be presenting Andrew Lloyd Webber's The Phantom of the Opera in February 2012. This is a monumental undertaking and the theater group is asking for our community for their financial support of this production. Pearce High School will be the second high school and this will be the second NON-PROFESSIONAL production version of the Phantom of the Opera. Phantom of the Opera will only be presented by a limited number of schools this year—no others in this area. We invite you to be a part of this history-making production and enjoy the benefits of sponsorship. As a sponsor, your financial support will help us continue to be one of the premiere high school theater programs in the country and will be instrumental in helping us take on challenging scripts and scores.

Please go to our website and find out how you can help sponsor this year's outstanding performance of The Phantom of the Opera! www.pearcetheater.com

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January 4, 2012—Return to School



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CRIME CORNER BY TODD CUBBAGE

HNHA CRIME WATCH STATS – October/November 2011

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!

Recently reported crimes in and around Highlands North include:

- On November 9, 2011, criminal mischief / vandalism was reported in the 7600 block of Carta Valley.



I realize last month's article covered Holiday Safety; however, there were a couple things that were not covered. Since it's the Holiday season, might as well stick with the theme...

Holiday Decorations Are Up and So Are Charity Scams

The holidays are known as "the giving season." It is a time when the amount of donations to charities and organizations increase. People are often more soft-hearted about giving during the holidays than any other time of year. Donations range from clothing, money, and sometimes even property. While donating is a great way to give back, donors should use caution when deciding to whom and what to donate. The holiday season is a time when criminals prey on the generosity of donors. Charity scams are the highest during this season. Criminals use this opportunity to set up money scams and even fake charities, leaving donors clueless and resulting in lost profit for a charity in need.

Here are five ways to avoid charity scams this holiday season:

- **Research the charity.** Be sure that it is a charity that you can trust or a charity that is familiar to you. Consider asking friends and family for suggestions, but still do your homework by calling or checking out the website. Look for past accomplishments and years in business. The larger the donation, the longer you should think about it before transferring funds to a charity.
- **Don't give in to pressure to give on the spot.** Do not give on the spot, whether it is by phone, with a credit card, or a runner coming to get the donation. The charity that needs

your gift today will welcome it tomorrow. Ask for a pledge card instead, this will give you time to do your research.

- **Never give out credit card information over the phone.**

If a solicitor claims that the charity will support a local organization that you are familiar with, this is not a green light to give all of your information. Do not give your credit card or any other banking information over the phone. Call the charity in question directly to verify the claim. Phony charities will use familiar names of charities that are located in the area code that donors are calling from so that it appears that contributions are going to support local causes. People like to help their neighbors, especially during the holidays, and scam artists won't hesitate to exploit a donor's kindness.

- **Make your monetary contributions by check.** When giving a monetary donation, use a check instead of cash. This is the most secure method of tracking your donations. Be sure to make your checks payable to the charity and not to an individual.

- **Check the IRS and Better Business Bureau.** Most states require charities to register and file annual reports showing how they use donations. Ask your state or local consumer protection agency how to get this information. The Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance also offers information about national charities. You can check www.give.org for more information.

More fraud during the holidays:

There are many opportunities for criminals to steal your money during the holidays and rest assured there are many out there who are planning their next scheme as we speak. Here are just a few possibilities.

- Remember: we always say if the deal sounds too good to be true, it probably is. This applies to internet purchases as well, including purchases on Craigslist and eBay.
- If you are shopping online, make sure the web site you are shopping on is a legitimate one. When in doubt, shop elsewhere.
- Email is a wonderful tool for all of us, especially criminals. Cybercriminals often send fake invoices and delivery notices that look like they are from a legitimate business like FedEx, UPS or the Post Office. Banking and credit card scams are also rampant. Criminals try to trick you into divulging your bank account numbers, passwords, social security numbers and other information which will allow them to steal your identity. To confirm authenticity of any of these emails, get a phone number for the company from their official web site and call them for confirmation.



CRIME CORNER

BY TODD CUBBAGE

- Holiday e-cards are fun, but beware of clicking on one that comes from someone you don't know. It could contain malware, spyware or other hidden trouble.
- Many of us use our credit cards for holiday purchases. Make sure you keep close track of your purchases and check your statements frequently to make sure there are no fraudulent purchases made by someone who has stolen your credit card information.



RANDOM, NON-CRIME RELATED TRIVIA

About as quick as last month's newsletter was sent, Dee Smith responded with the correct answer to what I thought it was the toughest question to date. Congrats, Dee! You're prize: one Twinkie. However, I'm going to have to check with the HNHA Treasure to see if my budget will permit such extravagance.

This month's question(s): In the movie It's a Wonderful Life, what was Uncle Billy's telephone number? Bonus Question: Put these four inventions in order from first to last to be invented: zipper, sewing machine, fax machine and barbed wire. Good luck!

Thanks, stay safe and have a safe and joyful holiday season,

Todd Cubbage

EMAIL: highlandsnorth@hotmail.com

HOTLINE: 214.967.5120

REAL ESTATE TIPS

BY JO PRESSLY



3 Steps to Winterize Your Home

Use the next few months of moderate temperatures to feather a cozy, energy-efficient nest that withstands wintry conditions. Even if you live in a warmer climate where snow and ice are rare or non-existent, you can take preventative measures now to keep your utility bills in check, raise your comfort level and prevent costly home repairs down the road.

1. Increase your efficiency: The problem: As the temperature dips, your utility bill climbs. The U.S. Department of Energy reports that heating accounts for 31 percent of the [average home's annual utility use](#). The fix: You can save as much as 20 percent on your home's energy costs by installing an energy-efficient furnace with properly sealed ducts. (Sealing ductwork alone can save you up to \$140 a year.) Plus, making your home more energy efficient can earn you some [tax credits](#). Other ways to increase efficiency include:

- Have a professional clean and test your heating system before winter begins.
- Install a programmable thermostat.
- Change furnace filters monthly.

2. Improve your comfort: **The problem:** A drafty house makes you chilly, and lets warm air slip out. **The fix:** ENERGY STAR notes that properly [sealing and insulating a home](#) improves comfort and saves up to 10 percent on annual energy costs. Use these tips to get started:

- Apply caulk around windows, doors, pipes, vents and electrical outlets and seal foundation cracks with hydraulic cement or polyurethane foam.
- Check for drafts by holding a lit incense stick in front of windows that may not be airtight. If drafts are found, cover windows with film and seal.
- Add more [insulation](#) as needed.
- Adjust ceiling fans so blades turn in a clockwise direction to push warmer air down into a room.

3. Prevent ice damage: The problem: State Farm experts estimate that each winter 250,000 homes experience damage due to [frozen pipes](#). The fix: First look for places where cold air can get in.

- Add insulation to pipes located on exterior walls and in crawl spaces and attics.
- Disconnect garden hoses so water won't freeze in the faucet or pipe.
- Clean gutters and downspouts to direct winter precipitation away from foundations. Note: Cleaning gutters does not prevent ice dams.

Find more [winter-proofing tips](#) at statefarm.com. And check out ENERGY STAR's interactive room-by-room [energy-saving tool](#).

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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



Timely Tip for December Gardeners from Calloway's Nursery

Working in your garden is an excellent escape during the holidays. It is a perfect time to plant trees and shrubs so they can develop a strong root system for next Spring. Cool weather color such as Pansies, Snapdragons, Cyclamen, Flowering Cabbage and Kale add splashes of color to your landscape. Spring flowering bulbs can be planted now once they have been properly chilled.

Prune Summer flowering shrubs and vines now. They will bloom on new growth. Remember-do not top your Crape myrtles! Simply prune to remove seed heads and shape. Trim evergreens only to reshape.

Prepare for the cold weather before it hits! One of the best things you can do for your landscape plants is to provide a 2-to 3-inch layer of mulch. **Mulching** is necessary 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. 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. We are utilizing the heat which radiates from the ground.

Become a member of our Garden Club and you will receive email notices prior to any weather crisis. Visit www.calloways.com to join.

This is also an excellent time to start planning changes or additions to your landscape. Bring a sketch or photo and let our Texas Certified Nursery Professionals assist you!

www.mytexasgarden.com

Exclusive Gift Card Offer from Calloway's and Cornelius Nursery

Simplify your Christmas shopping with a Garden Gift Card for your favorite gardener: Share your love of gardening with a unique and thoughtful Garden Gift Card this season. Starting today through December 8, 2011 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 online purchases only through December 8. Let us make your Christmas shopping easier. Get your list out and start checking off names. Go to: <https://mytexasgarden.com/webstore>.



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.

HNHA Yards of the Month

The following Homeowner's yards won the 5th Annual HNHA Halloween contest and have received a \$25 Target gift card from HNHA and a \$25 gift certificate from Calloway's!

Congratulations Homeowners!

North Side

South Side



Craig and Christy Hock—7607 Queens Garden Drive



Brad and Jennifer Livingston—7610 Lairds

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Pet Corner by Zoe Meyer

The holiday season is in full swing! From traditional foods to that cozy fireplace, there are many unsuspecting hazards which can pose a potential threat to our pets. Here are a few tips to help keep your furry friend safe and happy over the holidays.

Proper Identification. Make sure your pet is wearing proper ID tags (with current information) and has been micro-chipped in the event he/she dashes out the door and becomes lost.

Skip the table scraps & sweets. Any sudden change in a pet's diet can cause severe indigestion and diarrhea. Bones can splinter and cause blockages. Greasy, spicy and fatty foods can also cause stomach upset or even worse – an inflammatory condition of the pancreas known as pancreatitis. Sweets can kill, so keep chocolate, desserts, all types of candy and the foil / cellophane wrappers they come in out of your pet's reach.

Yeast Dough / Baking Ingredients. Keep raw dough out of your pet's reach. If eaten, it will expand in your pet's stomach and could become a life-threatening emergency. Both baking soda and baking powder are highly toxic, along with nutmeg and other spices.

Use caution with alcoholic beverages. Many holiday plans include alcoholic beverages. If ingested, an animal can become sick and weak and possibly go into a coma, which could lead to death due to respiratory failure.

Use caution with floral arrangements. Many festive holiday plants such as mistletoe and holly berries can be toxic to pets. Lilies are especially deadly to cats. Keep all floral arrangements out of your pet's reach.

Fire Hazards. If you spark up the fireplace, keep unsuspecting, curious pets away from the sparks and flames and make sure to never leave any lit candle unattended.

Christmas Tree Water. The water that keeps your tree flourishing may contain fertilizers which, if ingested, can cause stomach upset. Stagnant tree water can serve as a breeding ground for bacteria and cause vomiting, abdominal discomfort and diarrhea in your pet.

Decorations. Ribbons, tinsel, pine needles and glass tree ornaments, if ingested, can become lodged in your pet's intestines, causing intestinal blockage. Tape down electrical cords, as chewing on them could cause pets to be badly burned or electrocuted.

Unwanted Gift. Never surprise a friend, spouse or partner with a gift of a pet for the holidays. A companion animal is for life, not just the holidays.

Remember to always keep a watchful eye on your pets, especially during the hustle and bustle of the holidays. Contact your veterinarian or nearest animal emergency clinic immediately if you suspect your pet has ingested something that may be toxic or dangerous. **SOURCE and GRAPHIC:** [Houston SPCA](#)



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Social:

Fall Meeting/Social—Marcia Weiss
Easter Egg Hunt—Tina Cox (972) 934-4925
 Valerie Cabbage (972) 272-8499
 Lyn Pollard (972) 239-1162
Luncheon & Fashion Show—Lisa Althaus (972) 934-0128
4th of July Picnic— **Open**
Sunshine and Shadows—Jamie Harrison (972) 788-8076
Yard of the Month North—Marcia Weiss (972) 387-2991
South—Hertha Hughes (972) 458-7150

**HNHA HOTLINES****Consumer File**—Ann Brandt (972) 392-0805**Crime Watch Hotline**—(214) 967-5120
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*Information Only—Please do not leave a message.***Pet Hotline**— (972) 967-PETS (7387)
hnhapets@hotmail.com**CONSUMER FILE**

Looking for a plumber? A handyman?
 An electrician? How about a landscaper?
 A tile layer? A window replacement
 company?

Call our HNHA Consumer File Representative **Ann Brandt at: (972) 392-0805**. Ann has a file of folks recommended by your neighbors for all types of home repairs and improvements. (The file also includes "contractors" who have received negative comments in the past).



**Highlands North's Budget Report for 2012
 is posted on Highlands North's website**

**Go to: www.highlandsnorth.com
 on the homepage click on:**

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*Once-Weekly Collection
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Bulky Trash Pick-up the Week of:

December 5th



HNHA CALENDAR December 2011



December 5th

Bulky Trash Pick-Up

Earliest set out date is Thursday, December 1st

December 12th

HNHA Board Meeting

December 20th

Hannukah 2011 Begins

December 22nd

First Day of Winter

December 25th

Christmas Day

December 26th

Kwanzaa Begins

December 31st

New Year's Eve

