

Oak Crest

NEWSLETTER

November / December 2023



A Neighborhood News Publication

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Plan Now for a Safe Winter

By Sharon Reynolds, Neighborhood News Staff Writer



It's always better to be prepared when winter arrives. Better safe than sorry, right? A few years ago, even South Texas saw snow on the ground, which is a rarity. Winter storms can be dangerous with potential power failures and loss of heat. While being outdoors during winter can be dangerous, there are also some indoor dangers to be aware of.

HEATING YOUR HOME SAFELY

Please be extremely careful this winter and remember these helpful tips.

Danger: Never use your gas stove or oven to heat your home, it's not safe. If the power goes out in your home, garner heat from the following: warm coats, blankets, or sleeping bags. Using a gas oven or stove can cause carbon monoxide to fill your home and poison everyone inside.

Fireplace:

- Only use the fireplace if it is up to code and has plenty of dry firewood.
- Check the fireplace now to make sure it is properly vented to the outside. If using a gas log fireplace, then ensure gas is not leaking from the flue.
- Get your fireplace checked out now by a professional to prepare for winter storms ahead.

Caution: Never burn paper in a fireplace. Paper burns very quickly and can easily float up the chimney with the hot air. This is dangerous because flames that enter the chimney can ignite the creosote deposits in the flue. Additionally, pieces of burning paper can rise through the chimney and ignite the flammable materials outside the home.

Electric Heaters:

- If you plan to use an electric space heater this winter, choose one with automatic shut-off switch and non-glowing elements.
- Keep space heaters at least 3 to 6 feet away from curtains, blankets, or any other flammable material.

(Continued on page 2)

FACEBOOK PAGE



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**San Antonio
Oak Crest HOA Board**

SLOW DOWN!

Reminder that
the speed limit
is **15 mph** in
our community.



(Continued from page 1)

- Remember to never place a space heater on top of furniture or near water.
- Never leave children unattended near a space heater.
- Ensure the cord of an electric space heater is not a tripping hazard, however never run the cord under carpets or rugs.
- Plug a space heater directly into an outlet, never use an extension cord. If the electrical cord is damaged or produces visible sparks, do not use it.

LIGHTING YOUR HOME SAFELY

Power Failure:

- Stock up now on battery-powered flashlights or lanterns instead of candles. Remember, most house fires are caused by candles.
- If you must use candles to provide light inside your home, remember to never leave lit candles unattended.
- Check your generator to ensure it is in good working condition. If a generator is used due to a winter storm, use it safely by moving it outside the home and at least 20 feet away from doors, windows, or vents and in a space where rain and snow will not reach them. Remember generators exude carbon monoxide. Never use a generator in your garage or basement – the fumes can be deadly.
- Prepare by getting and installing a carbon monoxide detector now. This may save your life.

Let's Get Jingling!



Jingle Bell Run
December 9, 2023
Northeast Lakeview College
1201 Kitty Hawk Rd
Live Oak, TX 78148
www.jbr.org/sanantonio
Alicia Miller-Tamez
210-441-7121
amiller@arthritis.org

Be part of the original festive race for charity and signature Arthritis Foundation holiday event! Wear your favorite holiday attire and together, we'll jingle all the way to a cure! Register as an individual or bring a team of friends, family and co-workers to run, walk or stroll, and spread the good cheer. Together, we're raising funds to support research for **ARTHRITIS TREATMENTS & A CURE** — plus life-changing **ARTHRITIS RESOURCES & LOCAL PROGRAMS**.

Your registration fee and fundraising support the fight to conquer arthritis!




Jingle Bell Run®

Recipe Corner

No Bake Pumpkin Dessert

Ingredients:

- 1 recipe pretzel pie crust
- ½ cup (100g) granulated sugar
- 1 3.4 ounce box instant vanilla pudding mix
- 1 ½ cups (354ml) nonfat milk
- 1 cup (243g) pumpkin puree not pumpkin pie mix
- 1 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
- 8 ounces (226g) cream cheese softened
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 - 8 ounces whipped topping
- 1 chocolate bar (candy bar or semi-sweet baking bar) grated (for garnish)



Source: www.crazyforcrust.com

Instructions:

1. Make pretzel crust and press into a 9×9-inch pan. Chill pretzel crust until ready to use.
2. Wipe out the crust bowl, then add the pudding mix to the bowl. Add the milk and whisk until smooth. Add the pumpkin puree and pumpkin pie spice and mix until smooth. Carefully pour and spread over the crust. The crust isn't solid, so you need to be careful it doesn't get mixed into the pumpkin layer.
3. Place the cream cheese in the bowl and beat with a hand mixer until smooth. Add 1/2 cup sugar and vanilla and beat until combined. Fold in half of the whipped topping. Spread over pumpkin layer.
4. Spread the remaining whipped topping over the top of the cream cheese layer and top with grated chocolate. (To make the chocolate shavings start with a cold chocolate bar and grate it with a box grater over the top of the whipped topping.)



Article Submission:

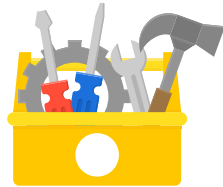
This newsletter is published bi-monthly in January, March, May, July, September and November. The article deadline is the 1st of the month of publication. If you would like to submit an article to be considered for publication in the next newsletter, please send your article to Real Manage at SANANTON@CiraMail.com. Put "Oak Crest newsletter" in the subject line.

Got a Project? Rent-a-Tool!

Do you have an upcoming weekend DIY project, or maybe your lawn mower gave out? Well, the city can help with that — for free. That’s right, the City of San Antonio has a community tool shed program that allows residents, businesses, and community groups to borrow tools at no cost. Let’s break down the details.

Residents and community members who are interested in borrowing tools must complete a Request and Release Form. Here’s a list of tools available to borrow:

- Lawnmowers
- Leaf Blowers
- Loppers
- Rakes
- Shovels
- Tree Pruners
- Weed Eaters



Locals can save a trip to Home Depot or Lowe’s and check out these tools with advance notice, completed forms, and proper identification. Tools can be checked out on Thursday or Friday mornings and returned on Monday mornings.

If you have more questions, you can call the community tool shed team at (210) 207-0154.

Christmas Tree Drop-Off

Each year, Solid Waste Management has drop off locations available during the first two weeks of January for live Christmas trees. They mulch them and the mulch is then available for customers.

- This is for live trees only
- If your tree is over 6 ft, cut it in half
- Remove all lights, decorations, and stands, even wooden ones
- Do not bag trees
- No live wreaths, garlands, or plants accepted



Approximately two weeks after each of these events, the mulch will be available at the Bitters Brush site for free, while supplies last.

Under the city’s Tarp Law, residents must cover brush loads with a tarp or a \$5 penalty may be assessed.

Location	Dates	Hours
Bitters Brush Recycling Center 1800 Wurzbach Parkway, 78216	January 2 -14	• 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Atlas Organics 8963 Nelson Rd, 78252	January 3 -14	• 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Culebra Road Drop-Off Center 7030 Culebra Road, 78238	January 3 -14	• Tuesday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. • Saturday, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Frio City Road Drop-Off Center 1531 Frio City Road, 78226	January 3 -14	• Tuesday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. • Saturday, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Rigsby Road Drop-Off Center 2755 Rigsby Road, 78222	January 3 -14	• Tuesday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. • Saturday, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Solid Waste Management Holiday Schedule

Thanksgiving Week Nov. 23 - 25, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday collection slides to Friday • Friday collection slides to Saturday
Christmas Week Dec. 25 - 30, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday collection slides to Tuesday • Tuesday collection slides to Wednesday • Wednesday collection slides to Thursday • Thursday collection slides to Friday • Friday collection slides to Saturday



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5 Ways Your Family Can Give Back This Holiday Season

During the holiday season, it's hard not to feel joyful. Coming together to celebrate with friends and family is a time to feel grateful for all you have. Holidays are also an opportunity to spread joy to others and teach your children that it is truly better to give than to receive.

Grace Harry, music industry executive and author of *The Joy Strategist*, says the holiday season is a great time to teach kids about empathy.

The commercialization of the holiday season has trained kids to make lists and feel entitled to get, get, get. To balance the materialistic messages they may receive, you can use the holidays to show your kids how they can support others and give back to their communities. Check out Harry's five suggestions on how your family can spread joy to others this holiday season.

1. Make a meal

One of the highlights of the holidays is getting together with loved ones for meals. Set aside time during or between holidays to volunteer at a soup kitchen. Under the guidance of the staff, your family can cook and serve a nutritious meal to those in need. This activity will help nurture a spirit of compassion in your kids and allow you all to share a meaningful moment together as a family.

2. Act as Santa's little helpers

Help out Santa by acting as his elves this holiday season. Many United States Postal Service locations offer the Operation Santa program, which allows people to adopt a letter written to Santa and fulfill the letter writer's wish. The concept is simple. As a family, pick one (or a few!) letters written to Santa, purchase the gifts and mail them. There may also be other local programs with a similar mission that allow you to purchase and deliver gifts personally to children in need. Witnessing the joy and excitement when these children receive their surprise gifts is a gift unto itself.

New Project? Now reach our full listing of vetted and reliable service providers ONLINE

NeighborsWeb.com
Online Business Directory

Yes, the businesses that you have come to know and love in your newsletter are now available in our NEW Online Service Directory.

3. Volunteer while you vacation

Traveling for the holidays is a privilege that not everyone experiences. This season, plan to travel with intention and give back to the places you visit. "When I travel to other countries, even if I'm at a resort, I always make a day, either



at the beginning of the trip or the end, to do something in service, like reading to children in local schools," says Harry.

There are plenty of organizations (and even travel planners) that offer opportunities to build homes, bridges, and other structures in underserved communities. By offering your time and skills, you can leave a lasting impact on the places you visit and create family memories centered on giving to others.

4. Participate in a community drive

Research local toy, clothing, and food drives in your community that collect essential items for those who can't afford them. Often, these drives provide a list of items to take the guesswork out of donating and ensure that the donations received actually meet the needs of the community. Set time aside for your family to review the list and find gently used toys, clothing, and other items you can donate this season. Encourage your friends and neighbors to take part, too!

5. Give the gift of time

While the holidays are known as a time to gather with loved ones, not everyone has people they can spend the holidays with. Your time and presence are some of the most precious gifts you can give during the holidays. For example, your family can volunteer to sing carols at nursing homes or spend time talking and playing board games or cards with residents. These simple but heartfelt interactions can easily brighten someone's day and fill their hearts with joy.

This holiday season, spread joy wherever you are and make a positive impact on the lives of others. Using these five tips, you can create moments with your family that you'll cherish forever and spread the spirit of kindness and generosity that mark this time of year.

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In The Neighborhood

for a weekly dive into community matters

Scan the QR code below to sign up for insightful discussions and local highlights, landing in your inbox every Friday!

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