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December 2022

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### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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210-497-3022

**EMAIL**  
CONTACT@ENCINOPARKHOA.COM

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1923 ENCINO RIO  
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**SPECTRUM ASSOCIATION  
MANAGEMENT**  
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# Message from the Board

By Randy Smith



## *Holiday Safety Tips for Our Community*

Wintertime and the holiday season can be fun for everyone—gathering, traveling, and shopping are activities many look forward to this time of year. Encino Park homeowners’ association (HOA) enjoys spreading good tidings and joy, but it’s equally important to ensure the events and actions that happen around the holidays don’t risk the safety and security of our community or homeowners. Here are some tips to consider for a safe and secure holiday season:

### Minimize Identity Theft

Data security and protecting yourself from a breach falls squarely within a board member’s fiduciary duty. And with the holiday season bringing more transactions and distractions, now is the time to be more diligent, here are some ideas to keep your identity safe:

- Processing paper checks immediately.
- Transitioning to a digital document storage platform.
- Using the latest encryption software for digital files.
- Securely storing your paper documents in a locked room and locked filing cabinets.
- Shred documents that you no longer need or have personal information on them.

### Service Fire and Carbon Monoxide Alarms

With homeowners hosting holiday gatherings, it’s necessary to confirm your warning systems are in good working order. Remember to check and repair the following:

- Emergency lighting like flashlights and exit plans
- Fire alarm components (extra batteries)
- Fire extinguishers
- Fire alarms and carbon monoxide detectors



### Prepare for Weather Issues

During the winter months, ice and snow buildup can quickly create hazardous conditions. Get ahead on your to-do list and prepare to treat your driveways and

(Continued on page 2)



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Crime & Safety Committee - Dyan Montesclaros ..210-481-7890  
Involvement Committee - Delisa Leopold ..... 210-497-3022  
Over 50 Club - Dalia Benzick..... 210-497-3022  
Park Committee Chair - Peggy Wardlaw.....210-386-6601  
Pet Finder - Cindy Haines.....210-573-1085  
Pool Committee - Jason Williamson ..... 210-497-3022  
Swim Team - John Kirschbaum..... 210-497-3022  
Women’s Club - Nancy Thomas..... 210-497-3022

**TO VOLUNTEER FOR A COMMITTEE,  
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*(Continued from page 1)*

sidewalks before winter weather approaches. Other tips include:

- Have salt or other ice-melting compounds.
- Repair cracked sidewalks and other damaged pavement.
- Remove water that pools on sidewalks and driveways.

**Maintain Landscaping**

Preserve lawns and ensure that it does not have overgrown grass and unkempt landscaping. When your property looks like it's not taken care of, it leaves your home open to trespassing and crime.

- Make certain shrubs are no higher than 3 feet, and tree branches are at least 6 feet and higher above the ground. Taller shrubs and lower branches can conceal intruders.
- Keep grass mowed.
- Keep walkways clear.

**Be involved in the Neighborhood Watch Program**

The holiday season is especially vulnerable to package theft and, at times, personal safety. The neighborhood watch program helps combat that by staying in touch with local law enforcement, patrolling the neighborhood, and sharing safety tips with homeowners. If you have not already become involved with the neighborhood watch program, consider it now.

**Individual Security Actions**

Creating a safe and secure community is a group effort. Homeowners must do their part by preventing their homes or households from appearing vulnerable. Residents have ways to stay safe, some examples include:

- Leaving the interior light on when departing for an overnight trip, so the home appears occupied. Or setting light timers to turn on and off in different rooms at different times.
- Picking up mail or package deliveries promptly.
- Regularly maintaining walkways, driveways, and landscaping.
- Quickly replacing non-functioning exterior lights and keeping outdoor spaces well-lit at night.
- Adding a video doorbell or home security camera.
- Getting to know your neighbors—it's not only hospitable, but also a great way to look out for one another.

**Spread Cheer During the Holidays**

Encino Park HOA, you're responsible for keeping our community secure during the busiest season for getting out and entertaining. However, you also have a unique opportunity to make spirits bright. Remember that we have our annual Holiday Lights competition that our residents will be judging on the evening of December 11th-18th, with the winners being announced on December 20th. Let's see that 2022 holiday spirit and if you have a chance, help someone when you can.



**ENCINO PARK**  
*Holiday Decorating Contest*

**Judging: December 11-18**  
**Winners announced: December 20**

**Categories**  
 Best Lights  
 Most Original  
 Best Theme

**Prizes for each category**  
 1st Place - \$50 Gift Card  
 2nd Place - \$25 Gift Card  
 3rd Place - Bragging Rights

**Holiday Decorating Judging Form on page 6.**

*Encino Park Women's Club cordially invites you to our*

**ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY**  
**Monday, December 12th**  
**6:30 pm**

Joan Raver's home at 19931 Encino Ridge  
 Turkey, ham & beverages provided by the club. Please bring a side dish or dessert.

**AUCTION TO FOLLOW DINNER!**  
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**Out to Lunch**

This month we are going, or will have gone, depending on when this publication is received, to Beverly Anderson's home.

In November, there was no outing.

In October ten of us enjoyed dining at Conroy's. The food was delicious; everyone enjoyed what they had ordered. The service was superb, and we all had a good time visiting with each other.

For questions about the Out-to-Lunch group call Janet at 210-481-9956.

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## OVER 50 CLUB

Submitted by Dalia Benzick

It's close to the end of a memorable year. The Over 50 group will meet **Tuesday, December 6th** for our special holiday lunch and festivities. We will not meet again until January 2023. At that time, we will resume meeting on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at the Community Center.

As the year ends, all of us wish the best for you and yours at all times. Count your blessings and be grateful for them. Be too large for worry, too strong for fear, too noble for anger, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

*Merry Christmas, dear neighbors!*



## ENCINO PARK WOMEN'S CLUB

By Donna Morton

With all the busyness of the holidays upon us, the Encino Park Women's Club has enjoyed some exciting and fun times with friends over the last few months. We had a rousing game of LCR at our Boofest/Halloween Party in October and enjoyed getting to know our neighbors and friends a little better while appreciating good food, laughter and games at our November meeting. Our December meeting is always a favorite of the members because we get to dress up a little, dine on great recipes from friends, sip a little wine (or not) and raise money for a women's/children's charity. We want to invite all women of Encino Park to join us as we celebrate the holidays. Listed below are a few events to remember.



## CRIME & SAFETY COMMITTEE

It's the season for porch pirates to be out and about shopping for packages left on our porches. As you may have noticed, pods are parked at the pool parking lot in anticipation of packages to be delivered for the next couple of months. So, please arrange to retrieve your packages as soon as you can. Some have arranged for their packages to be delivered to their office or someone they know will be home to receive them.

Vehicle burglaries continue to be a problem in the northside neighborhoods, so don't leave valuables inside your car, including the remote control, and lock it. Now that it is darker earlier, please drive safely, watch out for the other drivers, especially motorcycles and bikes and observe the rules of the road. Wear white at night if you are out walking.

If you experience a burglary or see something illegal, don't post it to NextDoor only, email our SAFFE Officer at [arturocastellanos@sanantonio.gov](mailto:arturocastellanos@sanantonio.gov). You can also report suspicious activity to the non-emergency numbers (210-207-7273 or 210-335-4750).

The Committee meets the first **Wednesday/month at 7 PM** at the Community Center for 30-45 minutes. All residents are welcome.

### Future meeting dates and events:

**Sat., Dec. 3rd 10am-12pm**

**Santa Visit!**

EP Community Center

**Mon., Dec. 12th 6:30 pm**

**Holiday Dinner/Auction!**

Ravers' Home

**Mon., Jan. 9th 7:00 pm**

**Pajama Party Bingo!**

EP Community Center

If you have questions about the club, call **Nancy Thomas @ 210-410-7614**.

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# ENCINO PARK

## *Holiday Decorating Contest*

**Judging is open to all Encino Park residents!**

**How to participate:**

**Print this form, complete each line and submit to the HOA office by December 18.**

**(May be put in the Drop Box)**

**Note: Only one Judging Form per address will be considered.**

**Best Lights (write in address)**

1st \_\_\_\_\_

2nd \_\_\_\_\_

3rd \_\_\_\_\_

**Best Theme (write in address)**

1st \_\_\_\_\_

2nd \_\_\_\_\_

3rd \_\_\_\_\_

**Most Original (write in address)**

1st \_\_\_\_\_

2nd \_\_\_\_\_

3rd \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for participating!*



**Form completed by:**

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# EP TEEN DIRECTORY



Name	Age	Contact	Services
Grace Bush	16	210-323-6708	Babysitting, pet sitting, dog walking, house sitting (5/22)
Faith Bush	12	210-323-6708	Babysitting & pet sitting (5/22)
Emma Cline	16	210-912-9588	Pet sitting, dog walking & house sitting (2/22)
Julia Hendrix	16	210-363-7642	Babysitting, pet sitting, dog walking (11/22)
Ryan Kruger	15	210-787-0015	Lawn maintenance (7/22)
Maggie Micklitz	16	210-410-2990	Babysitting, Pet sitting, house sitting (6/22)
Clayton Micklitz	14	210-410-2990	Babysitting, Pet sitting, house sitting (6/22)
Vincent Prusinsky	18	210-722-5545	Lawn Mowing, trim hedges, weed eating, power washing services, Pet sitting, dog walking (12/22)
Ignacio Watkins	18	626-975-0676	Soccer coach, soccer trainer, fitness/cardio trainer (7/22)

Teen Service listings are free to all Encino Park residents under nineteen (19) years of age. Ads will run for one year, unless the advertiser calls and requests renewal. To add, remove, or edit your ad, call 210-558-3160 or email Ariel@neighborhoodnews.com. Please put "Encino Park Resident" in the subject line.

## WE'RE GLAD YOU ASKED!



I heard that the HOA Board of Directors is considering a vote to invest in repairs and upgrades to the pool house. Is that true?

That's correct. The park, pool, tennis courts and basketball courts are some of the main reasons that make Encino Park such a desirable neighborhood. The pool arguably could be considered the "crown jewel" of our neighborhood, and the pool house is in need of some maintenance and improvements.

Here are some of the plans for the pool house building:

- Replace rotten wood exterior siding with a material that is designed to last several years
- Remove wooden slats on the exterior to help eliminate the elements from coming into the building
- Add an entrance to the bathrooms from the parking lot side of the building. Residents will be able to use their amenity card to access the bathrooms at any time.
- Update the restrooms to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements
- Insulate the walls to help avoid freezing pipes that we experienced in recent years

If you have questions or concerns, please email us at [contact@encinoparkhoa.com](mailto:contact@encinoparkhoa.com), call the management office at 210-494-0659, or come to one of our HOA Board meetings that are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the clubhouse.

## Recipe Corner

### Hot Apple Cider

#### Ingredients:

- 3 cinnamon sticks
- 1 tsp black peppercorns
- 1/2 tsp whole cloves
- 1/4 tsp ground nutmeg
- 4 cups unsweetened apple juice
- 1/2 tbsp. orange zest
- pure maple syrup, optional for added sweetness



#### Instructions:

1. Combine spices in a sauce pan and cook over medium-high heat until aromatic, about 4-5 minutes, stirring frequently.
2. Add the nutmeg, and stir to combine. The, add in the apple juice and orange zest. Bring to a boil.
3. Reduce heat and simmer for 15-20 minutes, depending on how strong you like your cider.
4. Pour juice through a fine-mesh sieve, into a mug. Allow to cool slightly.

Source: [www.asweetpeachef.com](http://www.asweetpeachef.com)



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# Celebrate National Christmas Card Day

By Sharon Reynolds, Neighborhood News Staff Writer

National Christmas Card day is on December 9, 2022. It's also the day that cards are due at the post office to ensure they will arrive before Christmas. Sending Christmas cards was and is an age-old tradition in the United States. Sending cards to friends and family members allows that connection to remain strong, even if you haven't spoken to the person all year.

## Now for a little history...

Born out of too much to do and too little time, the first Christmas Card was created by Sir Henry Cole of London, England. Mr. Cole, being a prominent educator who moved in elite social circles, had many friends. So, as you can imagine, Christmas stressed him out. As tons mail from friends and family began to pile up, he wondered how he would ever have the time to respond to all of them. Then he had an ingenious idea.

In 1843, Mr. Cole hired a local artist to draw him a picture of a family party at the table, with smaller images of people giving food to the poor and clothes to the needy, on either side. He then printed 1,000 copies and mailed them to family and friends. This worked well for Mr. Cole since he didn't have to spend hours upon hours writing out individual notes. Since he ended up with

extra 'Christmas Cards', he sold them for a shilling each. Below is what the very first Christmas Card looked like.

## Controversy

If you look closely at the picture, you will notice that everyone is drinking wine, even the children. This caused a bit of controversy since many thought he was advocating underage drinking. Nonetheless, friends of his elite social circle recognized the Christmas card as a way to save a ton of time and within a few years, they began copying the card and sending them out for Christmas.

## Christmas Cards in the United States

Louis Prang of Boston is credited with the first United States Christmas card in 1875. Although, the card did not look like one we would imagine. It simply had a picture of a flower on it and read Merry Christmas. In the late 1800's, publishers from around the country organized design competitions with cash prizes offered for the best designs.

Arguably, the Christmas card industry officially began in 1915 by Joyce Hall, who was later joined by her two brothers Rollie and William. The company, later named Hallmark, created colorful cards with nativity scenes and Santa Claus.

We hope you enjoyed reading a bit of the history of National Christmas Card Day. We wish you all a wonderful holiday season!

Resource: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/history-christmas-card-180957487/>



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San Antonio Water System

# REDUCE WINTER WATER USE AND SAVE MONEY IN 2023

By Mark Peterson, SAWS Gardenstyle San Antonio

Fall and winter water use can impact your water bills for the coming year, so it's important to cut back on watering now. SAWS sewer charges are based on your average winter water use. That means the less water you use from mid-November to mid-March, the lower your monthly sewer service charge will be for the rest of 2023. So, watering your landscape less now can add up to big savings all year long.

Since your landscape is the single biggest water user, turning off your automatic irrigation system is the easiest way to save water.

I know you're thinking that your landscape must be watered. Not true. Evergreen shrubs, trees and even your St. Augustine lawn go dormant in the fall and winter. And, of course, native and adapted plants seldom require supplemental water beyond natural rainfall.

Here are two ways to reduce your landscape water use.

**Use the seasonal adjust.** Open the cover to irrigation system controller and find the dial position or button that controls the seasonal adjustment, which reduces the run time for each zone. For example, the normal recommendation for grass in the sun is 20 minutes. Reducing the seasonal adjust to 20% would equal a run time of only four minutes. We recommend 0-10% from December to February.

**Use the holiday method.** Select one and only one holiday each month and run your system manually with normal run times. As an alternative, schedule your system to run on your watering day during drought restrictions and then just flip it on that holiday. Just remember to turn it off after you run it.

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[DISTRICT9@SANANTONIO.GOV](mailto:DISTRICT9@SANANTONIO.GOV)

210.207.0955

# Winter Holiday Safety

Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

## HOLIDAY DECORATING

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.

## HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING

- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.



## Before Heading Out or to Bed

**Blow out** lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. **Turn off** all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

## FACTS

- ! **More than a third** of home decoration fires are started by candles.
- ! **Forty-two percent** of decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.



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# Cold Weather REMINDERS

## BEFORE FREEZING WEATHER

- Wrap all exposed pipes located outside or in unheated areas of the home.
- Remove garden hoses from outside faucets.
- Insulate outside faucets with Styrofoam, rags or paper.

## IN SUB-FREEZING WEATHER

- Drip outside faucets 24 hours a day (5 drops per minute). This is not necessary unless temperatures are expected to be 30 degrees or below for at least 4 hours. (Be sure to turn off the faucets after the threat of freezing weather.)
- Open cabinet doors under sinks adjacent to outside walls.
- In unheated garages, shut off water to washing machines. Water softeners should be drained and protected from freezing temperatures.
- In sustained sub-freezing weather, let water drip slowly from inside faucets.
- Take extra care to protect pipes that have frozen in the past.
- Protect plants from freezing by covering them with commercial plant-cover fabric, towels, or a light blanket with plastic sheeting on top of it (if available).



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