



## Ways to keep our neighborhood safe

Living in Woodbridge has many benefits, from the beautiful walking/biking trails to the neighborhood pools and parks. One benefit that ranks close to the top is the small-town feeling of security. We feel safe here because our community has a remarkably low crime rate. In fact, according to Lieutenant Dean Winters of the Sachse Police Department, the local crime rate has had double-digit drops for the last three years, even as the population has grown.

“Getting involved in the community can help keep it safe.”

That’s good news for residents of Woodbridge, but it also creates a little bit of a problem. When people feel safe, they tend to be less vigilant. And that’s what leads to crimes of opportunity.

“Common problems we see in Woodbridge are minor criminal mischief and vehicle burglary,” Lieutenant Winters said. “When citizens leave a vehicle unlocked, they can lose their cell phones, purses, checkbooks, and other valuables that are usually not recovered. It costs a lot of time and trouble.”

Vandalism at our pools has been another problem, costing thousands of dollars in repairs. Lieutenant Winters noted that even Woodbridge residents can be picked up for criminal trespass if found at the pools after closing hours.

“We have a curfew in effect for kids under seventeen,” he said. “Even though they are kids, they can be issued criminal citations for being out after 11 p.m. Sunday through Thursday or after midnight on Friday and Saturday.”

To keep our neighborhoods safe, the police department offers these suggestions:

>> **Know your neighbors.** This is the number one way to keep neighborhoods secure, according to Lieutenant Winters. The police

encourage block parties for neighbors to get to know each other and will help block off the street and even send an officer to meet everyone.

>> **Always lock your vehicle and take valuables out.** “Locks keep honest people honest,” Lieutenant Winters said.

>> **Make sure your property has good lighting.** Motion-activated lighting is also a good idea.

>> **Keep your garage door closed if you are not in sight of your garage.** This simple action eliminates many crimes of opportunity.

>> **Keep your shrubs trimmed to less than three feet.** It gives a clearer view of your property, taking away potential hiding places.

>> **Secure your house.** You can do this by (1) getting a monitored alarm system; (2) keeping doors and windows locked, even upstairs; (3) using dowels in tracks or pins in frames to secure sliding doors and windows; and (4) closing curtains and blinds when the house is empty.

>> **Decrease the likelihood of having a problem when you are away from home.**

Use timers to turn on lights and/or radios while you are gone and don’t talk about out-of-town trips in front of strangers.

>> **Record serial numbers and take pictures of your valuables.**

>> **Know where your children are at all times.** When parents are aware of where their children are and what they are doing, trouble is less likely to occur.

>> **Get involved in the community.** By volunteering, joining a committee, organizing a block party, or doing any other community activity, you can help bring our neighborhoods closer together.

The Sachse Police Department will do a home security inspection if requested. You may get a reduction in your insurance rates if your property meets certain safety criteria.  
*by: Jan Doleh*

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## Did You Know?

>> The Golf Club is a great place to host your company dinner. Read inside for more information!

>> Remember to decorate your house for the holidays! Contest begins on Dec. 15th! See inside for more details.

>> Woodbridge has a newly designed website! Visit it at [www.visitwoodbridge.com](http://www.visitwoodbridge.com).

## 'Tis the Season for...

The year has flown by yet again, and while dizzying ourselves in all the hustle and bustle of the season, we wonder where the past eleven months went. We still must juggle the job, the house, the kids, and the mad rush to get to the best sales, make travel plans, or get the house ready for travelers all in such a short, stressful time. We add to that stress by spending more money during this time of the year.

There are gifts for the usual suspects, but you still plan ahead to spend for those surprise visitors. But you're still not done; there are still charities that you write a check to as they are increasing their fundraising. In all of our dizziness trying to maintain our lives, live up to the expectations of our friends and families, and give to our churches and charities, we ask ourselves: Where does it stop? Is there a way out? Grab your favorite beverage, breathe, and let's reassess before we spin out of control.

Why are we so worried about others' expectations? Without starting another diatribe, let's leave it at human nature. Have we stopped caring about our own expectations? Sticking with human nature, we all have that need some- where within us to give back. Having it and applying it are on opposite ends of each other. As consumers we go on shopping for that "perfect" present and

with perfection comes higher costs. We again analyze the over-spending and ask, "How did I go so over budget yet again?"

Does giving have to have a price tag? Should we reevaluate the joy we receive from giving presents and consider the joys we could receive by giving presence? We give and give of "stuff," just to see the garage sales every week- end of people unloading their "stuff."

We are always asking what we can do to help others. How can we spend more time with our families and friends? It's your presence.

Once we have sifted through our fears and insecurities of putting ourselves in unfamiliar situations, we will find that giving of our presence is an unparalleled joy. Whether we volunteer on our own or invite friends and family to volunteer with us, with our presence over presents there are invaluable lessons and gifts that we actually give to ourselves.

Hopefully the dizziness has calmed and you, along with your friends and family, have found the reason for the season.....

'Tis the Season for Presence . . . Yours.  
by: Nicole Tucker

## Holiday Yum



**S**ugared Nuts  
1 egg white  
1/2 cup sugar  
1/2 tsp cinnamon  
22 oz pecans

Beat egg white until foamy, stir in sugar, cinnamon, and nuts. Coat well and spread on a greased baking sheet. Bake for 1 hour at 225 degrees. Stir every 15 minutes. Cool and store in an airtight container. Makes 6 cups.

### Pumpkin Cookies

2 cups flour, 1 tsp cinnamon  
1 tsp baking soda, 1 tsp baking powder  
1/2 tsp salt, 1 cup butter (2 sticks)  
1 cup granulated sugar, 1 egg  
1 tsp pure vanilla extract  
1 cup pumpkin (canned or fresh)  
1/2 cup nuts (walnuts or pecans)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Whisk together in a bowl: flour, cinnamon, baking soda, baking powder, and salt. Then set aside. Cream butter, vanilla, and sugar in a large bowl. Add the egg and pumpkin and mix well. Stir in raisins and nuts. Fold in the flour mixture. Drop with teaspoon on greased cooking sheet. Bake 12-15 minutes. Cool on wire rack. Makes 3-4 dozen.

### Holiday Marshmallow Pops

1 cup sweet chocolate chips  
2 tsp shortening  
Peppermint sticks or canes  
10 oz pkg of large marshmallows

Microwave in a 2 cup glass measuring cup, chocolate chips & shortening at 50 percent power for 2-3 minutes. Stir until smooth. For each Pop, place a marsh-mallow on a peppermint stick, dip into the melted chocolate and let stand until slightly set. Sprinkle with nuts, sugar or sprinkles and stand until dry. 50 Pops.  
contributed by: Onetta Murray

## HOA... it's a good thing.

Ever wonder exactly what our Home Owners Association is for? Our HOA is in place to make sure our neighborhood maintains its good looks and uniformity. It also assists in maintaining property values. Working within the Design Guidelines, every homeowner has an opportunity to determine how their respective homes and yards may be individualized. However, pursuant to the Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions, any alteration to the landscape or buildings requires approval by the Architectural Committee, whose purpose is to provide continuity throughout the neighborhood. This includes the addition of trees, patios, storage sheds, play equipment, etc. Our yards are specifically designed to accommodate drainage, and should any alteration in the wrong area occur, you could have a very serious flooding problem.

Items such as 'nuisance' matters are not all handled by the HOA. Below is a partial list of items and whom to contact:

- >> Trailers - if parked on the street, contact your city office and the HOA; if parked in a driveway, contact the HOA. These vehicles not only encumber hazardous as well.
- >> Unruly yards (overgrown lawn, tall weeds, etc.) - contact your city office and the HOA. Tall weeds attract mice and we all know that mice are a source of food for snakes.
- >> Continuously barking dogs - contact Animal Control. Dogs bark for a reason - either at play, to let you know an intruder is near, or if they are in distress.
- >> Parking on the streets illegally or blocking sidewalks - contact Police Department

These are just a few items. If anyone has any questions or needs clarification as to what is acceptable and what is not, please contact your HOA rep., Jenny Bumney, at 972-943-2850.



No Home Owners Association: Having an HOA can be a good thing when it comes to keeping a neighborhood looking nice.

## Personalized Children's Books

Children love stories, so why not make your child the main character in one? (Your child can interact with, lovable characters, beat the bad guys and be the hero or even be the prince/princess in a magical kingdom! Make the book even more unique by including a special message from you on the title page.)

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# Let's get Social!

what's happenin' and where it's at

Winter 2006

## Woodbridge Family Fest

On September 30th, the Woodbridge Social Committee hosted the 1st Annual Family Fest for all residents of Woodbridge. This even included a DJ, dancers from Standing Ovation, Dream to Dance and a two hour performance by "Back in the Day" band. Over 20 local vendors showcased their products/services, and nearly 20 sponsors donated items for a raffle. The social committee volunteers served over 800 hotdogs, while the First Baptist Church in Wylie handed out free ice cream!

Thank you to all our Woodbridge neighbors that came out to make the 1st Annual Family Fest a BIG success; and we hope to see you and many more neighbors next year!

Please visit the Woodbridge Family Fest website to view all pictures: [woodbridgefamilyfest.googlepages.com/home](http://woodbridgefamilyfest.googlepages.com/home).

### Many thanks to our Sponsors:

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## What's your pleasure?

Interest groups are a great way to meet your neighbors and enjoy hobbies. Here is a list of the current interest groups that want you as a member!

- Scrapbooking** - Michelle Foust, 972-429-5066, woodbridge\_scrapbooking@verizon.com
- Bunco** - Trish McCilvery, 972-941-8887, juzchillin\_inca@yahoo.com
- Book Club** - Roma Riaffle, 469-366-5626 or Jan Dolch, 972-461-9911
- Singles** - Donna Williams, ddub3@msn.com
- Progressive Dinner** - Melissa, yesmelissa@aol.com
- Dining Out Group** - Diane, diane.model@wylicsd.net
- Bridge** - Sharon, 214-256-3605, sharonkay@chilitech.com
- Play Groups** -  
 0-12 Months, Kimberly Lackey 972-429-5717, kimberlybrad@hotmail.com  
 12-24 Months, Carrie Powell, 972-429-0873, cpowell1@comcast.net  
 24 Months & older, Jennifer Craig 972-429-3987, dennecra@cs.com
- 0-12 months playgroup is full, and is in need of a volunteer to start another group.
- If you would like to start an interest group please contact Lesa Hicks at 214-325-4077, woodbridgesocialcommittee@yahoo.com

## Upcoming Events

Holiday decoration contest- December 15-17th. Please have lights on until 11:00 pm during this weekend.

- 1st Place Individual House - Yard Sign Prize
- 1st Place Prize for Overall Neighborhood - \$100 Credit toward block party or neighborhood event

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Hello Neighbor,  
 My name is Stephanie Riehey. I am a Real Estate Consultant with Keller Williams and have built a successful business as a Realtor. Are you thinking of buying or selling a home? I want you to know, you now have a real estate expert in your neighborhood, at your service. Call me for a Free Market Analysis and Top 10 Tips for buying or selling a home!  
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Check out the Woodbridge Social Committee's Website at: [woodbridgesocialcommittee.google.com/home](http://woodbridgesocialcommittee.google.com/home)

## From our Developer

In the last newsletter, we expressed concern about the amount of vandalism we have had this year at the swimming pools. Unfortunately, in this newsletter, we have to report it has not gotten any better. There continues to be safety equipment destroyed, entry gates broken, holes knocked in bathroom walls, handicapped bars ripped from bathroom walls, pool equipment broken, furniture broken and thrown into the pool, and graffiti in the rest rooms. These are just some of the items from a much longer list. This year the Association's cost to date for repairs has exceeded \$6,500, not to mention the many hours management has wasted on coordinating services/repairs and filing police reports as a result of these senseless acts.

In August, the Pool Committee, the Board of Directors and the Sachse Police Department met to discuss pool vandalism. As a result of that meeting, we ask your help in reporting vandalism and trespassing at the pools. The police will respond to any call from a homeowner or passer-by concerning trespassing and acts of vandalism on all Association property, especially the pool areas. The individual placing the call to the police department will not have to sign the complaint. The Association will not hesitate to prosecute

The subdivision is then graded in accordance with the specifications of the geotechnical engineer and the approved engineering plans. The fill dirt placed in streets and building pads is tested by the geotechnical engineer to make sure the grading contractor has achieved the correct compaction and moisture content in accordance with the grading specifications. The final grades are checked for compliance with the engineering plans. After the grading is completed, a Final Geotechnical Report is prepared and provided to the builders for foundation design.

It is important to understand the significance of maintaining the drainage design for each lot after construction of the home. The lots are designed and graded for proper drainage. Altering the drainage around your home can cause problems. The filling of drainage swales, improper drainage from gutter down spouts and the improper placement of landscaping beds are a few examples of how lot drainage can be altered. Remember to include proper drainage and maintaining uniform moisture around the foundation into any of your improvement plans. A little thought today may prevent expensive foundation repairs in the future.

## Happy Holidays from the Woodbridge Golf Club



Woodbridge Golf Club would like to cordially invite you and your associates to consider our facility to host your Company Holiday luncheon or dinner. We can accommodate groups from 20 to 150 guests. The Grill, Dining Room and the Pavilion will be festively decorated, and we can offer both casual and formal menu options.

**Sample Holiday Menu:** Roasted Turkey & Honey Glazed Ham served with Tossed Salad, Choice of Sweet Potatoes, Green Beans Almondine or Vegetable Medley, Choice of Mashed or Scalloped Potatoes, Bread Stuffing and Gravy, Cranberry Sauce, Dinner Rolls and Butter, Pecan & Pumpkin Pies and Coffee and Iced Tea. Lunch Service - \$12.95 per person Dinner Service - \$14.95 per person

To start planning, simply call Sara Holsted at 972-429-5100 Ext. 7 or visit us at [www.wbgolffclub.com](http://www.wbgolffclub.com). Remember to ask about our Resident Special.

Happy Holidays from your friends at Woodbridge Neighborhood Grill!

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**Nicole Tucker**  
 Woodbridge Resident Since 1999  
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## Newsletter Committee

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**Advertising:** Nicole Tucker  
**Reporters & Other Members:** Christine Thompson  
 Jan Doleh  
 Linda Fisher  
 Ometta Murray

## Editorial Policy

It is the editorial policy of Woodbridge Association Newsletter to inform residents of the Association, in an unbiased manner of issues and information that would be of help and of interest. It is also the editorial policy that no disparaging remarks regarding race, creed, color, national origin, marital status, or sexual orientation will be permitted. No personal attacks or comments, nor political endorsements, either local, state, or national will be permitted.

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### Join a Woodbridge Committee today! Be a part of it all.

Newsletter- Get the scoop on what's going on around the neighborhood. Call Trish McGilvery: 972-941-8887

Social- Choose what happens in your neighborhood. Plan the parties and start the action! Call Lesa Hicks: 214-325-4077

Pool- Promote safety & reduce vandalism in your community! Contact Faith Cook: 972-442-0701 or cosmocook@yahoo.com



## The Winter Garden

The grass has gone dormant and the trees have lost their leaves. If you're a gardener, you're starting to miss the time outside. If you're not, you're glad to put the tools away. But don't be too hasty; there are many landscaping projects that can be done on warm winter days.

One of these tasks is pruning trees and shrubs. It is much easier to see a tree's shape and determine the branches that need pruning after the leaves have fallen. The best time to prune is right before the buds open in late winter or early spring. Make sure you are pruning properly. Remove dead, damaged or rubbing branches, upright sprouts, and branches that are too low. Do not: leave a stump, cut completely flush with the trunk, add tree paint or wrap the tree.

Do not over-prune, especially when pruning your Crape Myrtles. Treat them just like any other tree. Remove the types of branches listed above and the suckers from the base. Never top your Crape Myrtles. Aesthetically, you may want to remove the seed pods, but it is not necessary for plant health. Radical pruning does not increase flowering. Instead it weakens the branches and often ruins the look of a lovely specimen tree. So relax and don't waste your time with

unnecessary pruning. Remember less is more.

You also may want to prune your shrubs to improve their shape. If you have a formal design, shear your shrubs as needed. Otherwise, prune unruly branches to create a more natural shape. Flowering shrubs may need old branches removed to encourage new growth. However, do not prune any spring flowering shrubs until after they have bloomed. Winter is also the time to finish your bed cleanup, add mulch to protect your plants, and cut back the perennials. This is the best time to start planning for spring.

*by: Maribeth Flowers*



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