

# RESIDENT NEWSLETTER

## Being Courteous to your Neighbors

We would like to provide a few guidelines and reminders for staying safe this winter season.

- Be a good neighbor by helping keep noise at a reasonable level.
- Be mindful in and around the parking lot. About one fifth of auto accidents occur in parking lots so always watch for cars backing out or pulling in. They may not be watching for you.
- Please be aware of vehicles parked in close proximity when loading or unloading items from your vehicle so as not to damage a neighbor's vehicle.
- Help us keep our community looking great all season long by ensuring items on your patio are allowed under community rules and stored neatly when not in use.
- Please help keep our community tidy by disposing of garbage and recycling in the appropriate receptacles.
- Make sure to pick up after your animal by disposing of waste in the appropriate manner.

## November Dates to Remember

### NOVEMBER 7TH DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

Turn your clocks back 1 hour on Sunday, November 7th at 2:00am.

### NOVEMBER 2ND: ELECTION DAY

"Get out the Vote" Actively participate by voting on important national, state, regional and local issues.

### NOVEMBER 11TH: VETERAN'S DAY

Remember the Veteran soldiers who fought in wars on behalf of our country

### NOVEMBER 18TH: GREAT AMERICAN SMOKEOUT!

Join the national effort to quit smoking cigarettes. Find out quitting techniques on the American Cancer Society's website: [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)

### NOVEMBER 25TH: THANKSGIVING DAY

A day to remember all that we are thankful for this year, spend time with friends and family, and feast together.

## Giving To Others This Season

This holiday season, you can help make a difference in the lives of others by giving back. It is easy to take the simple things for granted such as health, a home, food and clothing. Even if we are unable to donate money, time and in-kind donations can be just as valuable. Giving back can make a big difference in the life of another whether they be your family, a member of your community, or someone you've just met.

Your on-site management team may have information about local charities or organizations looking for donations this season. We have also outlined some national charities for you below. Let's all work together this holiday season to help brighten the lives of others.

Giving – Where Can I Donate?

**AMERICAN RED CROSS** - Website: <http://www.redcross.org>

**TOYS FOR TOTS** - Website: <http://toysfortots.org>

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY** - Website: <http://www.habitat.org>

## Holiday Hours

### Thursday, November 25th

Management office closed in observance of Thanksgiving

### Friday, November 26th

Management office will re-open after the holiday at 10 a.m.

With the changing of the seasons, management office hours may also change. Please contact the site manager for specifics.



## Holiday Decorating

Please keep the following in mind when decorating for the holiday season:

What is allowed: A reasonable amount of decorations that does not affect pedestrian access, vehicle access, etc.

What should be discouraged: the decorating of all of the common areas of the property.

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## Safety Alert: Kitchen Grease Fire

At Fire Fighting Training schools they demonstrate this with a deep fat fryer set in an open field. An instructor would put on a fire suit and use an 8 oz cup at the end of a 10 foot pole to toss water onto the grease fire. The water, being heavier than the oil, sinks to the bottom where it instantly becomes superheated. The explosive force of the steam blows the burning oil up and out. In the open field, it becomes a thirty foot high fireball that resembles a nuclear blast. Inside the confines of a kitchen, the fireball hits the ceiling and fills the entire room.

Grease fires happen when collections of oil or grease on a stove, oven or fryer get hot enough to ignite. Grease fires are extremely dangerous because the fuel source (the grease) is a liquid, and easily splashed. Grease fires burn very hot and can quickly spread to cabinets or other flammable areas of the kitchen. The most important thing you can do to prevent a fire in the kitchen is to stay put while cooking. The NFPA reports that unattended cooking is the leading cause of home cooking fires. Stay by the stove and be prepared for flames. If a fire occurs you will only have a few moments to either put out a grease fire or escape the house.

### WHAT TO DO IN THE CASE OF A GREASE FIRE:

DO NOT USE WATER ON A GREASE FIRE! This can not be stressed enough. Pouring water on burning grease or oil will not extinguish the fire. It will amplify the flames and splash the fire around.

- **DO NOT TRY TO CARRY THE FIRE OUTSIDE!** Trying to carry a pot or pan full of burning oil will spread the grease fire to your floor as it splashes out of the pan.
- **TURN OFF THE BURNER!** The fire might go out with this simple step.
- The easiest way to smother a grease fire is to **COVER IT WITH A PAN LID**. Be careful with glass lids; they can break from the extreme heat of open flame.
- Grease fires can also be smothered with **BAKING SODA**, but it takes a lot of baking soda to do the trick. Unless the baking soda is easily accessible, it's usually better to quickly find a lid.
- **DO NOT THROW SUGAR OR FLOUR ON A GREASE FIRE!** One cup creates the explosive force of two sticks of dynamite.
- A newly developed **FIRE EXTINGUISHING SPRAY** is now available at most local hardware stores. Highly effective on common household fires including grease fires. Dispensed from a common aerosol spray can.
- If clothes are caught on fire; **STOP, DROP, and ROLL** to extinguish them.

**CALL 911!** There's no reason to wait, your local fire department will be there to assist even if you manage to get the fire out.

## Caring For Your Garbage

With the coming of the holiday season, and the increased amount of cooking, it is more likely for garbage disposals to get clogged, overloaded, and end up needing maintenance.

By following the below guidelines you can avoid damage to your garbage disposal or home:

- Only soft food should be put in a garbage disposal and only in moderate amounts.
- Do not put things such as coffee grounds, starchy items like potatoes or rice, celery, grease, bones, paper, or fish tank rocks into your disposal, as they are not designed to grind these items.
- Always run cold water full force when using the disposal and for 30 seconds after turning off the disposal to ensure that all waste has drained from the disposal.
- If your garbage disposal does jam, press the small red button on the bottom of the disposal to reset it. If that does not work, please call maintenance for repair.
- You can sprinkle baking soda or grind up citrus peels to help reduce odors in the drain.



## Renters Insurance

The importance of renters insurance is often overlooked. Although the building that you reside in is covered by insurance, this insurance doesn't cover everything. Did you know that if a candle that was accidentally left lit catches fire and damages not only your home, but another home in your building, you may be liable for the damages to not only your own personal items, but the building as well as anything that may have been damaged in the other home. But there is good news. Renters insurance can be very affordable, especially if it is bundled with another policy such as vehicle insurance.

As with any insurance, make sure that you do your research. Find the best company and the best rate for you. Bottom line, renters insurance is there when you need it and can save you a lot of money.

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