

# WINDCREST

Volume 19 • Issue 1 • January 2019



# TEXAS

*The City of Lights*

DECEMBER 2018  
WINDCREST 60TH  
ANNUAL LIGHT UP  
BOWS & LIGHTS  
A TRIBUTE TO  
BARBEE WINN



City of Windcrest  
8601 Midcrown  
Windcrest, TX 78239-2598

City Administration  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Monday - Friday  
210-655-0022

City Manager – Rafael Castillo  
ext. 2120 • rcastillo@windcrest-tx.gov

City Council

Mayor – Dan Reese  
210-419-0099

dreese@windcrest-tx.gov

Mayor Pro-tem – Joan Pedrotti  
210-655-0022 • jpedrotti@windcrest-tx.gov

Place 1 – Sherilyn Flick

210-655-0022 • sflick@windcrest-tx.gov

Place 2 – Cindy Strzelecki

210-655-0022 • cstrzelecki@windcrest-tx.gov

Place 3 – Greg Turner

210-655-0022 • gturner@windcrest-tx.gov

Place 4 – Frank Archuleta

210-900-9908 • farchuleta@windcrest-tx.gov

Place 5 – Joan Pedrotti

210-655-0022 • jpedrotti@windcrest-tx.gov

Departments • 210-655-0022

Permits/FD Admin – Delma Cortez  
ext. 2320 • dcortez@windcrest-tx.gov

Public Works – Tom Garcia

ext. 2490 • tgarcia@windcrest-tx.gov

Police Department – Chief Al Ballew

210-655-2666 • aballew@windcrest-tx.gov

Code Enforcement Unit

210-655-2666

Animal Control Unit

210-655-2666

Fire Department – Tim Zelenak

ext. 2180

Finance – Don Hakala

ext. 2440 • dhakala@windcrest-tx.gov

Boards and Commissions

EDC – Col. Sue Alexander  
EDC Coordinator – Mario Hernandez

P & Z – Col. Henry Berman

210-655-5650

WCCPD – Dr. William Mueller

210-654-7377

Parks and Rec – Marilee Seal

210-655-0022

Board of Adjustments – Veronica Dixon

210-273-6081

Newsletter – Lindsey Walker

210-314-9783 • lwalker@windcrest-tx.gov

Firemen's Pension – Tim Zelenak

ext. 2180

President of Windcrest Little League –

Aaron Garcia

Websites

www.windcrest-tx.gov

www.facebook.com/TheCityofWindcrest

Post Office

M-F, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

210-655-0022 ext. 2420

Bexar County Water District #10

General Manager – David Wallace

210-655-2888

8:00 am - 5:00 pm • Monday - Friday

Water Emergencies

210-422-4159

Police Business & 24 Hour Dispatch

210-655-2666

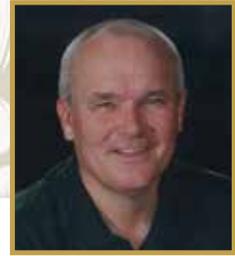
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# Mayor's Message

## Dan Reese



It's January and we welcome 2019 with great anticipation! I hope this newsletter finds you well and ready for the new year. What a wonderful Light Up Season we just finished! It was an honor to remember the founder of Light Up and our great city, Barbee Winn, and to celebrate her family. Amazingly, there were even more homes that entered the competition this year! Thanks to all of our residents, the city staff, our city businesses, and the Windcrest Women's Club and Light Up Chairs, Joan Pedrotti and Tiny Riggs, for making this another wonderful and successful City of Lights! After Light Up is over, we will assess and review to see how we might continue to improve this significant event that is just one way that we are set apart as a great community to live in.

Windcrest is known as a close-knit community and we want to do everything to keep that small town feel while providing second-to-none service for our citizens!

The City Council re-established the decades old relationship with the Windcrest Volunteer Fire Association (WVFA) and they ran the "Fill the Boot" efforts this season. The Council and WVFA signed an agreement that better defines the roles of the WVFA and the City. The agreement also outlined reporting guidelines to show where the WVFA spends the money collected. We have asked for estimates to repair the Dalecrest Fire Dorm so that we might entice more volunteer fire fighters into our department and continue to save money for our citizens while keeping them safe.

The Council has begun the process to use the voter-approved Bond funding to do greatly needed repairs to our major road arteries and purchase a Ladder Truck for the Fire Department. We will keep you updated with the process.

As promised, the Council is proceeding with much needed updates to our Charter. The City Attorney is working on some changes after being given direction from the Council. We will proceed with edits and make sure the public has opportunities to review and comment before we put the suggested changes before the voters. Our goal is to have informed voters and be ready to present to the voters in May.

The Council agreed to a system of getting applications for our Boards and Commissions so that we can be inclusive for all residents and insure we get the best qualified candidates for the positions. If you live in Windcrest and would like to volunteer, please go on our city website for a volunteer application or go by City Hall and the staff will assist you.

For those of you who use the internet, we put together a team headed by Councilmember Cindy Strzelecki to review our current website and continue to improve this vital information source. If you have input or suggestions, please contact Cindy with your ideas.

*(Continued on page 3)*

("Mayor's Message" continued from page 2)

Try to keep warm and healthy this new year and remember it's flu season-so if you have not already done it, be sure to get your flu shot!

As always, I am honored to be your Mayor. I thank you for this opportunity to serve our community!

*"The credibility of the message is intrinsically tied to the integrity of the messenger." ~ Chip Ingram*

## Public Works

### Looking forward to a productive 2019!

The basketball goals at Takas Park are back in place. Public Works did some needed maintenance on the basketball goals that were showing signs of wear. We took the rust off the bottom of the goal, added new nets, and replaced rusty shims and added new ones. We also put on a protective coating on to the rusty areas to ensure that rust wouldn't destroy the support pole. I'm sure the kids will enjoy the goals being back up.

The Brook Falls pond was recently power sprayed to give the walkers a break from having to step on all the Duck poop.(Unfortunately, that comes with having a lot of ducks in our ponds). One of Public Works' goal for this coming year is to more frequently visit Brook Falls Pond sidewalk to power wash it.

Another goal for Public Works is to crack seal more this coming year. This will help preserve our roads a little bit longer.

Want to thank the citizens who stay active in our city. Active by doing community service, such as picking up trash while enjoying a brisk walk on our city streets and parks. This activity is an important part of keeping our city looking great at all times.

Many thanks,

**Tom Garcia**

*Public Works Director*



**The Economic Development Corporation has a new Facebook page!**

To keep up with all the exciting things happening here in Windcrest head on over to Facebook and LIKE our new page!

**How do you find us?** Type in @EDCWindcrestTX in the search box! SEE YOU SOON! Keep your eyes out for events happening in the city like grand openings, National Night Out, and so much more!



## Reasons to Spay or Neuter Your Pet

Spaying your female pet will lead to a healthier life. Spaying helps to prevent uterine infections and breast cancer, which is fatal in about fifty (50%) percent of dogs and ninety (90%) percent of cats; and spaying your pet before her first heat offers the best protection from these diseases. Your spayed female won't go into heat. Female felines usually go into heat four to five days every three weeks during breeding season, urinate more frequently, often all over the house.



Neutering provides major health benefits for male pets too. Neutering eliminates the possibility of testicular cancer and greatly reduces the chance of prostate disease. Your male dog won't want to roam away from home. An intact male will do just about anything to find a mate, including digging his way under the fence and escape from your property. Once he's free to roam, he risks injury in traffic and fights with other males. Your neutered male will be much better behaved. Neutered cats and dogs focus their attention on their human families, not reproduction.

Spaying or neutering will NOT make your pet fat. Lack of exercise and overfeeding will cause your pet to pack on the extra pounds. The cost of your pet's spay/neuter surgery is a lot less than the cost of having and caring for a litter, making it cost effective. Millions of cats and dogs of all ages and breeds are euthanized or suffer as strays every year, and spaying and neutering helps fight pet overpopulation.

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# POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Chief A.O. "Al" Ballew



The Windcrest Police Department is committed to this community and further strengthening our community partnerships. It is through these partnerships that allow us to continue our efforts in reducing crime, maintaining a fear free environment and maintain our quick and direct response to calls for service and response to emergency situations and/or critical incidents.

Our partnership with the Windcrest Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is invaluable to the City of Windcrest. This volunteer program educates people about disaster preparedness, and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects within their community. CERT is about readiness, people helping people, rescuer safety and doing the greatest good for the greatest number. CERT is a positive and realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations where citizens may be initially on their own and their actions can make a difference.

Windcrest CERT training is scheduled for Feb. 15-16, 2019, and Feb. 22, 2019 at the City of Windcrest Civic Center. This is a great opportunity for excellent training! If you are interested in becoming a member of Windcrest CERT, or want more information on this upcoming training, please contact the Windcrest CERT Program Coordinator, Mrs. Kathie Maloney at 210.887.5069.

# Code Compliance and Enforcement

By Officer Leija



Hope everyone enjoyed the holidays! Now starting a new joyful year, I ask everyone to please start preparing a plan for the next big event, the spring brush pickup! Take advantage of this service to clean up your property. Pickups for the residential area, is divided by sections and are assigned by date. Please check your assigned date to place your brush out. You may place your brush no earlier than two days prior to your assigned brush pick up date.

Let's start the year on a good note. keeping the City of Windcrest looking clean. City ordinance requires you to use a hardened container with a lid for trash disposal. You cannot place plain plastic bags out for disposal. The only exception is leaves and brush.

### Sec. 10-48. Alarm system permit required.

No person shall install or use an alarm system within the city without having first applied for and been issued a valid alarm system permit for each site where an alarm system is used. The application form for such permits shall be available at the administrative offices of the city and shall issue such permits to the extent permitted by state and federal law, such permit applications shall be confidential and not available for inspection and copying by the public.

If you need any assistance or want to report a violation of the Windcrest City Code, please contact your Code Enforcement Officer via the Windcrest Police Department Dispatcher at 210-655-2666 or send me an email thru the link provided within code enforcement site located on my page.



## BASIC SQUARE DANCE LESSONS OPEN HOUSE

FEBRUARY 8 & 15 2019, 7:00 PM

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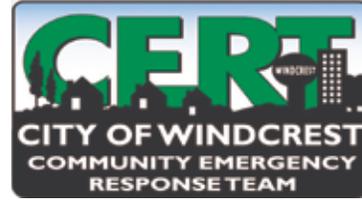
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## COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

Since 1993, CERT has impacted communities across the country, building essential skills and capabilities to prepare for and respond to any disaster. The Windcrest CERT Team is sponsoring FREE training on **Friday, February 15th, 6:00 to 10:00 PM, Saturday, February 16th, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and Friday, February 22nd, 6:00 to 10:00 PM.**

Candidates must attend all three skills course dates to certify in the Basic G-317 CERT Course.

Location: Windcrest Civic Center 9310 Jim Seal Drive Windcrest, TX. 78239

IS-317 Online Course must be completed by February 1st:

- Part 1: Obtain a FEMA SID number at: <https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid/registernumber>
- Part 2: <https://training.fema.gov> Click Independent Study then Intro to Community Emergency Response Teams IS-317

Your Basic CERT Course Participant Manual can be viewed and/or downloaded at:

<https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid/registernumber>

For more information or to register, contact Kathie Maloney at 210-887-5069 or email at [teamwindcrest@gmail.com](mailto:teamwindcrest@gmail.com)

## Local School News

### JANUARY SCHOOL CALENDAR



- 1 - 7 Student Holiday
- 8 Begin 3rd 9 Weeks
- 14 Athletic Booster Meeting, 6 pm @ TR
- 21 School Holiday  
Theater Arts Production, 6 pm @ White
- 22 Jostens Cap and Gown, 11 am  
DATA Recruiting, 6 pm  
Middle School Electives Fair, 6 pm @ White
- 24-26 Musical, 7 pm @ TR
- 25 Band Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser, 5:30 pm @ White  
Movie Night, ES 5:30 pm @ Windcrest
- 28 Spirit Booster Meeting, 6:30 pm @ TR

*Reminder: Additional school events can be found on individual campus websites.*



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LOOK FOR US ON PAGE 16 IN THE WINDCREST DIRECTORY



# LIGHT UP *by Lindsey Walker*

Windcrest's 60th Annual Light Up Ceremony was an absolute success! The ceremony, which was on Saturday, December 8, began at 6 PM and was bustling with excitement. Many people gathered to watch our very own Santa Claus ride in on a firetruck and light up the giant tree in front of City Hall. Our free hot cocoa and cookies were a hit; the line stretched across the parking lot! Special thanks to Dunkin' Donuts who also gave out hot cocoa and donut holes.

Everyone enjoyed the ceremony and all it had to offer. Children were running around with foam antlers they decorated in the craft tent. The San Antonio Symphony Mastersingers filled the air with Christmas music. In one tent, Northeast Bridge Builders was giving away books to children of all ages. By 7:30 PM, they had given away all 1200 books! The biggest hit, aside from the hot cocoa, was pictures with Santa in the firebay! The line wrapped around the parking!

Our wonderful volunteers deserve a big "THANK YOU!" We had our volunteer committee, Women's Club, and students from the Roosevelt National Honor Society, Engineering and Technology Academy (ETA) at Roosevelt, and Central Catholic High School. They ran the show, from giving out hot cocoa to helping with crafts. We especially could not have done this without Windcrest Public Works! They helped set up and take down everything, and ensured that everything ran smoothly.

This was a night that would have made Barbee Winn proud!



**Grand Prize Winner - 710 Moorside**



## LIGHT UP WINNERS

### RELIGIOUS/ JOYFUL

Rico & Nancy Sardelli..... 710 Moorside..... 1st Place / **Grand Prize**  
 Smith Family..... 406 Waycrest ..... 2nd Place  
 Peggy Grunwell..... 5934 Winterhaven .....3rd Place  
 Mark & Connie Davis..... 5602 Cleardrift ..... Honorable Mention

### CHURCH/SCHOOL /BUSINESS

Windcrest Elementary ..... 465 Faircrest Dr. .... 1st Place  
 Windcrest Golf Club ..... 8600 Midcrown Dr.....2nd Place  
 Arctic Ape ..... 5221 Walzem Rd. Ste 1 .....3rd Place  
 Dunkin Donuts ..... 5105 Walzem Rd. .... Honorable Mention

### CUL DE SAC/BLOCK

Jeanie Weidenbach ..... 413 Candleglo ..... 1st Place  
 Team Tidecrest ..... 406 Tidecrest Dr. .... 2nd Place  
 Gloria Martinez ..... 5202 Metcalf ..... 3rd Place  
 Lisa & Craig Bruce..... 6015 Wildwind ..... Honorable Mention

### MARTHA STEWART WOULD BE PROUD

John & Brenda Wilson..... 405 Waycrest Dr. .... 1st Place  
 John & Kim Ahearn..... 414 Driftwind ..... 2nd Place  
 Steve & Laura..... 9155 Windgarden Circle ..... 3rd Place  
 Brian & Jennifer Madtes ..... 1308 James Cook ..... Honorable Mention

### NOSTALGIC/HANDCRAFTED

Oliver & Rose Marie Evacho .... 410 TideCrest ..... 1st Place  
 Jeff & Cindy Strzelecki ..... 410 Candleglo ..... 2nd Place  
 Steve & Susan Hall..... 442 Cloudmount ..... 3rd Place  
 Bob & Cindy Belgam..... 409 Tidecrest Dr. .... Honorable Mention

### CHARLIE BROWNIEST

Johnson Rodriguez..... 6302 Mallard Point ..... 1st Place  
 Darlena, Mark, & Cathy Rohleder.... 405 Candleglo ..... 2nd Place  
 Velma Fahn ..... 750 WindRock Dr..... 3rd Place  
 Eileen NeuHaus ..... 6307 Mallard Point ... Honorable Mention

### CLARK GRISWOLD

Ann & John White..... 8629 Windway Dr..... 1st Place  
 Lee-Ross Family ..... 401 Dalecrest..... 2nd Place  
 Jack Morris..... 614 Crestway ..... 3rd Place  
 Thomas & Margie Wendel ..... 5725 Winsong Dr..... Honorable Mention



# Windcrest

# GARDEN CLUB

By: Lois Wooton

Christina Edwards, the floral manager at our local H.E.B., will share tips and tricks to keep those beautiful orchids blooming at our **Monday, January 7, 2019, 10 AM** coffee meeting. Don't miss out on this special presentation. Also, our horticulturist, Shirley Knoll, will share a tidbit about a special plant and hold a fun plant auction too. You will also be able to reserve your materials for February's project at this meeting. Hostesses are Pat Couch, Majie Takas, Concha Graces, Pat Kendrick, Glenna Christensen, and Joan Vanacek.

**Want to keep your orchids blooming?**

Come to the 10a.m. meeting at the Civic Center on 7 January to find out how.

Don't miss our Monday, February 4th, meeting where we will do a little "hands-on" project. Lois Wooton will

**VERTICAL GARDENING: LOTS OF OPTIONS**

share the joys of vertical gardening and take us step-by-step through building a vertical planter. There will be a limited number of materials, so reserve your planter at the January meeting. Hostesses are Elaine Tremblay, Beth Dodd, Sue Jackson, Diane Stake, Lu Nix, and Lynne Cook.

Don't miss out on the fun, rewarding community service and time with friends. The Club is open to men and women and you do not need to live in Windcrest to be a member. Renew or make a new membership now. Just fill out the form below and mail it to Windcrest Garden Club, 6311 Bay Meadows, Converse TX 78244. We meet September through May and dues are only \$15.00 for the year. We are a 501(3)c organization.



Past Garden Club Presidents attending the 3 December Christmas Potluck and Member Appreciation Luncheon were (L>R) Betty Riggs (2016-18), Kathy Littlefield (1984-85 & 1993-94), Margie Thompson (1996-98), Carolyn Freeman (2014-16), Barbara Morse (1998-00), Doris Greek (1983-84), Shirley Noll (2012-14), and Sondra Bump (1991-93).

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Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(I'm renewing my membership: NO INFO CHANGE \_\_\_\_\_ )

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: Windcrest Garden Club,  
6311 Bay Meadows, Converse, TX 78244**

**Membership is open to men & women in Windcrest and surrounding communities. Happy Gardening!**

# Windcrest Women's Club

By: Lois Wooton



Join us on **Wednesday, January 23**, at the Civic Center from 10 AM to 1 PM for coffee to learn about "Personal & Internet Security". In today's world of cyber information collection this is a timely and important topic: so save the date! Hostesses are Joan Pedrotti, Tinie Riggs, and Becky Warthan.



Each year the Windcrest Women's Club pauses to remember our roots and the amazing women who served this community in the past and those serving today. This year is especially important as we just celebrated the 60th Light-Up and our founder, Barbee Winn. Please join us as we once again join together to celebrate like only ladies can do. There will be plenty of goodies to dip in your tea.



**We wish to extend a very special thank you to our Public Works Department for all the hard work they did decorating the city and our two Windcrest City Trees. You ROCK!** Thank you everyone who participated in this year's Light-Up, you truly make this the City of Lights.

Join the fun and make a difference in your community too. Just fill out the form below and send to: Windcrest Women's Club, 549 Crestway, Windcrest TX 78239 along with a check for \$20 or bring it to any meeting. Windcrest Women's Club is a 501c3 Non-Profit organization and your donations are tax exempt?

**Complete and mail to: Windcrest Women's Club, 549 Crestway Dr, Windcrest TX 78239**  
**Make checks payable to: Windcrest Women's Club**

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Dues are only \$20.00 for a year of fun and friendship with ladies who are proud to promote Windcrest City pride.**  
**All Windcrest ladies are invited to join!**

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# Melvin Echard Retires after 7 years as Principal

By Hailey Massey, Assistant Editor of the Big Stick

This article was originally posted in the Big Stick print publication December 19, 2018.



Retiring Principal Melvin Echard accepts a shadowbox from Senior Ana Wilson and Army Instructors Lieutenant Colonel Robert Foutz, Command Sergeant Major Ansley Harris and Master Sergeant Marchantia Johnson on Monday, December 17.  
*(Photo by Nolan Bodmann)*

This week, Roosevelt High School bids farewell to Melvin Echard, who has been the school's principal since 2012, completing his educational career with 24 years.

The farewell is a bittersweet one, but many are hopeful for the future that Echard wants to create through student participation, returning alumni and continuous support from the new principal, Bryan Norwood.

Echard's retirement has given him a reminiscent yet excited outlook on the future, where he reflects back on the memories of his first years as principal while looking ahead.

"The first year where you have things like homecoming, graduation, the first football game: all of the firsts of the first year," Echard said, "I think one of the things that I was most proud of is the amount of returning Roosevelt students that were able to come back as teachers and coaches. Looking at the amount of students impacted is the most cherished thing."

Echard wants to see the majority of alumni he hired pursue further into their careers and become department heads and head coaches, much like he did throughout his early education at both Southwest Texas and Texas State University and in his military career, from which he retired after six years.

"I always challenge my staff and excelling students to simply go out and change the world; after saying that for about seven years, it puts me into a position to where I can't fear the second half, and so I need to adopt the mindset that I don't know what it will be but my goal is to go out and be a leader and try to impact the world," Echard said.

The district held a retirement ceremony on Dec. 6 to honor Echard and other retiring principals and executives.



Retiring Principal Melvin Echard accepts a plaque from Superintendent Dr. Brian Gottardy.  
*(Photo courtesy Sean Maika/Twitter)*

The support and dedication to the school that Echard has shown throughout his years as principal has touched the hearts of staff and faculty.

The faculty and district employees had a chance to formally say goodbye to Echard at a special retirement ceremony on Dec. 17. Superintendent Dr. Brian Gottardy spoke, along with Curriculum Assistant Principal Lori Murach and PTSA president Patty Garza.

"Mr. Echard has been our proudest supporter of our program [JROTC] and we would not be as successful as we are if we didn't have his support," Master Sergeant Marchantia Johnson said. "He's gone to extreme lengths for us, been our mediator when we've needed to intervene, fought with the district for a third instructor, and he's been the person who has been there for our students. Whenever we compete, he is there supporting us. I've never seen someone support our program the way he does. Mr. Echard carries that on in everything he does; we're watching him in faculty meetings and other events, and he's right here with us telling us that this is what we need to do and we need to go do it; but he'll complete the mission with us."

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# AUTO BURGLARY PREVENTION TIPS

**DON'T LEAVE VALUABLES IN YOUR CAR.** That sounds like "common sense", but drivers/passengers do leave items of value in plain view every day. If you leave valuable items visible in your car, your car is automatically a target. If you choose to leave for car open do not leave anything in it – not even your registration.



**TRY TO PARK IN BUSY, WELL-LIGHTED AREAS.** Try to park in well-traveled areas. Large anonymous lots are hit by thieves much more often than parking immediately adjacent to residential housing or other occupied buildings. Auto-burglars prefer breaking into cars where they will not be observed or attract notice, and choose their targets accordingly.

**If you must leave valuable items in your car while out and about, place items out of sight before reaching your destination or move them inconspicuously.** This includes packages, backpacks, gym bags, GPS units, MP3 players, and so forth. Someone may be watching when you put items under a seat or throw something over them. An opportunistic thief is on the lookout for trunk-packing, and can break into your car the minute you're out of sight. If you can't take them with you, at least **lock** the items in your glove compartment (*if capable of locking and large enough*) or your trunk (*if you have one*).

**LOCK ALL YOUR VEHICLE'S DOORS** even if you plan to be gone for only a brief time. Every year, we have items stolen from unlocked vehicles where the owner was only going to be gone "just for a second". It only takes seconds to steal your stuff! It's not at all uncommon for thieves to walk down a row of parked vehicles and check vehicle doors to see if they are unlocked. Don't leave **any** window open or even cracked open, including vent/wing windows and sunroofs.

**LEAVE NO TRACE.** Don't leave **any** "sign" that there might be valuables "out of sight" in your vehicle, such as docking stations, phone chargers or connector cables. Leave nothing in "plain sight" that might make your vehicle worth "investigating" by a thief; not even loose coins or a CD.

**SET ANY ALARM OR ANTI-THEFT DEVICE.** If you have one, use it! Many people believe that car-alarms no longer make a difference, but they can be an effective deterrent to an auto-burglar, who most often chooses the **easiest** target. If they have two cars to choose from, one with an alarm and one without,

*(Continued on page 11)*

# DID YOU KNOW?

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(Continued from page 10)

they will likely burglarize the one without (*unless you've left out valuables just too good to ignore!*)

**WHAT ITEMS ARE MOST COMMONLY STOLEN FROM VEHICLES?**

- Backpacks, gym bags, briefcases, day-planners
- Cash/coins, checkbooks and credit/debit cards
- Wallets and purses (*even when hidden under a seat or in an unlocked glove compartment*)
- Laptop computers, iPods and MP3 players, (*and docking stations*)
- Cell phones (*and chargers*)
- Portable GPS navigation systems
- Stereo/CD players (*and faceplates*), amps, speakers (*even when bolted down!*)
- Jewelry, keys, mail (*identity theft*), tools
- **Anything** of obvious value

**MARK YOUR VALUABLES!**

As a last line of defense (*not really to prevent theft as much as to aid in recovery*), mark your valuables. Record all serial numbers, even though many serial numbers are on removable "labels", rather than "engraved" into the valuable items. We'd suggest inscribing/engraving a "personal identifier" on all valuables.

Don't use your social security number (identity theft) — use your driver's license (DL) number, prefaced by your DL "state", such as "TX-B1234567". With that marking, any police officer can trace your valuable back to you, wherever it's recovered, and the chances of being reunited with your stolen valuables is dramatically increased.

**WHAT TO DO IF SOMETHING IS STOLEN OUT OF YOUR CAR**

As soon as you notice something's stolen (or that your car has been broken into) do not touch/adjust anything in, on, or around the car. As soon as possible, call the police to report the incident.

**REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY**

If you see suspicious activity, CALL 911.

"Suspicious Activity" would include:

- Persons walking up and down the street and/or parking lots looking into cars or trying door handles.
- Vehicles cruising the street and/or parking lots at very slow speeds for extended periods while observing parked cars.
- Persons making any kind of mark or placing anything on parked vehicles
- Persons sitting in running parked cars for protracted periods, and vehicles dropping one person off while continuing to cruise the same area. We'd prefer to check on an innocent citizen going about their business than to not check and end up taking theft-from-vehicle reports.



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# Protecting Your Pipes from Freezing Temperatures

During below-freezing temperatures, homeowners and businesses should be aware of the dangers of water pipes freezing or bursting in cold temperatures.

Here are tips from the American Water Works Association to help you avoid the cost and inconvenience of frozen pipes:

### Disconnect and drain outdoor hoses

Detaching the hose allows water to drain from the pipe so an overnight freeze doesn't burst the faucet or the pipe its connected to.

### Insulate pipes or faucets in unheated areas

It's best to wrap water pipes in unheated areas (such as the garage or crawl space) before temperatures plummet. You can find pipe wrapping materials at any hardware or building supply store.

### Consider installing "heat tape" or "heat cable"

Install "heat tape" or similar materials on all exposed water pipe (i.e. exterior pipe, or pipe located where the temperature might drop below freezing). It is relatively easy to install and can be found at your local hardware or building supply store. Be sure that you use only UL-listed products and follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully.

### Seal off access doors, air vents, and cracks

Winter winds whistling through overlooked openings

can quickly freeze exposed water pipes. DO NOT plug air vents used by your furnace or water heater.

### Find the master shutoff valve

Usually located where the water line enters your house (or near the water heater or washing machine), the master shutoff valve turns off the water to the entire house. Paint it a bright color and make sure everyone in the household knows where it is.

### What if it's too late?

During an extended cold spell, your pipes can freeze, even if you take all the proper precautions. If you think you know where the freeze occurred and want to try thawing it yourself, the easiest tool to use is a hair dryer with a low heat setting. DO NOT under any circumstances use an open flame. Using the hair dryer, wave the warm air back and forth along the pipe. DO NOT heat only one spot on the pipe, as this can cause it to burst. If you don't have a hair dryer, you can wrap the frozen section with rags or towels and pour hot water over them. It's messy, but it works.

Be careful when heating the pipe. It may already be broken and just not leaking because the water is frozen. When you thaw it out, the water could come gushing out. Be ready to run for the master shutoff valve if necessary.

Source: [www.saws.org](http://www.saws.org)

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News that's close to home.

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## OAK WILT PREVENTION

Trees are an important public resource that enhance the quality of life, add value to properties and reduce energy costs and pollutants. As such, it is important to hire a Licensed Tree Maintenance Contractor to prune them since they are properly trained and know our City's regulations and requirements.

As you may have heard, oak wilt is a deadly fungal disease that infects and disables the water-conducting system in oak trees. All oaks are susceptible to this disease, but some species are more so than others. With no known cure, methods to control and treatments are expensive and not guaranteed. Here are some tips to help prevent oak wilt in your neighborhood:

- Best time to prune trees is either in the middle of the summer, when temperatures are the hottest, or in late fall/early winter months when temperatures can be the coldest.
- Paint all cuts and wounds on oak trees within 30 minutes.
- Remove Red Oaks identified with oak wilt.
- Know where your firewood comes from. Don't transport unseasoned firewood from diseased Red Oaks.

If you suspect oak wilt in your neighborhood, contact the Texas Forest Service at (210) 494-1742. For additional information, please visit [texasoakwilt.org](http://texasoakwilt.org)

# AUTO LOANS

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Texas Board of Legal Specialization

**Were you denied life insurance benefits because your insurance company claims your loved one lied on the policy application?**

While this is one of the tactics used by insurance companies to deny life insurance claims, the standard necessary to prove such misrepresentation is very high in Texas. Don't let a life insurance company take advantage of you. Contact us at **(210) 733-4177** to set up a free consultation on your life insurance denial claim. We will fight to get you the benefits you deserve.

**¿Se le negó un reclamo de beneficios de seguro de vida porque la compañía de seguro insiste que su ser querido mintió en su aplicación?**

Aunque ésta es una de las tácticas que usan las compañías de seguro de vida para negar reclamos, el nivel de evidencia necesario para probar una representación falsa es muy alto en Texas. No deje que una compañía de seguro de vida se aproveche de usted. Contáctenos al **(210) 733-4177** para fijar una cita de consulta gratis para discutir su reclamo de seguro de vida. Pelearemos por ayudarlo a recuperar los beneficios que se merece.

---

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Put a **FREEZE** on Winter Fires

Home fires occur more in winter than in any other season. As you stay cozy and warm this winter season, be fire smart!

 <p>Half of all home heating fires occur in the months of December, January and February.</p>	 <p>Heating equipment is involved in <b>1 in every 7</b> reported home fires and <b>1 in every 5</b> home fire deaths.</p>	 <p>Keep anything that can burn <b>at least 3 feet</b> from any heat source like fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators or space heaters.</p>
 <p>Keep portable generators <b>outside, away from windows, and as far away as possible</b> from your home.</p>	 <p>Install and test carbon monoxide alarms <b>at least once a month</b>.</p>	 <p>Plug only <b>1 heat-producing appliance</b> (such as a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.</p>
 <p>Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and vents <b>every year</b>.</p>	 <p>Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container, and keep it <b>outside at least 10 feet</b> from your home and any nearby buildings.</p>	

## OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION

### ORGANIZATIONS:

Little League – Aaron Garcia • 210-608-2729 • windcrestlittleleague@gmail.com  
 Lion's Club – Marlene Patton • 210-393-7383 • marpatton@aol.com  
 Girl Scouts – Jane Schumacher • 210-349-2404 ext. 237 • jschumacher@girlscouts-swtx.org  
 Boy Scouts – Justin Buckner  
 Cub Scouts – Alfred A. Cortez • 210-967-7369 • aacortez@earthlink.net  
 Swim Team – Robert Hoffman • 210-287-1798 • windcrestdolphins@hotmail.com  
 Optimist Club – Jeanie Weidenbach • 210-653-3287  
 Women's Club – Tinie Riggs • 210-656-7096  
 American Legion – Buddy Cooper • 210-656-3426  
 Windcrest Golf Course – Jeri Jones-Cruz • 210-655-1421 • windcrestgolf86@aol.com  
 Tennis Center – Ed Beyster • 210-590-8500 • ebeyster@aol.com  
 www.windcresttennisandpickleball.com  
 Citizen's Patrol Team 1 Captain – Col. Henry Berman • 210-655-5650  
 Citizen's Patrol Team 2 Captain – Nello Rosania • 210-657-5704  
 Citizen's Patrol Team 3 Captain – Mike Magallanez • 210-267-8390  
 Citizen's Patrol Team 4 Captain – Elvie Ortiz • 210-861-5558  
 Garden Club – Carolyn Freeman • 655-5816  
 CERT – Kathy Maloney • 210-887-5069 • teamwindcrest@gmail.com  
 Animal Task Force/TxWeAct – Pam Dodson • 210-562-0299 • Txweact@yahoo.com

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#### Windcrest Pool Manager

Jonathan Hays  
 210-454-6883

#### BCWCID #10

Sue Alexander  
 salexanderbcwcid10@gmail.com

#### Special Events Team

Gayle Baker  
 Teddy Behrens  
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 Rick Cockerham  
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 Ruth Fritz  
 Rose Gretz  
 Carol Hobaugh  
 Edith Jacobi  
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#### 2018 CIP Streets Bonds Project Committee

Dr. Don Hobaugh, Co-Chair  
 donhobaugh@gmail.com  
 Alan Thompson, Co-Chair  
 explosiveservice@aol.com  
 Colonel Henry Berman  
 Chester Varner  
 Bill Shields  
 Bill Zulicha

# DEADLINE

## CUTOFF DATES FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER NOTICES TO CITY HALL:

To provide timely information in the next *Newsletter*, **notices must be in the Administration Office by noon on JANUARY 5**, and announce activities occurring after January 31 only. Please e-mail articles to [walker@windcrest-tx.gov](mailto:walker@windcrest-tx.gov) in 'Word' documents **only** so articles can be edited for misspellings, etc. which cannot be done in PDF or any other format. Also, please provide a contact name & phone number for City Hall.

## JANUARY 2019 Marquee Meeting Dates & Times

New Year's Day	Jan 1	Closed
SCCM	Jan 7	6:00 p.m.
Municipal Court	Jan 8, 15, 22	4:00 p.m.
WEDC	Jan 16	5:30 p.m.
Water District	Jan 17	6:30 p.m.
RCCM	Jan 21	5:00 p.m.

*\*Meeting dates are subject to change at anytime.*

For updated information go to  
[www.ci.windcrest.tx.us](http://www.ci.windcrest.tx.us)



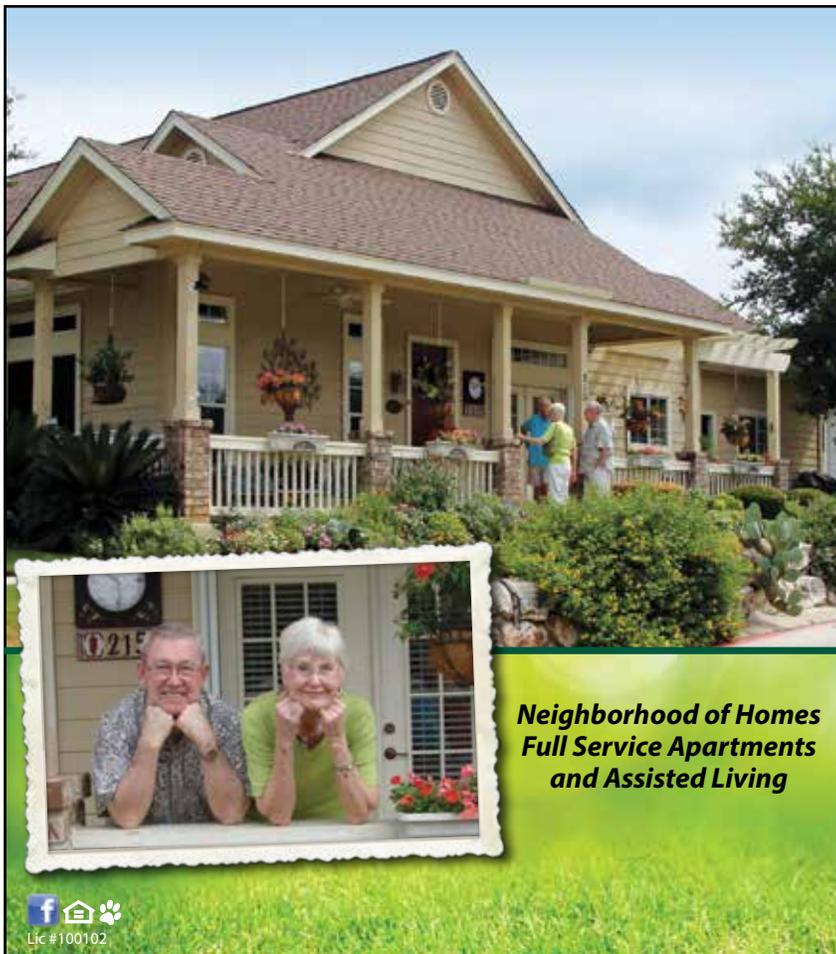
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[www.independencevillage.com](http://www.independencevillage.com)

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Published and distributed by:  
**Neighborhood News, Inc.**  
3740 Colony Drive Suite LL100  
San Antonio, TX 78230  
(210) 558-3160 \* (210) 558-3163 fax

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