

J. J. PEARCE NEWSLETTER

Website: www.jjphoa.org

December 2001



News from the City

- A new park, Buckingham Park, will be opening shortly. The creation of a park in the Buckingham area was part of the agreement when Buckingham was annexed to Richardson.
- Improvements are being made to the merge lane so that traffic entering southbound 75 from 190 will be able to merge more smoothly and safely. This should also help with the Renner Road and Campbell Road interchanges. The project should be done before the end of this year.
- Because of declining sales tax revenues the City budget has been revised downward to about the levels of the 1999-2000 fiscal year in all areas except personnel. Hopefully this approach will allow the city to continue providing current levels of service, at least in areas that are apparent. All personnel positions are frozen.
- RISD and the City are cooperating on a shared fiber cable project to improve communications and reduce expenses. The new cable will be placed in roadway medians to minimize traffic disruption and to avoid utilities that are already in place under parkways.
- Because of the ongoing development and construction at Galatyn Park, the 2002 Wildflower Festival will be cut back to one day and it will focus on music. It will take place the 2nd weekend in May. The 2003 Festival will be the 10th anniversary of the Wildflower Festival and should take place at the new fountain and elsewhere in the new Galatyn Park complex and be restored to its full schedule. DART rail will make the event even more accessible in 2003.
- Richardson Square Mall should begin benefiting from a new Super Target by Thanksgiving of 2002.
- The explosion that destroyed a home and killed some of its residents was due to a gas leak within the home. Residents had detected gas earlier in the week but corrective action had not been taken. If you smell gas call TXU and do not turn electric switches on or off, and of course do not light a match or any other flame.
- Look for regular updates on Transit Oriented Development in Richardson Today.

The Y2002 Membership Directory Has Gone to Press!

By Art Middlebrook, VP Membership

The J.J. Pearce Homeowners Association directory is finalized and ready for printing. To all of you members, who have faithfully responded and joined, we appreciate your support and we thank all of you!

With the Y2002 membership drive now completed, we have 337 dues paid members:

Members	337
% Total (464)	72.6%

Unfortunately, this is lower than last year's 75% and I am surprised. In the November newsletter, President Bernie Mayoff's article "Why We Have a Homeowners Association" pointed out the reasons for which most of us join. So given the current global situation, I find it hard to understand why more of us haven't joined. People all over this country are coming together because of the basic need for communication, security and well being. It is one of the reasons our Homeowners Association exists; it is why all of us should be members!

Our HOA is not a 'benevolent' organization -- we ask our residents for only \$15.00 per year to join. Just think about all the services the HOA provides us. Bernie addressed them very well in the November newsletter. And don't forget - all the people working for your Homeowners Association are volunteers. The block captains are excellent examples; they are your neighbors and their efforts in the membership drive are critical. They work diligently to be sure we get our membership data and fees in on time. Thank you, Block Captains - I am very proud of you; my hat is off to you for all you do for the HOA!

The Middlebrook family wishes all of you a wonderful Holiday Season and a Very Happy 2002.

In 1978 Association dues were established at \$12 per year. Today, over 20 years later, they are still only \$15 per year. Our Homeowners Association was incorporated in 1979

The History of Chanukah

Chanukah is celebrated for eight days and nights, starting on the 25th of Kislev on the Hebrew calendar (which is November-December on the Gregorian calendar). This year the dates correspond to December 9-16. In Hebrew, the word "Chanukah" means "dedication."

The holiday commemorates the rededication of the holy Temple in Jerusalem after the Jews 165 B.C.E. victory over the Hellenist Syrians. Antiochus, the Greek King of Syria, outlawed Jewish rituals and ordered the Jews to worship Greek gods.

In 168 B.C.E. the Jews holy Temple was seized and dedicated to the worship of Zeus. Some Jews were afraid of the Greek soldiers and obeyed them, but most were angry and decided to fight back.

The fighting began in Modiin, a village not far from Jerusalem. A Greek officer and soldiers assembled the villagers, asking them to bow to an idol and eat the flesh of a pig, all of which were forbidden to Jews. The officer asked Mattathias, a Jewish High Priest, to take part in the ceremony. He refused, and another villager stepped forward and offered to do it instead. Mattathias became outraged, took out his sword, and killed the man, then killed the officer. Mattathias' five sons and the other villagers then attacked and killed the soldiers. Mattathias' family went into hiding in the nearby mountains, where many other Jews who wanted to fight the Greeks joined them. They attacked the Greek soldiers whenever possible.

About a year after the rebellion started, Mattathias died. Before his death, he put his brave son, Judah Maccabee in charge of the growing army. After three years of fighting, the Jews defeated the Greek army, despite having fewer men and weapons.

Judah Maccabee and his soldiers went to the holy Temple, and were saddened that many things were missing or broken, including the golden menorah. They cleaned and repaired the Temple, and when they were finished, they decided to have a big dedication ceremony. For the celebration, the Maccabees wanted to light the menorah. They looked everywhere for oil, and found a small flask that contained only enough oil to light the menorah for one day. Miraculously, the oil lasted for eight days. This gave them enough time to obtain new oil to keep the menorah lit. Today Jews celebrate Hanukkah for eight days by lighting candles in a menorah every night, thus commemorating the eight-day miracle.

On the first night of Chanukah, one light is lit and on each successive night another light is added until the eighth night when all the lights are lit. The reason for this procedure is that the additional light recalls the greatness and growth of the miracle. Candles are placed in the menorah from right to left, but lit from left to right. The highest candle, known as the Shamash or "servant", is used to

light the other candles. Blessings are recited each night before the lights are kindled.



In ancient times, olive oil was used in Hanukkah menorahs. Over time, colorful candles were substituted. In Israel, the Hanukkah menorah is called the Chanukah

Menorahs come in all shapes and sizes. The only requirement is that the flames are separated enough so that they will not look too big and resemble a pagan bonfire. Ancient menorahs were made out of clay. They consisted of small, pearl shaped vessels, each with its own wick, which were arranged side-by-side.

The dreidel is a four-sided spinning top with a Hebrew letter inscribed on each side. In America the letters stand for "A Great Miracle Happened There". In Israel the letters mean "A Miracle Happened Here". According to the letter, the following will happen: If you get a:Nun (= letter n) it stands for nem = take; Giml (= letter g) it stands for ganys = take all; Hey (= letter h) it stands for halb = take half; Shin (= letter sh) it stands for shtel = put in.



Each player receives a given number of coins or candy pieces. Before spinning the dreidel, each player puts a fixed proportion of the amount received into the kupah or kitty. Each player in turn spins the dreidel. When the dreidel falls, it will fall on one of the 4 letters. The game continues until players have run out of 'funds' or it is agreed to stop (anyone losing all funds is out of the game).

The dreidel game was popular during the rule of Antiochus before the Maccabees' revolt, a time when soldiers executed any Jews who were caught practicing their religion. When pious Jews gathered to study the Torah, they had the top ready in case they heard soldiers approaching. If the soldiers appeared, they would hide the Holy Scriptures and pretend to play with the dreidel. In Israel the dreidel is called a sivivon. The Yiddish word "dreidel" is derived from the German word "drehen", or "turn".

The most popular themes throughout the Chanukah foods are the use of oil. The oil reminds us of the oil which burned eight days instead of one.



Latkes are potato pancakes made from grated potatoes mixed with eggs, onions, and flour, and fried in vegetable oil. The texture is crispy on the outside and tender within. They're served hot and often dipped in apple sauce or sour cream. The Maccabee soldiers ate latkes made from cheese, vegetables, or fruits, which were brought to them

on the battlefields. However, they didn't eat potato latkes, as potatoes weren't available until the sixteenth century.

Sufganiyot are jelly doughnuts without the hole. They're dropped into hot oil without being shaped and come out in odd, funny shapes, then covered in powdered sugar and/or cinnamon. Sufganiyot are particularly popular in Israel, where they are sold on stands in the streets over a month before Hanukkah begins.

Christmas in the United States

The first Christmas observance in what is now the United States was celebrated in an authentic Spanish style. Hernando de Soto and his army set up their winter camp in the present day city of Tallahassee, Florida in 1539. Since that time, the holiday traditions of nearly every nation on earth have moved into, around, and across the U.S. Every ethnic group has its place in our society, and they bring their own traditions for December celebrations. In addition, the diversity in our climate helps to set the stage for various types of festivities ranging from a picnic on the beach at Waikiki or Key West to candles in a window during the twilight of a cold day in Alaska.

For most people, turkey is the main dish and presents are found under a Christmas tree. Families gather together and the gifts come from Santa Claus. These are the basics and the varied pleasures take off from there in all directions.



In New York City, holiday shoppers stop to watch skaters on the ice beneath the tree at Rockefeller Center while others gaze in awe at the magnificent Neapolitan Baroque figures on the Angel Tree at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

In Texas, you can join a Tex-Mex "posada" in San Antonio or travel 70 miles north to Fredericksburg for a German-style Christmas Market.

The South has a long Christmas tradition going back to the first English Christmas at Jamestown. Today in New Orleans, thousands of carolers gather each year in Jackson Square for a huge community sing while bonfires are lit all along the Mississippi River.

In Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry, an enchanted forest of 43 international trees and three crèches decorated by the city's cultural community groups is on display through January 7. Appropriate ethnic food is served in the cafeteria and various ethnic groups present folk dances and story hours throughout the season.

In Washington, DC, the focal point of the season is the lighting of the tree on the Ellipse. A large tree represents the nation with smaller trees representing each state. While the Kennedy Center presents a wide-variety of Christmas programs, the hottest ticket in town is for the "Messiah" sing-in at the concert hall.

Boston is also famous for its annual Christmas presentation of "Messiah" by the Handel-Haydn Society as well as the caroling festivities on Beacon Hill.

The "Nation's Christmas Tree" in California's Kings Canyon National Park is the site of a special annual celebration. Carolers sing at the base of the 267-foot sequoia each year and the size of the group depends on the depth of the heavy snows in the park.

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania founded by Moravian missionaries on Christmas Eve, 1741 starts off the season with a huge Christmas Market. The holiday decorations in most buildings in the city consist of a single candle in each window. A giant, lighted star can be seen atop South Mountain and is visible for twenty miles.


St. Augustine, Florida, the oldest city in the U.S., has the entire historic area draped in white lights. There is a city ordinance, which prevents anyone from displaying outdoor Christmas lights that are not white. The one exception is a colorfully decorated tree in the town square that is set up under the white lights hung in ancient Live Oak trees.

Thousands flock to Hollywood, California for the annual Parade of Stars while others converge on Balboa Park in San Diego for Christmas concerts on the world's largest outdoor pipe organ.

In Salt Lake City, the Mormon Tabernacle Choir presents great classical music of Christmas.

A small choir in St. Joseph's Church in Washington, New Jersey sings "Silent Night" while bathed in the light of an antique stained glass window depicting the Nativity, proving that there is more than one way to "make a joyful noise unto the Lord." (*Taken from the Christmas website. By Bill Egan, Christmas Historian and Christmas.com Content Specialist.*)

Editor's note: While Christmas celebrations take on many forms, we should not forget the real reason for Christmas, that it is the day that most Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus.

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Thank you, decorators

A big thanks to the team that has put up the holiday decorations, complete with new American flags. Decoration Coordinators are Wayne Eittel and Thom Pomella.

Committee members are:



- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| James Miazza | Mike and Jamie Chiocca |
| Gerry Carlos | Alan and LeAnn Brunelli |
| Mike and Robyn Kassab | Keith and Kelle Henson |
| Chuck and Nancy Holley | Greg and Sue Immel |
| Gene and Priscilla Norwick | Joe and Dee Russum |
| Brad and Kristin Kuhne | Charles Burgess |
| Art Middlebrook | Charles and Judi McGregor |

Thanks also to Bob Nusser for leading this team and storing the decorations for many years, and for ensuring a smooth handoff to Wayne and Thom, and to the Vrieliniks for taking over storage.

Name that neighbor

By Janet Karr

D N E S N W O T N E R R A W
 I R E K C I R L Y S E O Y I
 L L A C C O I H C E G E E C
 L A C R F N E M E E K S L K
 A E O T N L H C U O R C D H
 R N N S M A D A O C O O A A
 D O A S S S I R R O M R R M
 M A R C O S B T K D C L B I
 A E D F C E E E S Y G E P E
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 C F I D A N S S W E R D N A
 A F D T R I O G R A Y H N L
 E I T S K D N S O L R A C A
 M D S E N O J L L E S S I C

Adams, Andrews, Benson, Bradley, Calame, Carlos, Carter, Chiocca, Christian, Cissell, Clark, Cody, Conard, Cook, Corley, Crouch, Diffie, Dillard, Dingess, Gray, Helms, Jones, Lane, Lee, Linn, Mackey, Marcos, McGary, Meacham, Meeks, Middlebrook, Montfort, Morriss, O'Neal, Pann, Ricker, Townsend, Warren, Wickham, Yoes.

There are nine (9) leftover letters that form the answer.



Some things really are what they are cracked up to be

Earlier this year we asked residents to identify sidewalks in need of repair by the City. Six people reported sidewalk problems. But while reviewing those sidewalks we noticed several other repair candidates. A list of 38 sidewalks was submitted to the city for evaluation and repair.

The City has evaluated and ranked each of those 38 sidewalks. Priority 1 sidewalks are those most in need of repair. Priority 5 are those least in need of repair. The City is currently focusing on Priority 1, 2 and 3 sidewalks. 33 of the sidewalks we reported have been ranked 1, 2 or 3. Eight of them were already on the city's list and are scheduled for repair. The 25 additional Priority 1, 2 or 3 sidewalks have been added to the City's list and will be scheduled for repair as funding becomes available. Bernie has notified most of the families that reported sidewalk problems to him. If you have a question about whether your sidewalk was included please contact Association president Bernie Mayoff.

Winning Play

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Keeping the Holidays safe from Hidden Poisons -- parties and decorations can be dangerous for children

By Jim Morelli, WebMD Medical News

Its color may scream "danger," but the poinsettia plant is the least of a parent's worries this holiday season when it comes to household items that could be poisonous. "They are not the deadly plants many people assume they are," says Rose Ann Soloway, associate director of the American Association of Poison Control Centers



in Washington, D.C. But she says that the sap from the poinsettia is irritating and may cause vomiting if swallowed.

The holly plant, on the other hand, can be much more dangerous. "The entire plant is toxic," Soloway says. "Although because they have sharp points, children don't chew on the leaves." The berries are another matter. If ingested, they could cause severe stomach problems.



Mistletoe may be romantic, but poison control experts assume it's toxic based on a single case report of a woman who suffered liver injury after drinking mistletoe tea. While no other human exposure data exists, Soloway advises parents not to take any chances. "We don't recommend live mistletoe," she says. "Especially not live mistletoe berries."

Christmas trees are at least one plant that parents generally don't have to worry about. "There should be no problem associated with nibbling on evergreen trees," Soloway says. "In the first place, it's hard to do," because the needles can be sharp.

While plants may be an obvious source of holiday poisonings, there is one potentially deadly substance sometimes overlooked: alcohol. While inebriation is the cardinal sign of alcohol toxicity in adults, the consequences in children are much worse. "It is potentially a very serious poison," says Soloway. "It doesn't take much alcohol to poison a child." Not only will alcohol make children sleepy, it also causes blood sugar levels to drop significantly.

Soloway has some advice for parents giving parties: Clean up before going to bed. One hidden source of alcohol poisoning is post-party residues left in glasses and ingested the next morning by early-waking children.

The holidays are, of course, a time for family get-togethers -- which means the potential presence of prescription medications that aren't typically around. Soloway says that anyone entering a house where there are small children should have their prescription vials locked away for the duration of their stay. She also tells WebMD that parents should avoid getting into a subtle mindset that sometimes takes over when there are lots of

people in the house: that "somebody" must be watching the children. "In lots of cases kids get into things because there wasn't one single adult charged with watching the child," she says.

Many holiday decorations present choking hazards, but most are made out of nontoxic materials, such as plastic. The water-containing snow globes which, when agitated, create a blizzard of plastic particles should cause no problem if the water and tiny plastic "snowflakes" are ingested, but there is a possibility that the water could be contaminated with bacteria.

Potentially much more toxic are aromatic oils used to give the house a Christmas scent. Soloway says that while it's hard to make a generalization about these products, one thing is certain: Children can develop a deadly form of pneumonia if the oils get into the lungs. That could happen if a child coughs or chokes while swallowing one. In addition, highly concentrated "essential oils" can cause seizures if ingested -- even in small amounts.

With many parents hitting the road for the holidays, Soloway advises packing two items along with the gifts and winter clothes: The number of a poison control center and a bottle of the vomiting agent syrup of ipecac. But under no circumstances should parents use the latter, until speaking with a representative from the former.

To find out the number of a poison control center near your holiday destination, visit the American Association of Poison Control Centers homepage at www.aapcc.org. The number for the North Texas Poison Control Center is **1-800-764-7661**.

Vital Information:

- Many holiday decorations can be toxic if ingested by children, including holly berries and aromatic oils.
- Parents should also watch out for alcohol at parties, because only a small amount is necessary to cause alcohol poisoning in children.
- Among large crowds at holiday celebrations, a single adult should be charged with watching the children.

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Board Minutes November 15, 2001

President Bernie Mayoff called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. The minutes were read and approved as read.

Treasurer's Report:

- In Helen Simon's absence Bernie Mayoff presented the treasurer's report.

Old Business:

- Flag at Mimosa entrance-- Neighborhood Vitality is in charge of these endeavors and they are fully committed this next year. No future plans have been made.
- Holiday decorations-- these have been distributed to the volunteers to put up. A motion was made by Art Middlebrook to allow about \$65.00 to add American flags to the bows. There was a second and the motion passed.
- Decals—Dee Russum moved that we purchase 2000 decals. Greg Immel will confirm the quoted price for the decals. There was a second and the motion passed 5 to 2.
- Budget—The 2001 / 02 budget was presented and discussed. It was decided to wait until next month to approve when Helen would be available as well as Bernie.

New Business:

- Greg Immel to attempt to get new ads and existing ads to go in the directory and the newsletter.

Newsletter: The next deadline is 12/14.

Safety:

- There was a discussion concerning Crime Watch Patrols. There are only 3 groups in Richardson. It takes a lot of work to put one together and maintain a group, besides needing City Council approval. It was decided not to attempt this project.

Development:

- Greg Immel is considering doing bio's on local shops. He is also looking into the possibility of meeting with a DART representative and other nearby HOA's to investigate the interest and neighborhood needs of DART. The new Richardson rail stations will be opening in June.

Membership:

- Art Middlebrook reported that 230 members have paid their dues for 2002. Art is trying to update the Block Captain list and continue to work on receiving new members. The directory will go to print on 12/16/01. No progress has been made yet on "welcome" packets suggested at the annual meeting.

The next board meeting will be 12/16/01 at Dee Russum's (1102 Pueblo) at 3:00p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Clark, Secretary

The Pearce theater department will present "The King and I" at Pearce from Feb.1-9 with performances on Feb.1,2,7,8,9 at 7:30pm and on Feb. 3 at 2:00pm. At 1pm on Feb.6, there will be a special showing for our senior citizens. This show will cost \$2 and all seniors are welcome to this special performance. Tickets for general admission are \$6, with reserved seating tickets at \$8 and \$10. For tickets for any performance call 972-644-7699 or 469-593-05136.

Congratulations, Citizen of the Week

Congratulations again to Lynn Sanders who was named KRLD's Citizen of the Week on November 29 for his many community volunteer activities. Not least among those volunteer activities is his role as our VP of Safety.



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2001/02 BUDGET

INCOME

MEMBERSHIP DUES	\$5,000.00
DIVIDENDS	372.63
INTEREST	0.77
ADVERT-NEWSLETTER	780.00
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$6,153.40</u>

EXPENSES

CRIME WATCH	
METROCALL	253.08
DECALS	158.99
NATL NIGHT OUT	950.00
MEMBERSHIP	
ANNUAL MEETING	70.00
BINDERS	100.00
PRINTING	400.00
DELIVERY	75.00
SOCIAL EVENTS	
EASTER	150.00
JULY 4TH	500.00
DECEMBER DECORATIONS	157.33
VOLUNTEER PARTY	350.00
NEWSLETTER	
PRINTING, ETC	3,043.02
DELIVERY	765.00
OTHER EXPENSES	
FEDERAL INCOME TAX	
(Paid on Dividends/Interest	150.00
MISCELLANEOUS	100.00

TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$7,222.42</u>
NET INCOME (LOSS)	<u>(\$1,069.02)</u>

As you can see, we are operating in a deficit. We are continuing our efforts to increase revenues by seeking more advertising in our newsletters. We are fortunate to have our surplus available if needed.

Christmas Tree Legends



Many legends exist about the origin of the Christmas tree. One is the story of Saint Boniface, an English monk who organized the Christian Church in France and Germany. One day, as he traveled about, he came upon a group of pagans gathered around a great oak tree, about to sacrifice a child to the god Thor. To stop the sacrifice and save the child's life Boniface felled the tree with one mighty blow of his fist. In its place grew a small fir tree. The saint told the pagan worshipers that the tiny fir was the Tree of Life and stood for the eternal life of Christ.

Another legend holds that Martin Luther, a founder of the Protestant faith, was walking through the forest one Christmas Eve. As he walked he was awed by the beauty of millions of stars glimmering through the branches of the evergreen trees. So taken was he by this beautiful sight that he cut a small tree and took it home to his family. To recreate that same starlight beauty he saw in the wood, he placed candles on all its branches.

Yet another legend tells of a poor woodsman who long ago met a lost and hungry child on Christmas Eve. Though very poor himself, the woodsman gave the child food and shelter for the night. The woodsman woke the next morning to find a beautiful glittering tree outside his door. The hungry child was really the Christ Child in disguise. He created the tree to reward the good man for his charity.

Others feel the origin of the Christmas tree may be the "Paradise Play." In medieval times most people did not read and plays were used to teach the lessons of the bible all over Europe. The Paradise Play, which showed the creation of man and the fall of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden was performed every year on December 24th. The play was performed in winter creating a slight problem. An apple tree was needed but apple trees do not bare fruit in winter so a substitution was made. Evergreens were hung with apples and used instead.

The Christmas Tree

For families in North America, Germany and other parts of Europe, the Christmas tree is the symbol of the Christmas season. Other evergreens have been a part of mid-winter festivals long before Christ. They played a symbolic part because they stayed green and alive when other plants appeared dead and bare. They represented everlasting life and hope for the return of spring. Primitive European tribes hung evergreens above their doors to offer the wandering winter spirits shelter within their homes in hopes of receiving good fortune and good health in return. The Romans decorated their homes with the greens at the Festival of Saturnalia and at the Kalends of January, their New Year. They exchanged evergreen branches with friends as a sign of good luck. The Druids viewed evergreens as sacred, a symbol of life itself.

When Christmas came about, we incorporated, rather than dismissed, many of these practices as Christmas customs. Of course, this was done only if these activities and items were considered harmless and availed themselves to a Christian interpretation.

The use of evergreens was and is most widespread in England and Germany. We can trace it back at least 500 years ago when religious meaning began to be associated with these plants.



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The Christmas Star



The stars that appear in the sky today are the same ones that were there two thousand years ago. Was there a nova at the time of Jesus' birth? The exact time of His birth is not known, but astronomers cannot place a new star appearance anywhere near the possible time. Could it have been a shooting star? Again, the astronomers say it was not likely. A meteor lasts only a few seconds or minutes at best. The wise men followed the star for weeks looking for Jesus. We can rule out comets as well. They can not be seen by the naked eye for a week or months. But modern astronomers know which comets were close enough to earth hundreds and thousands of years ago and there was no comet visible to humans around the time of Christ's birth.

Some stargazers suggest that if we move the birth of Jesus to the springtime of 6 B.C., we can attribute the star to the time the planets Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn were close together in the heavens. They formed a triangle in the group of stars known as Pisces.

The wise men, themselves, were astrologers and studied the stars and planets and knew, according to Jewish rabbis, of the triangle and that it had appeared before the birth of Moses. Perhaps they interpreted it as a sign of a great event in the land of the Jewish people. This may have been the star of Bethlehem. Pisces became the special constellation of the Hebrew people.

Still, many people prefer to believe that the strange star did appear, and that it was simply a miracle and throughout the world today, the Christian holiday has usually begun with the appearance of the first star of Christmas Eve.

The Festival of the Star is held in Poland. Right after the Christmas Eve meal, the village priest, acts as the "Star Man" and tests the children's knowledge of religion. In Alaska, boys and girls carry a star shaped figure from house to house and sing carols in hopes of receiving treats. In Hungary a star-shaped pattern is carved in a half of an apple and is suppose to bring good luck.

In general, the Christmas star symbolizes high hopes and high ideals - hope for good fortune, hope for reaching above oneself. For all human beings, regardless of religion, stars have special meaning for all share the heavens, no matter what barriers keep them apart on earth.

Holiday Greetings

From Bill Little, VP Beautification

I'm happy to be back as your Beautification Vice President for another year. (Janet Karr resigned.)

I had a very difficult time judging the Holiday Lights again this year. There were so many excellent displays it took several trips through the neighborhood over the last several nights before I could make my choices.

The 2001 Holiday winners are:

1121 Chesterton	Dave & Martha Lammers
1419 Chesterton	Paul & Gail Huckabee
1100 Eton	Wayne & Bess Eitel
1221 Eton	Charles & Billie Burgess
1602 Cheyenne	Kyle & Kim Hearon

There were many other lighting displays, which I think deserve an Honorable Mention in this Newsletter even if they did not get a sign in their yard this year. I think everyone should take the time to drive the streets of our neighborhood and look at all of the wonderful displays of your neighbors. These are some of the Honorable Mentions to look for:

1128 Melrose, 1116 Pueblo, 1120 Pueblo, 1103 Pueblo, 1114 Stratford, 1118 Stratford, 1124 Grassmere, 1204 Eton, 1119 Stratford, 1113 Grasmere, 1307 Huntington, 1201 Eton, 1101 Edith Circle

Crime Talk

By Lynn Sanders, VP Safety

I am aware of only two crime incidents in our JJ Pearce neighborhood since the last newsletter. One was a scam and the other was arson.

Around mid November, a homeowner on Edith Circle answered the door to find a man wearing some kind of name badge and claiming he represented the water department. He informed the homeowner that he needed to come inside for about 25 minutes to check the home's water system for dangerous chemicals. The homeowner was rightly suspicious and was able to get the man to admit that he was selling water purification systems. The homeowner told him to leave, and he did. Whether he really was trying to sell something, or was just trying to

gain entry is still unknown. One clue to the falsehood of this man's approach is that the water department delivers water to your meter, and anything further than that is the homeowner's responsibility, and therefore they do not inspect home water systems for defects or dangerous chemicals. If you are approached in this manner, contact the police immediately.

During the night of December 6-7, some person, or persons, set a wreath on fire that was hanging above the front door of a home in the 1400 block of Huntington. Damage was relatively minor, but could have been very serious. This incident is under investigation. If you know anything at all about who may have done this, contact the Richardson Fire Marshall immediately.

I don't want to sound like a broken record, but car burglaries and stolen ladies wallets continue to occur in Richardson with regularity. In almost all car burglary incidents, the occupants of the car have left something of value in clear view from the outside. You might be surprised to know that most of these cases are in broad daylight. These perpetrators can be inside a car very quickly when they see something they want. Many of the incidents of ladies wallet theft continue to happen in restaurants and coffee shops around Coit and Campbell; right in our backyard. This column in last month's newsletter had several tips to help you avoid being victimized by this type of crime.

Let's all remember that for a crime to occur, the perpetrator needs the desire, the means, and the opportunity to commit the crime. We can't do much about the perpetrator's desire or the means, but we can do something about the opportunity. I know we all long for the days when we could be carefree and still be safe from crime. Those days are mostly gone. Nowadays, we must make reasonable efforts to remove the opportunity, and keep ourselves from becoming a victim. Fortunately, most of these efforts are easy and just common sense. We just need to do them.

I want to close with a recent example of effective Neighborhood Crime Watch. On November 25, just after noon, a Crime Watch Coordinator in the Estates of Prairie Creek HOA called the RPD and reported two men in a silver Nissan Altima slowly cruising the alley. The coordinator believed the men were looking for opportunity (there's that word again). The responding patrol officer found the car on Campbell and stopped it. The driver was arrested, and there were garage tools and lawn equipment in the trunk.

This is a good example of the police-community partnership. Patrol officers had bulletins concerning this particular suspect vehicle and were on the lookout for it. But suspects can see police cars a mile away, and can turn off on a side street or into a parking lot before the police see them. With citizens also looking for suspects and calling in suspicious activity, the suspects cannot avoid eventual detection and apprehension. Let's all be better crime preventers and crime reporters.

To Drive or Not?

By Greg Immel

Ever wonder what our sales tax dollars are doing at DART lately? If you have not noticed or read lately, we are about to have new rail stations here in Richardson. There are four intended with three already nearing completion. The three soon to be operational by June 2002 are at Spring Valley, Arapaho and Galatyn Park. The fourth is scheduled for Belt Line Road but a time has not been set for that yet.

My purpose in writing this is two-fold. One is to inform that these stations will be coming on line next year and the second is to tell you how you will be affected. I recently had the opportunity to attend a presentation given by DART here in Richardson to inform us of their intentions regarding the stations and the bus assistance to these stations. Believe me when I tell you, DART is serious about how we feel about their service as of now and how they can assist us in the future to use their services.

The main purpose I see is if you have any reasons to want to travel to downtown in the future whether it be for work, to attend a sporting event, theatre, dinner or even to see the Dallas Zoo, these are easily attainable by traveling the rail. If you have not traveled the rail yet you should just to see how easy it is to travel in comfort to downtown. No headaches of motorists or parking and very reasonable and fast. Right now you can take it from the Park Lane station but soon we will have our own.

DART Needs Our Input

As I indicated above, there are three stations already in progress. Of the three, only Galatyn will not have public parking. This station is meant more for the telecom corridor employees and the hotel. The other two at Arapaho and Spring Valley will have bus feeders to them from our

area. This is where DART needs our input. They would like to have a general meeting with the members from our Homeowners Association as well as maybe neighboring ones such as the Reservation and Greenwood Hills. DART is planning new bus routes specifically to assist people to these rail stations and would like to know if what they have planned is appropriate. An example of their new plans is a bus route that would travel down Watterview to the Spring Valley station. To reach the Arapaho station the closest bus route to us would be Campbell Road. What they would like to know is what do they need to do to help us use the rail? Think about it. If you have any reason to want to use the rail system now or in the future, here is an excellent chance to hear from them and give them input to make it user friendly to us.

If you would like to be part of the meeting, please let our President Bernie Mayoff or me know at your earliest convenience. I can be reached at 972-234-2981 (leave a message if no one answers) and my e-mail address is: greg.immel@hansonamerica.com. You can call Bernie at 972-669-9169 or e-mailing him at: bernie@mayoff.com. I suggested to DART that sometime in late January or early February would be agreeable to our association(s). Please advise us so we can give them some type of number of attendees. They will supply as many people on their end to answer any or all questions that they are able. DART RAIL is coming. Now we need to know more about it and how we can benefit.

Little's Pet Sitting Little's Pet Sitting

Have pets? Going out of town? The Little family would be happy to take care of your beloved pet.
Please call Kristin or Chad Little 972-690-6315.

Local Events September-October include:

Date	Event/Location
December	
20	Girls Basketball vs Royce City 7:30pm at Pearce
	Boys Basketball vs Royce City 6:00/7:30pm at Pearce
21- 31	Winter break
January	
1-7	Winter break
2	Boys Basketball vs Lewisville Hebron 3:30/5:00pm at Pearce
4	Boys Basketball vs Denton High 6:00/7:30pm at Pearce
10	North 7 th /8 th Basketball vs LHJH 5:30 Girls/6:30pm Boys at North
11	North 9 th Basketball vs RJH 5:30 Girls/6:30pm Boys at North
	Girls Basketball vs Wylie 6:00/7:30pm at Pearce
15	Boys Basketball vs Lancaster 6:00/7:30pm at Pearce
18	Boys Basketball vs Highland Park 6:00/7:30pm at Pearce
21	Martin Luther King Jr. holiday
22	Girls Basketball vs Mesquite Poteet 6:00/7:30pm at Pearce
23	North 9 th Basketball vs PHJH 5:30pm Boys at North
24	North 7 th /8 th Basketball vs WJH 5:30 Girls/6:30pm Boys at North
25	Girls Basketball vs West Mesquite 6:00/7:30pm at Pearce
29	Boys Basketball vs Wylie 6:00/7:30pm at Pearce



J. J. PEARCE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION
Statement of Cash Receipts and Expenses
For the Period September 1, 2001 to November 30, 2001

3 Months Ended November 30, 2001

Cash Receipts	
Membership Dues	\$3,825.00
Dividends	102.63
Interest	0.77
Advertising - Newsletter	465.00
Total Receipts	<u>\$4,393.40</u>
Expenses	
Crime Watch	
Metrocall	63.27
Decals	158.99
Social Events	
December Decorations	57.33
Newsletter	
Printing, etc.	986.07
Delivery	225.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$1,490.66</u>
Net Income (Loss)	<u>\$2,902.74</u>

Respectfully Submitted,
Helen Simon
Treasurer
December 12, 2001

J J PEARCE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION
Statement of Changes in Fund Balances
For the Period September 1, 2001 - November 30, 2001

	Checking	Savings	Vanguard Fund	Totals
Beginning Balances - 9/1/01	\$447.99	\$124.41	\$14,200.02	\$14,772.42
Add receipts	4,290.00	0.77	102.63	4,393.40
Account Transfers				
Less Disbursements	<u>(1,490.66)</u>			<u>(1,490.66)</u>
Ending Balances - 11/30/01	<u>\$3,247.33</u>	<u>\$125.18</u>	<u>\$14,302.65</u>	<u>\$17,675.16</u>

Respectfully Submitted,
Helen Simon
Treasurer
Preparation Date: 12/10/01

Board of Directors for 2001 – 2002

President	Bernie Mayoff	972-669-9169	bernie@mayoff.com
VP Development	Greg Immel	972-234-2981	greg-immel@attbi.com
VP Safety	Lynn Sanders	972-231-6890	sanderstx@aol.com
VP Beautification	Bill Little	972-690-6315	blclkc@aol.com
VP Membership	Art Middlebrook	972-235-1731	bill-1@telesisexpress.com (business e mail)
Secretary	Suzanne Clark	972-690-4673	amid937@swbell.net
Treasurer	Helen Simon	972-234-2443	shc70@aol.com
		972-234-8009	helen@simon-says.net
			(business phone)
Newsletter	Dee Russum	972-235-1961	jrussum@aol.com
Webmaster	John Sadowski	972-238-9826	Jcsadowski@aol.com

Newsletter Advertising

Business ads must be paid for in advance. Checks should be made payable to J. J. Pearce Homeowners Association. Contact Dee Russum, 1102 Pueblo, phone 972-235-1961 or e-mail: jrussum@aol.com

Rates per newsletter, based on 8 1/2 X 11" page.

Business card (2 x 3 1/2")	\$10.00
1/4 page	\$20.00
1/2 page	\$40.00
Full page	\$75.00

Youth ads from Association members' children for services such as baby-sitting, lawn care; etc. will be printed free of charge. All ads will ultimately be placed at the discretion of the Board, and as space permits.

PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS

Enjoy An Evening In The French Countryside

Escape to your neighborhood

LA MADELEINE *French* **BAKERY and CAFÉ**

for dinner today.

Present this ad for a complimentary pastry of your choice with any purchase of \$10 or more after 5 p.m. Valid at Coit / Campbell bakery only.

You may call in and order your meal for pick-up as well.

(972) 671 - 4887

Offer valid for one pastry per guest.



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**J. J. Pearce Homeowners Association
1411 Huntington
Richardson, Texas 75080**

**Board Meetings: January 13, 1314 Huntington, 7:00pm
February 10
March 10**

ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME AT THE BOARD MEETINGS