

#### EL DORADO HOMES ASSOCIATION

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The Legendary land of wealth and happiness

December, 2011

# Sunburst

Published Monthly from September - June

#### In This Issue:

# Happy Holidays from your Bunburst staff!



EDHA
NEIGHBORHOOD
MEETING
Monday,
January 12th
7:00 PM
AT THE
CLUBHOUSE
Please join us!

<u>Deadline for</u> <u>January Sunburst:</u> December 15th

Sunburst Email Address: EDHASunburst@satx.rr.com

Contributions Welcome!!

Please patronize our advertisers, and tell 'em you saw it in the **Sunburst!** 

THE CLUBHOUSE IS AVAILABLE FOR PRIVATE PARTIES!!!

Only \$150.00 for EDHA members & \$250.00 for non-members

Call Roslyn Harding 385-9007

## p

## resident's Notes By Rich Taylor

I hope every family in El Dorado had an enjoyable Thanksgiving. Despite the many challenges our country has faced, we still live in the greatest country in the world and I have always appreciated the opportunity we have to gather with family and friends of this special day to acknowledge our blessings.

December will, as always, be a busy time in El Dorado. As we did last year, your association will join with the Valencia Homes Association to host a Breakfast with Santa program for the children in our areas at the El Dorado Clubhouse. Look for the special notice about the event in this issue.

Your association will also conduct a Christmas Lighting contest and recognize the three homes with the most attractive lighting displays. Prizes of \$75, \$50 and \$25 will be awarded for the three most attractive displays in the form of credits to be applied to their annual association dues for 2012. Judging will be conducted between 6 PM and 10 PM on Saturday, December 17 and Sunday, December 18. Be sure your decorations are up and all the lighting is on during those judging times. Also, be sure your house number is clearly displayed in an easy-to-read location.

Have you looked closely at your house and yard as they appear to neighbors or passers-by? Most of the yards are well kept, but some homes indicate a severe lack of attention and care by the occupant. Several yards have grass growing completely over the curb and out onto the pavement. I ask each resident to take a close at the curb appeal, or lack thereof, of your home and trim the grass and weeds cleanly along the curb. Your neighbors and passers-by will appreciate your efforts.

Your Association Board and Committee Heads wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours for a better El Dorado, Rich Taylor

#### **EDHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Know an El Dorado resident who has gone above and beyond? Nominate them for recognition in our regular column, "Hats Off To..."

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Contact the editor or any EDHA Board Member with your nominations!

\* \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

#### SUNBURST STAFF

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SUNBURST EDHASUNBURST EMAIL @SATX.RR.COM

THE SUNBURST IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY (SEP-JUN) BY THE EL DORADO HOMES ASSOCIATION TO PROVIDE COMMUNICATION TO ALL HOMES IN THE EL DORADO SUBDIVISION. THE STAFF ARE ALL VOLUNTEERS AND THE PAPER SUPPORTS ITSELF THROUGH ADVERTISING. MAILING ADDRESS: 12606 PRIMA VISTA, 78233.

### **SUNBURST ADVERTISING**

Classified Ads \$3.00 per month Business Cards \$15.00 per month 1/4 Page \$24.00 per month 1/2 Page \$48.00 per month Full Page \$96.00 per month

\*\*All adds must be copy ready, additional fee for ad setup.

### **CLASSIFIED ADS**

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MARY KAY INDEPENDENT BEAUTY CONSULTANT PAM SMITH, phone 656-5426, email pamelasmith@marykay.com, or shop online 24/7 at www.marykay.com/pamelasmith. El Dorado resident since 1973 and EDHA supporter.



Once again El Dorado and Valencia Homeowners Association's are working together to host our young people to a visit with Santa at the El Dorado Clubhouse.

Saturday, December 10th 10:00 to 12:00 noon

There will be refreshments and a chance to make an ornament. So, Mom and Dad, bring your camera and your little ones!

JOIN THE FUN!



#### <u>El Dorado</u> <u>Annual Christmas Lighting Contest</u>

Start right away to prepare your home for the Annual El Dorado Christmas Lighting Contest. A team of judges has already been selected and judging will be on December 19th, from 7pm to 9:30pm. Previous year winners have done fantastic jobs.

Do all you can do to be a winner this year! **Ist Place** 

\$75 toward 2011 Maintenance Fee
2nd Place
\$50 toward 2011 Maintenance Fee
3rd Place
\$25 toward 2011 Maintenance Fee

<u>Please be sure that your house number is</u> clearly visible from the street!



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If you would like a free listing in the Sunburst as a babysitter, call the Sunburst editor at 995-1070 or email your information to:

EDHASunburst@satx.rr.com.

### Recipe of the Month

#### **Zucchini Soup**

5 cups water

5 med. zucchini, yellow or calabaza squash 3 chicken boullion cubes

1 8oz. cream cheese (may substitute 1/3rd less fat cream cheese)

Bring cut up squash and buollion to boil for 20 min. or until tender. Cool shortly and add 1/3rd broth and 1/3rd cream cheese to blender and blend. Repeat until all blended. Add to one bowl and serve hot or cold. May be frozen.

Contributed by Tracy Jacobsen

## LOOK FOR EDHA ONLINE!



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Hours

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### **NEWS FROM DISTRICT 10**

## Holiday Travel Tips from San Antonio International Airport

#### Removal of shoes-

Children under 12 years old generally will not be asked to remove their shoes. TSA says they will still conduct random searches of children if there is something suspicious.

#### Wrapped gifts-

Do not wrap gifts and presents. Whether you are carrying them on or checking them, wrapped gifts will be opened for inspection.

#### Personal items and lost & found-

Be aware of your personal items. Over 100 items per month are turned over to Airport Police on a monthly basis, which increases during the holidays. Everything from laptops, iPods, cell phones and even a bicycle have been left behind. Although every effort is made to return the items to the rightful owner, if they are not properly labeled or picked up within 90 days the police department will dispose of them or auction them off.

#### Recommended Passenger Drop Off:

When dropping passengers off, simply drop them "curbside" on the upper/departures level of the roadway. In addition, you can utilize the hourly parking structure. Simply pull into the facility for easy access to bother Terminals. The first 15 minutes are free, for up to 30 minutes is just \$1.00.

#### Cell Phone Lot with FREE WiFi:

The Cell Phone Lot has recently been improved with the addition of FREE WiFi service, in addition to large plasma screen TVs that show arrival and departure information. Drivers can simply park in one of the spaces, wait for a phone call from the passenger they 're picking up and then make one easy pass in front of the terminals. The cell phone lot is located on airport Blvd. between I-410 and Northern Blvd.

#### Designated Family and Special Needs Security Lane:

In an effort to increase passenger convenience and security, TSA has added a Green or Family lane to the security checkpoint designed for individuals traveling with small children, people with special needs and people traveling with medically exempt liquids in quantities greater than 3 ounces.

#### Additional Holiday Travel Tips:

- -It is suggested to arrive at airport two hours prior to departure.
- -Check real-time flight information before you leave home at www.sanantonio-airport.com
- -Check the TSA website at www.tsa.gov for liquid restrictions or specific carry-on information.
- -Prior to arriving at the Airport, travelers should check with the airlines or their travel agent to confirm there has not been any last-minute changes in travel itineraries.
- -Be prepared to present photo identification to airline personnel upon check in.
- -Airline officials recommend placing ID tags on both the outside and inside of each piece of luggage. There are complimentary ID tags at the airline ticket counters.
- -Travelers should be prepared to have their bags searched.
- No vehicle parking or waiting at terminal curb side; only immediate drop off and pick up will be permitted.

### <u>District 10 Councilman</u> Carlton Soules

#### **City Hall Office**

P.O. Box 839966 San Antonio, TX 78283 210-207-7276

#### **Constituent Office**

3300 Nacogdoches Rd, Ste. 108 San Antonio, TX 78217 210-824-7355

Go to Carlton Soules' section of the City of San Antonio portal to sign up for helpful and informative email newsletters from your Councilman.

## Common City Code Violations

The City Code Enforcement Services has a web address: www.sanantonio.gov/ces. There is information about the San Antonio Property Maintenance Code on this website.

Some common code violations are:

Junked vehicles parked in front yards, on the street, or in any location that can be seen in ordinary public view. A fine may be imposed for this violation and the vehicle may be towed by the city.

Homes, apartments or commercial buildings are required to meet certain standards for occupancy. The interior and exterior of each property must be in good repair and maintained in a safe and sanitary condition, free of rodent infestation, sewer leaks, and the accumulation of garbage.

Bandit sign shall mean any sign posted on a utility pole, street sign, or street furniture, or a sign posted in violation of City code in the public right-of-way having six square feet or less of advertising area. Bandit signs are here by declared to be abandoned trash at the time of posting and may be removed and discarded without notice.

If grass/weeds grow more than 12 inches high or if trash, brush and debris are allowed to accumulate on property, the City may issue a notice to the property owner requesting the property be mowed or cleared. The City may contract for the property to be mowed or cleared at the owner's expense if the owner fails to do so.

These are just a few of the code violations listed in the City code. Check the website for more information or call 311.

## Property Owner Sidewalk Maintenance Responsibility

Many Citizens assume that the City has the obligation to maintain all community sidewalks to keep them free from hazard and obstruction! However, City Ordinances require sidewalks to be maintained by property owners as an extension of their front yards.

#### This includes:

- Minimum sidewalk clear-width of 36" free "from any defects or hazards" or obstructions such as mailboxes, basketball hoops, parked cars, trash cans, shrubbery or fences. (Code of Ordinances, City of San Antonio, Chapter 29, Article 1, Sec. 29-11)
- Minimum clear-height of 80", "keep all trees and shrubs on the premises well trimmed so they will not overhang the sidewalks or streets in such a manner as to interfere with free passage." (Code of Ordinances, City of San Antonio, Chapter 29, Article 1, Sec. 29-10)
- Maintain a smooth sidewalk rolling surface free "from any defects or hazards" such as large cracks, broken or uplifted sidewalk segments. (Code of Ordinances, City of San Antonio, Chapter 29, Article 1, Sec. 29-11)
- ◆ Citation and Fine of up to \$500.00 (Ordinance #96242)



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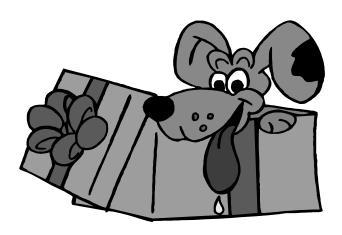
Oil Change Special This Month \$17.95

## Attention El Dorado Residents

Please make sure your home is properly marked with your address. EMS and police may not be able to find your home if there is an emergency. Also, our judges for different events may have a more difficult time nominating your home for contests in the neighborhood. Please display your house number on your home, mailbox, driveway or all three!

Your neighbors will have an easier time finding you also!

Tracy Jacobsen, Area II Rep



## Getting a dog? Consider these factors to make sure you're a match

(ARA) - There are plenty of cliche things that people say about dogs: that they're man's best friend, that they love you unconditionally and that behind those cold noses, there are warm hearts. But while dog owners might feel a bit silly about repeating those old chestnuts, they'll also admit they're absolutely true.

Before you get a dog, doing a bit of background research is important, but keep in mind that you also have a valuable resource right in your community the local animal shelter. Shelter dogs are often the ones that are "invisible" - out of the public eye and therefore, out of mind as well. Best Friends Animal Society has created the "Invisible Dogs" campaign to call attention to the hundreds of thousands of very real, but unseen dogs hoping to be adopted from U.S. animal shelters, any of which might be right for your home.

Whether your household has one person or 10, a dog can fit right in, but not every dog fits with every home. At shelters across the country, the pet experts on the staff can help match you with an adoptable dog, based on your lifestyle and the dog's personality and traits. Because you can meet shelter dogs before bringing them home, it's easier to make the perfect puppy love connection.

When you're ready to start looking for the right dog for you, consider these tips from Best Friends Animal Society and InvisibleDogs.org:

- \* Be honest about your lifestyle. Everyone has a different schedule, and dogs have schedules of their own. If you're away from home a lot, consider dogs that have lower energy levels and minimal exercise demands. However, if you love to go for a run in the morning and a long stroll every evening, you might be a good match for a dog that has a bit more of a get-up-and-go demeanor.
- \* How much maintenance? Some dogs have wash-and-wear coats that don't require grooming other than a nice bath every so often. Others will need to be combed and still others will need haircuts to keep their coat in check, or to be more comfortable in the summer heat. Opt for a dog with a coat that matches the level of dedication you're ready to put into grooming, keeping in mind that it's not too much of a hassle for any dog. Also remember that you'll need to care for his toenails and teeth to keep him feeling his best.
- \* Find a personality match. Some dog owners like their pups to be right on their lap as much as possible, while others prefer a companion who is a little more independent. While breed can have some effect on this, it also largely depends on the individual dog. Meeting a dog at a shelter will let you spend a little time together to see if you're a good combination.

Big or small, shaggy or sleek, the dog that's right for you is out there waiting. With a bit of forethought and a few one-on-one meetings with available dogs, you'll be well prepared to find the dog that will be the companion of a lifetime. And when you do, it won't be long before you're telling everyone that your dog really is your best friend. To learn more about helping adoptable dogs, go to www.invisibledogs.org.

## Holiday Pet Safety Tips from the ASPCA

Holly, Jolly and Oh-So-Safe! Of course you want to include your furry companions in the festivities, pet parents, but as you celebrate this holiday season, try to keep your pet's eating and exercise habits as close to their normal routine as possible. And be sure to steer them clear of the following unhealthy treats, toxic plants and dangerous decorations:

O Christmas Tree - Securely anchor your Christmas tree so it doesn't tip and fall, causing possible injury to your pet. This will also prevent the tree water—which may contain fertilizers that can cause stomach upset—from spilling. Stagnant tree water is a breeding ground for bacteria and your pet could end up with nausea or diarrhea should he imbibe.

**Tinsel-less Town** - Kitties love this sparkly, light-catching "toy" that's easy to bat around and carry in their mouths. But a nibble can lead to a swallow, which can lead to an obstructed digestive tract, severe vomiting, dehydration and possible surgery. It's best to brighten your boughs with something other than tinsel.

No Feasting for the Furries - By now you know not to feed your pets chocolate and anything sweetened with xylitol, but do you know the lengths to which an enterprising fur kid will go to chomp on something yummy? Make sure to keep your pets away from the table and unattended plates of food, and be sure to secure the lids on garbage cans.

Forget the Mistletoe & Holly - Holly, when ingested, can cause pets to suffer nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Mistletoe can cause gastrointestinal upset and cardiovascular problems. And many varieties of lilies, can cause kidney failure in cats if ingested. Opt for just-as-jolly artificial plants made from silk or plastic, or choose a pet-safe bouquet.

**That Holiday Glow** - Don't leave lighted candles unattended. Pets may burn themselves or cause a fire if they knock candles over. Be sure to use appropriate candle holders, placed on a stable surface. And if you leave the room, put the candle out!

**Wired Up** - Keep wires, batteries and glass or plastic ornaments out of paws' reach. A wire can deliver a potentially lethal electrical shock and a punctured battery can cause burns to the mouth and esophagus, while shards of breakable ornaments can damage your pet's mouth.

**Put the Meds Away** - Make sure all of your medications are locked behind secure doors, and be sure to tell your guests to keep their meds zipped up and packed away, too.

**New Year's Noise** - As you count down to the new year, please keep in mind that strings of thrown confetti can get lodged in a cat's intestines, if ingested, perhaps necessitating surgery. Noisy poppers can terrify pets and cause possible damage to sensitive ears.

### <u> El Dorado Animal Hospital</u>

13039 Nacogdoches Road . San Antonio, Texas 78217

Dr. Dennis McIntosh

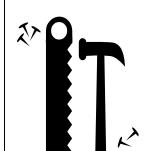
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## City of San Antonio Solid Waste Management

There will be no collection on Monday, December 26, 2011, recyclables will be collected on Tuesday, December 27. There will be no changes to service for the New Year Holiday.



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4618 Thousand Oaks Dr.
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Tue., Thurs.-Sun. 10a-6p

### December 3<sup>rd</sup> (Saturday)

10:00a – 3:00p FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE

Please join us in supporting your library and at the same time enlarging your home library.

#### December 5<sup>th</sup> (Monday) 6:30 -7:30p Monday Evening Book Club

Discussion of the book Lost in Shangri-La by Mitchell Zuckoff

#### December 7<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday) 2:00-3:30p The A-B-C's & 1-2-3's of Researching Your Family Tree

Interested in climbing your family tree but unsure how to get started?

Join us and learn the basics of how to begin researching your family history.

#### December 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> (Mondays) 5:30 Family Movie Call library for listing.

#### December 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> (Tuesday and Thursday) 2:00 Family Movie

Call library for listing.

#### Wednesdays (Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>) 5:00p Teen Time

Games, crafts, movies and snacks.... ages 13 and up.

#### Thursdays (Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>) Story time

**10:00a** Toddlers actively participate in stories, music and movement enhancing their social,

emotional and language development. Recommended for children 18 to 36 months.

11:00a Preschoolers enjoy stories and songs that develop early literacy skills and foster curiosity. Recommended for three to five year olds.

#### Saturdays (Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>) 3:00p BeTween Time

Bring your friends and hang out for some interactive fun at the library.

No desks. No teachers. Just fun! Exclusively for nine to twelve year olds.

Call library for details for any of the above mentioned programs and/or events.

### **Shipping-Box Tree Craft**



Got deliveries turning up on your doorstep? Repurpose those cardboard cartons into a truly green tannenbaum -- great for a bedroom or playroom.

#### Materials:

sturdy corrugated cardboard scissors (an adult's job) pencil glue

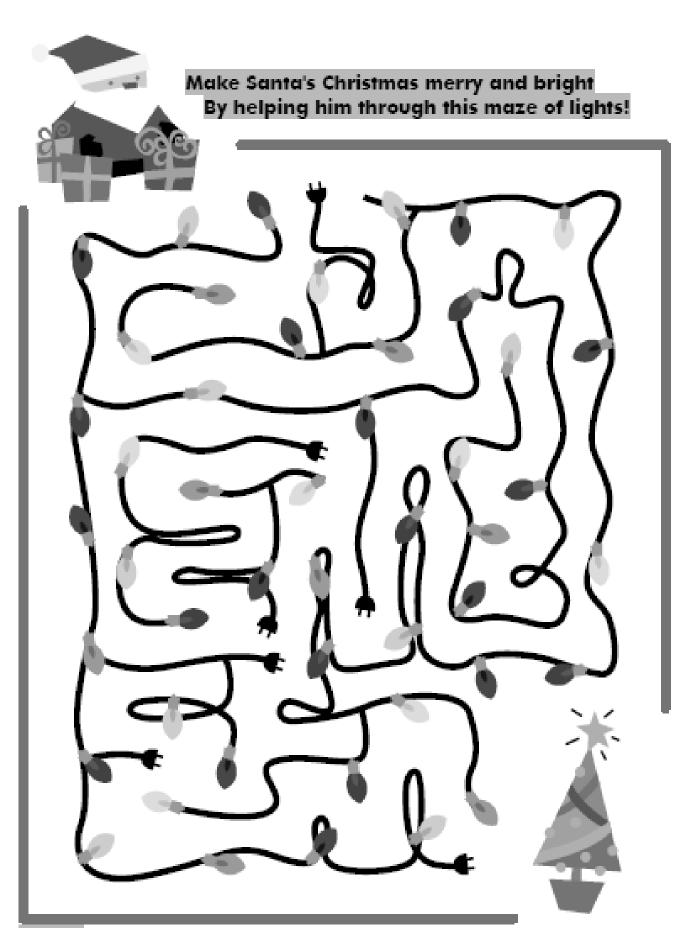
#### Instructions:

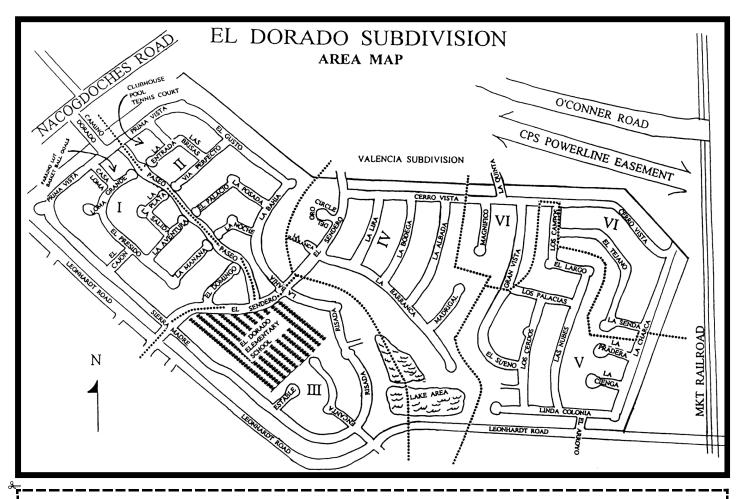
To make the tree, draw the basic shape (our is 19 inches tall and 18 inches wide at the bottom) on sturdy corrugated cardboard. Cut out the shape, then trace the cutout on another sheet of cardboard and cut out the second piece.

Cut slits as shown at right and slide the pieces together.

Draw and cut out a circle for a base (ours is 12 inches wide). Run glue along the bottom edges of the assembled tree and affix it to the base.

Easy decorations: Ornament hangers easily pierce corrugated cardboard, so your kids can trim the tree with baubles made from recycled cereal boxes and greeting cards (see here) or other handmade creations. To add a cute garland, simply string buttons onto flexible wire (we used 16-gauge aluminum wire) and twist it above each button to hold the button in place.





#### 2012 MAINTENANCE FEE INFORMATION

Fir	st Name:	
Te	elephone:	
		_
General Maintenance Fee	\$ 85.00	
	Other household member	Other household members at this address:  Full Maintenance/Pool Fee \$160.00 General Maintenance Fee \$85.00

\*For General, \$21.25 every 3 months (4 times a year) or \$45.00/\$40.00 split over 2 months \*Full Fees may be split \$80.00/\$80.00 or \$55.00/\$50.00, but must be paid in full prior to pool use.

#### Please Return to:

El Dorado Homes Association 12606 Prima Vista San Antonio, TX 78233