



# THE TALON

December 2011

Official Publication of the Eagle Springs Community Association

Volume 3, Issue 12

## Community Calendar DECEMBER 2011

- 3.....MD Anderson Blood Drive to Benefit Enya  
*pam – 1pm / Sports Complex*
- 9.....Scrapbook Club Meets  
*Noon – 10pm / Clubhouse*
- 10..... Winter Festival  
*2 – 5p.m. / Athletic Club & Town Green*
- 11..... “Music from the Heart” Fundraiser Event  
*2 – 5pm / Atascocita Springs Elementary*
- 13.....Book Club Meets  
*8 – 10p.m. / Clubhouse*
- 24..... Christmas Eve!
- 25.....Merry Christmas!
- 31.....New Year’s Eve!

**ESCA On-Site Management Hours**  
are listed on the Community Events Calendar  
at: [www.INSIDEeagleSprings.com](http://www.INSIDEeagleSprings.com)

**The On-Site Office will be CLOSED**  
**from December 22 – January 1, 2012.**  
**If you need assistance during this time,**  
**please call: 281-812-8194.**

**Happy Holidays!**

**TUESDAYS** ..... Trash & Recycle  
**FRIDAYS**..... Trash Only

## Winter Festival

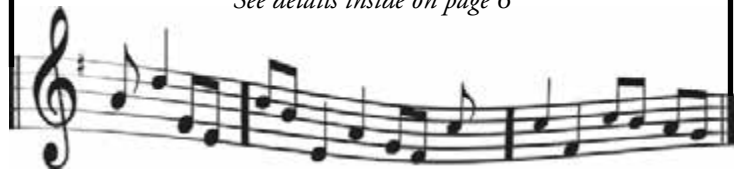
**Saturday - December 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**2PM to 5PM**  
**Athletic Club & Town Green**  
*See details inside on page 6*



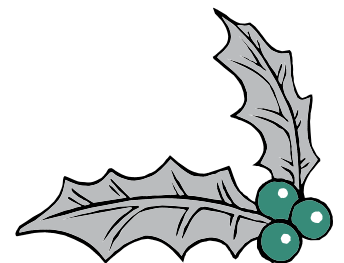
## MUSIC FROM THE HEART A SONG FOR ENYA

### Holiday Musical Children's Concert & Silent Auction Fundraiser

**December 11, 2011 | 2PM to 5PM**  
**Atascocita Springs Elementary School**  
*See details inside on page 6*



# Happy Holidays Eagle Springs!



## COMMUNITY CONTACT INFORMATION

### EAGLE SPRINGS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

**Crest Management Co** ..... 281-579-0761  
 Community Manager..... Bill@Crest-Management.com  
 Clubhouse Rental..... Terri.George@InsideEagleSprings.com  
 Board of Directors..... AsktheBoard@InsideEagleSprings.com  
 Activities ..... Activities@InsideEagleSprings.com  
 Website Administrator.... Terri.George@InsideEagleSprings.com  
 Newsletter ..... ESNewsletter@InsideEaglesprings.com

### EAGLE SPRINGS COMMITTEES

Landscape ... Landscape.Committee@InsideEagleSprings.com  
 Pool..... Pool.Committee@InsideEagleSprings.com  
 Safety Advisory..... SAC@SafetyAdvisoryCommittee.com  
*(Neighborhood Watch)*  
 Sports Fields..... SportsFieldCommittee@gmail.com

### EMERGENCY INFORMATION

**Fire, Medical or Life Threatening Emergency** ..... 9-1-1  
 P-4 Constable Dispatch..... 281-376-3472  
 Humble ISD Police (Schools)..... 281-641-7900  
 Atascocita Volunteer Fire Dept (AVFD)  
*Non-Emergency Number* ..... 281-852-2181  
 Harris County Animal Control ..... 281-999-3191  
 Texas Poison Control Center ..... 800-222-1222

### UTILITIES

Electric, (multiple providers) ..... www.powertochoose.org  
*Power Outages* ..... 713-207-7777  
*Street Light Outages* ..... 713-207-2222  
 Gas, Centerpoint Energy..... 713-659-2111  
*Gas Leaks* ..... 713-659-2111  
 Water, Severn Trent ..... 281-579-4500  
*24 Hour Emergency Number* ..... 281-209-2100  
 Telephone, Centurylink..... 877-290-5458  
 T.V./Internet *(multiple providers)* ..... www.allconnect.com  
 Trash, Best Trash ..... 281-313-2378  
 Recycling, Residential Recycling of Texas ..... 866-516-9805  
 Humble Post Office..... 281-540-1775

### SCHOOLS

Humble ISD ..... 281-641-1000  
*Website* ..... www.humble.k12.tx.us  
 Eagle Springs Elementary ..... 281-641-3100  
 Atascocita Springs Elementary..... 281-641-3600  
 Timberwood Middle School..... 281-641-3803  
 Atascocita High School ..... 281-641-7500

### NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

Peel, Inc. .... 888-687-6444  
 Advertising..... advertising@PEELinc.com

## EAGLE



## SPRINGS

### Crime Stats

### October 2011

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Burglary of a Habitation.....           | 0  |
| Burglary of a Motor Vehicle (BMV) ..... | 2  |
| Theft from a Habitation.....            | 2  |
| Theft of Motor Vehicle.....             | 0  |
| Theft Other .....                       | 0  |
| Robbery.....                            | 0  |
| Assault .....                           | 1  |
| Sexual Assault .....                    | 0  |
| Criminal Mischief .....                 | 3  |
| Disturbance Family.....                 | 3  |
| Disturbance Juvenile.....               | 3  |
| Disturbance Other.....                  | 17 |
| Alarms .....                            | 38 |
| Suspicious Vehicles .....               | 17 |
| Suspicious Persons .....                | 11 |
| Runaways .....                          | 1  |
| Telephone Harassment.....               | 0  |
| Other Calls.....                        | 76 |

A full version of Crime Stats for Eagle Springs can be viewed at: [www.INSIDEEAGLESprings.com](http://www.INSIDEEAGLESprings.com); click on the Groups Tab; then Safety Advisory Committee, they are located under the Files Menu.

## REMINDER! - NO PETS

Pets are not allowed at community events, on the baseball fields, or inside the tennis courts, with the exception of guide dogs or pets that are actual participants of an event. This is to ensure the safety and enjoyment of all residents in our community. As a courtesy to your neighbors and fellow residents, please remember to pick up after your pet!

***Your cooperation is appreciated!***



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*We realize you have a choice so we appreciate the opportunity to earn your business.  
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### *To Eagle Springs...*

It's hard to believe that it's already December, where did 2011 go? As everyone heads into the Christmas season, remember to take time out to offer assistance to someone in need. We would like to spotlight a great local ministry that gives back to others in their time of need.

#### **KSBJ Giving Tree**

The spirit of Giving Tree is to mobilize the community to help individuals and families with legitimate needs due to dire circumstances they are facing at this time.

First launched over 13 years ago, KSBJ's Giving Tree connects families with needs to individuals and families who would like to help meet those needs by providing gifts and/or services directly to the "nominated" family.

KSBJ listeners can become involved in two ways, either by serving as the Coordinator for a family in need or by assisting as a Giver to help meet the families need.

#### ***Last year, over 5000 lives were impacted through the KSBJ Giving Tree!***

For questions or more info please email [givingtree@ksbj.org](mailto:givingtree@ksbj.org) or visit their website [www.ksbj.org](http://www.ksbj.org)

In Harris County a homeowner can qualify for a homestead exemption. A homestead exemption helps you save on taxes on your home. An exemption removes part of the value of your property from taxation and lowers your taxes. For example, if your home is valued at \$100,000 and you qualify for a \$20,000 exemption, you pay taxes on your home as if it was worth only \$80,000. An Application for Residential Homestead Exemption (same form for over-65, disability, over-55 surviving spouse, or 100% disabled veteran homestead exemptions) can be found at the Forms Page under the Residential Exemption Section (11-13) at [www.hcad.org](http://www.hcad.org).

In order to qualify for a homestead exemption, a homeowner must complete the purchase and occupy the property by December 31, 2011. Be sure to visit our website, [www.majorleaguehomes.com](http://www.majorleaguehomes.com) and click on the lender tab to find out more about securing a home loan. This is the first step in home ownership. Get in touch with us so we can assist you with finding the home of your dreams! Remember, we offer a FREE LOCAL MOVE to our clients! Some restrictions apply ask for details.

We would like to take this time to wish you and your family a blessed Christmas and a happy new year! Thank you for your business! We look forward to assisting you, your friends, family and coworkers with all their real estate needs as we finish out 2011 and head into 2012. We look forward to seeing many of you out and about during this Christmas season!

***Blessings to you and your family!  
Rebekah and Mark Snipp***



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**Rebekah Snipp**  
Realtor, ABR, CDPE  
Direct: 832-814-6120  
[rsnipp@century21.com](mailto:rsnipp@century21.com)

**Mark Snipp**  
Broker, GRI  
Direct: 832-859-9113

Websites:  
[majorleaguehomes.com](http://majorleaguehomes.com)  
[prayingrealtors.com](http://prayingrealtors.com)



*Eagle Springs Resident*



## *Happy Holidays to All!*



## CONSTABLE'S CORNER

*Sgt. Bloomfield,  
Harris County  
P-4 Constable*

### Holiday Shopping Safety Tips

Shopping during the holiday season can present unique danger. Taking a few prevention measures can help keep your holiday season joyous. The holiday season is a time when busy people can become careless and vulnerable to theft and other holiday crime. The following tips can help you be more careful, prepared and aware during the holiday season.

- Shop during daylight hours whenever possible. If you must shop at night, go with a friend or family member.
- Dress casually and comfortably.
- Avoid wearing expensive jewelry.
- Do not carry a purse or wallet, if possible.
- Always carry your Driver License or Identification Card along with necessary cash, checks and/or a credit card you expect to use.
- Even though you are rushed and thinking about a thousand things, stay alert to your surroundings.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Pay for purchases with a check or credit card when possible.
- Keep cash in your front pocket.
- Notify the credit card issuer immediately if your credit card is lost, stolen or misused.
- Keep a record of all of your credit card numbers in a safe place at home.
- Be extra careful if you do carry a wallet or purse. They are the prime targets of criminals in crowded shopping areas, transportation terminals, bus stops, on buses and other rapid transit.
- Avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps.
- Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason. At this time of year, "con-artists" may try various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.

## Eagle Hatchlings

CHANCE ALEXANDER  
COTTEN

Born: October 22, 2011

Proud Parents:

Ryan & Krissy Cotten

Neighborhood: Arlington Park



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## Happy Holidays!

Thank you for your business and for allowing me to assist with your real estate needs. I wish you peace, joy and happiness this holiday season.

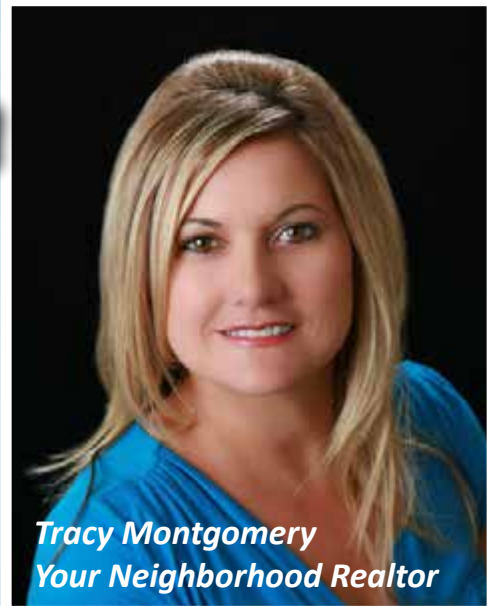
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## 2011 WINTER FESTIVAL

Saturday ~ December 10th

2pm ~ 5pm

Athletic Club & Town Green

*Take a break from all the holiday hustle  
& bustle & visit Santa & his friends!*

**CARRIAGE RIDES**

**CRAFTS & GAMES**

**PETTING ZOO**

**GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST**



## A Song For Enya...

Enya is a 2nd grader at Atascocita Springs Elementary School who has recently been diagnosed with Stage IV Liver Cancer with Lung Metastasis.

Enya loves music! This holiday musical event is a fundraiser to help cover Enya's medical expenses and all proceeds go directly towards those expenses. Please join us and bring your family and friends.

*Snacks and drinks will be served.  
A Raffle Drawing and Silent Auction  
will be held during intermission.*

*For questions please contact Marilou  
Aikens at: [Hope4Enya@comcast.net](mailto:Hope4Enya@comcast.net)*



### **SANDRA GALVAN CANNON, CPA, REALTOR**

Keller Williams Realty, Northeast

20665 W. Lake Houston Pkwy

Kingwood, TX 77346

713-703-5807

[sandra@sandragcannonrealty.com](mailto:sandra@sandragcannonrealty.com)

***EXCELLENCE IS MY SPECIALTY!***

Happy Holidays to all my fellow  
Eagle Spring residents!

Muchas felicidades en estos días  
festivos a todos mis vecinos de  
Eagle Springs!

The Holidays are here, and along with them comes time for family, friends, and lots of great food! If that's not enough to get you excited and in the holiday spirit, try listening to some of the most popular holiday songs of the season. Following are ten of the most played holiday songs:

**\*\*Follow me on Facebook:**

**[www.facebook.com/sandra.g.cannon](http://www.facebook.com/sandra.g.cannon)**

**\*\*If you are ready to sell, buy, or lease or you know someone looking to move into our area, please contact me. I'd love to hear from you!**

1. "The Christmas Song" (Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire)  
– Mel Tormé, Robert Wells
2. "Have yourself a Merry Little Christmas"-Ralph Blane, Hugh Martin
3. "Winter Wonderland"-Felix Bernard, Richard B. Smith
4. "Santa Claus is coming to Town" – J. Fred Coots, Haven Gillespie
5. "White Christmas"- Irving Berlin
6. "Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!" - Sammy Cahn, Jule Styne
7. "Jingle Bell Rock" – Joseph Carleton Beal, James Ross Boothe
8. "The Little Drummer Boy" - Katherine K. Davis, Henry V. Onorati, Harry Simeone
9. "Sleigh Ride"- Leroy Anderson, Mitchell Parish
10. "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" – Johnny Marks

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## Get Back to Living With our comprehensive musculoskeletal program

When your muscles, bones, tendons, blood vessels, nerves and joints hurt, it affects quality of life. If you're dealing with a complex condition such as arthritis, tendonitis or osteoporosis, or trying to bounce back after a debilitating injury or joint replacement surgery, the Memorial Hermann Northeast Hospital musculoskeletal program offers comprehensive care to get you back to living on your terms.

The program features a comprehensive clinic in Humble, staffed by Memorial Hermann-affiliated, fellowship trained orthopedic and neurological surgeons. Using the newest technology, they help patients regain strength, mobility, flexibility and functional independence. Also on hand is a team of rehabilitation specialists who can guide patients to a safe and timely return to daily activities.

Joshua Woody, M.D., a physician affiliated with the program, is fellowship trained in shoulder and elbow surgery. He has extensive experience in joint replacement and complex reconstruction of both upper and lower extremities. He says, "Losing normal joint and muscle function, whether through a medical condition, trauma or prolonged repetitive motions, can be very frustrating. Our goal is to help patients return to work and the activities they enjoy, whether it's athletics or a stroll around the block."

Other physicians affiliated with the Memorial Hermann Northeast musculoskeletal program include Theodore Shybut, M.D., Shaun Weaver, M.D., and Albert Fenoy, M.D. The musculoskeletal team treats patients of all ages and is the preferred provider for Humble ISD student athletes. Non-athletes are also welcome and worker's compensation is accepted.

**To learn more about the Memorial Hermann Northeast musculoskeletal program, please call 281.319.5900 or visit [memorialhermann.org/northeast](http://memorialhermann.org/northeast).**

Memorial Hermann Northeast Musculoskeletal Program  
18955 Memorial North  
Suite 420  
Humble, TX 77338  
281.319.5900  
[memorialhermann.org/northeast](http://memorialhermann.org/northeast)

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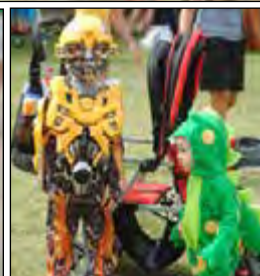
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## Fall Festival & Craft Fair

The 2011 Annual Fall Festival and Craft Fair featured activities for all ages to enjoy. The Craft Fair had 17 vendors participate and while moms were shopping, Farmer Brown was entertaining the young and old with old fashion games and a magic show. The costume contest was a huge hit, costumes ranged from local football players, a bumblebee, and even a family dressed out of Alice in Wonderland. Family activities included a large trackless train ride and an old fashion hayride, game of guess how many candy corn and several others. Bo Bumpkin was a huge hit and entertained the children with his amazing balloon art. Please enjoy the photos.



## MAMA HELPS BUS SERVICE



*Now serving the Eagle Springs sub-division*

- Atascocita Springs Elementary
- Timberforest Middle School

We are a local family owned business offering morning and afternoon school bus service for children that attend Atascocita Springs Elementary and Timberforest Middle School.

**Enroll NOW! A few seats are left!!!**

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- Kids are picked up from their school and dropped off in front of your house.

### MAMA HELPS BUS SERVICE

To enroll and for more information:

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Or e-mail us at [mamahelpsbusservice@yahoo.com](mailto:mamahelpsbusservice@yahoo.com)

Website coming soon!

#### Our bus drivers go through a:

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- Driver License Check
- Credit check
- Are CPR Certified Trained
- All drivers live in Humble

#### Insurance Coverage

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**YOUR KIDS SAFETY IS OUR  
NUMBER ONE PRIORITY**

Not Available Online



## Eagle Springs 1st Annual Kid's Triathlon

*Thank you to everyone that participated in the 1st Annual Kid's Triathlon!*

We had a great turn out for our first event with over 70 kids competing. The kids ranged in age from 5-13 years, and had to compete in swimming, biking, and running. We had some incredible athletes compete. We hope to make this an even bigger event next year, so mark your calendars for September!

We would like to thank the sponsors that helped to make this event possible: ABHR,

Christopher's Italian Restaurant, Chik-Fil-A, David Weekley Homes, Eagle Springs Flyers, HEB, Newland Communities, Panera Bread, Rebekah Snipp of Century 21, Sweetwater Pools, and TMAC Sound. We would also like to thank the many volunteers who helped to make this event possible.

*Thank you for all of your support!  
We hope to see everyone back next year!*



## Lakeside United Methodist Church Groundbreaking Ceremony

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>  
11:30 AM**

Ceremony will be held at the new church building site in Summerwood, corner of West Lake Houston Pkwy & Broncroft.

*We look forward to seeing you there!*

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## Eagle Springs Annual BBQ COOK-OFF!

### IT'S ALL ABOUT THE BRAGGIN' RIGHTS!

Both the young and young at heart had a great time at this annual western themed event! Mechanical Bull Rides, Live Band, Fine Texas BBQ... What more could you ask for on a fine fall afternoon? Harris County Rodeo Queens were on hand to do the judging this year. They had a tough job, but came up with the following winners:

### 1ST PLACE CHICKEN - THE BACK UP KICKERS

### 1ST PLACE RIBS - CERTIFIED TASTY

### 1ST PLACE BRISKET - CERTIFIED TASTY

### 1ST PLACE DESSERT - HOOK & ROLL BBQ

### 1ST PLACE OTHER - CERTIFIED TASTY

*More photos available for viewing on Page 15 or at:  
[www.INSIDEEAGLESprings.com](http://www.INSIDEEAGLESprings.com) under the photo gallery.*

*You must be logged in as a registered to view.*



Hook & Roll BBQ



The Back Up Kickers



Certified Tasty

## Eagle Springs Landscape Committee's 1st Annual Tree Planting Event

by Sue Lavey

The Landscape Committee teamed up with Eagle Springs' landscaping company, Ridgewood Landscaping, to offer its 1st Annual Tree Planting Event. Sign up was well supported and we are pleased to report that the event was a great success. Eagle Springs' residents purchased 54 trees and the Landscape Committee helped to sponsor this event by giving a free planting for most of the trees purchased.

Larry Tallerine, of Ridgewood Landscaping, was on hand at the Annual Eagle Springs Neighborhood Night Out Event to help residents with their selection. Several specimens were available for residents to view and choose from. Ridgewood coordinated the planting dates and along



with Larry's team, planted the trees to the correct specifications during the last week of October. Early feedback from residents has been very positive; the trees were very healthy and robust. The Ridgewood crew did a great job making it as trouble free and effortless for residents as possible.

We wish to thank Ridgewood Landscaping and Larry Tallerine for partnering with the Eagle Springs Landscape Committee to make our 1st Tree Planting Event a reality! In light of the difficult summer we all experienced, it was the perfect timing for such an event.

*We hope to offer this to our residents again at next year's Neighborhood Night Out Event.*

## Do you know what to look for in an Emergency Room?

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## HOLIDAY RECYCLING

by Shannon Lankford-Hemenway

Looking for ways to do a better job of recycling and save a little money during the holidays? Here are a few tips for turning this year's Holiday into a Recycled Holiday!

### TREE RECYCLING

Last year, almost 93 percent of Christmas trees in the U.S. were recycled. Recycled trees put natural resources back into the environment and reduce waste. Try checking with your local municipality for a tree-recycling center near you, or visit [www.Earth911.com](http://www.Earth911.com) to search through their database of more than 4,000 centers.

### WRAPPING PAPER

Want an easy way to be recycle-conscious? Start by using recycled paper for your holiday gifts. If you have received gift-wrapping paper, consider smoothing it out and re-using

it. You can also reuse gift-wrapping paper for cutting gift tags, homemade cards, or craft projects for children.

### RE-GIFTING

I know what you're thinking; nobody wants to admit to doing it, but at one time or another we have all received a gift that we just won't use. You don't need to secretly re-gift, or save it for the next garage sale. There are plenty of charities that would welcome donated gifts, and as for that fruitcake you have sitting on your counter. There are hungry mouths that would love to take it off of your hands.

### & FINALLY, KEEP IT MINIMAL

Remember that it is the "Spirit of the Season" that really means the most. Have a wonderful (recycled) holiday!

## Safety Advisory Committee UPDATES

### COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

We would like to welcome our newly elected Voting Members: Lonnie Kimball and Jock Hartstein. We still have the Secretary position open. If interested, please contact the committee.

### HOLIDAY SAFETY...

With all the fun and festivities of the holidays, please don't forget to lock your vehicles and homes and keep garage doors closed. Don't become a Holiday Victim! Pay attention when parking in public parking lots at the malls and shopping centers. Have your keys in hand BEFORE leaving the store or mall. Don't leave items in your vehicle where they can be seen through the windows. Pay attention to your surroundings; don't be an easy target for thieves.

### PACKAGE THEFTS!

There have been some thefts recently of packages that were left by the front door or on front porches. Please ask to have your package signed for and/or dropped off at a trusted neighbor's house if you are not going to be home. Check delivery status and know when your package is due to arrive and check to see the delivery status.

### NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Have you noticed the new Neighborhood Watch tab on the homepage of [www.INSIDEEAGLESprings.com](http://www.INSIDEEAGLESprings.com)? Check it out! Those who requested more info about Neighborhood Watch on our survey, our committee is putting together the information and will be getting back with you soon! **Your Safety Advisory Committee Wishes You a Safe & Happy Holiday Season!** SAC meets in the Clubhouse from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. on the 4th Thursday of the month. Our Constable Patrol Supervisor is in attendance to go over current crime trends and answer any resident's questions or concerns. Note: SAC does NOT meet in November & December due to the holidays, however please feel free to email any questions or concerns to us at: [SAC@SafetyAdvisoryCommittee.com](mailto:SAC@SafetyAdvisoryCommittee.com)

## What Can You Do About Solicitors? MANY COMMUNITIES ARE TARGETS FOR SOLICITORS – FOR MANY REASONS.

While the Association has made it a "deed restriction" it has no real control over the soliciting activities of others. In an effort to discourage solicitors from marketing in our community "no soliciting" signs have been placed at the entrances into Eagle Springs.

The reason that the Association cannot prevent soliciting is that the streets and roadways within the community are public access ways that are owned and maintained by Harris County. This means that no person or persons may be prevented from entering the community. Of course, if an individual or individuals are in the process of breaking the law, the Constables can take immediate action.

*The Safety Advisory Committee recommends the following actions to discourage unwelcome soliciting in the community:*

*(Continued on Page 13)*

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## What can you do about solicitors?

...(Continued from Pg. 12)

- Report all solicitors as "suspicious persons" to our Constables at: 281-376-3472.
- Promptly remove all flyers left on your front or garage door and newspapers from your yard or front porch.
- Promptly report all flyers left on the mailboxes to the U.S. Postal Service.
- Refuse to make use of solicitors' offers and refuse to patronize any company being marketed in this manner.
- Notify the management company of any companies presently soliciting so that letters can be sent advising them of Eagle Springs policy of not permitting door to door soliciting (they will be encouraged to use the community newsletter and/or website marketing options).

Individual homeowners have the ability to place a small "No Trespassing/No Soliciting" sign at the entry to their homes. Should a solicitor continue to leave flyers, the homeowner then has the authority to file charges against the company for trespassing on private property.

## An Editorial from a Dog's Point of View...

My master and I recently returned from a wonderfully brisk walk through our beautiful neighborhood of Eagle Springs. As usual, I was on a leash, because my master is a stickler for following the rules and deed restrictions of our community, and besides, if I weren't, I would probably find myself in some sort of trouble... I do tend to get sidetracked on occasion and if my master isn't paying close attention, sometimes, she gets really far behind or even worse, lost. Sometimes I think my master needs to be chipped, instead of me being the one with a chip in my shoulder... humans!

I'm really happy that most of the neighbors around here follow the rules, but once in a while, we run across one that is totally inconsiderate and ignores the rules altogether! I find this utterly ghastly, as I'm sure you would agree. Why just the other day while my master and I were out, we came across one of those inconsiderate ones... A dog without a leash, and a master who simply did not care! I was quite thankful that the dog turned out to be relatively well behaved and decided not to come and greet me.

Now, I understand that some of us do quite well without a leash, but still... there was that time when my master thought it would be OK, (we were only going to the mailbox after all), but I simply could not resist myself and, well, that squirrel should have known better than to taunt me that way! I just had to go after it... Luckily, the car was able to stop in time and didn't hit the squirrel or me.

Then there was that time that an acquaintance of mine, lovely chap... he lives just up the street, went temporarily insane and actually ran straight into a group of children playing... scared the dickens out of them... he even knocked a couple of them down. He's still trying to live that one down...

(Continued on Page 14)

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Happy Holiday  
Season!*



## Holiday Safety Tips for Your Pets

Of course we all want to include our furry friends in the festivities, but as we celebrate this holiday season, we need to steer them away from the following:

### O' CHRISTMAS TREE

Securely anchor your Christmas tree so it doesn't tip and fall, causing possible injury to your pet. Do not allow your pet to drink from the "tree water," which could contain fertilizers or other bacteria that can cause nausea or worse.

### GO TINSEL-LESS

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, sometimes requiring surgery. It's a better idea to decorate your boughs with something other than tinsel.

### NO FEASTING

You probably know not to feed your pets chocolate or anything sweetened with xylitol, but do you know the lengths to which an enterprising furry friend will go to get to something yummy (aka human food)? Make sure to keep your pets away from the table or any unattended plates of goodies, and remember to secure the lids on garbage cans.

### TOY JOY

Looking for something to stuff your pet's stocking? Choose gifts that are safe.

- Dogs have been known to tear their toys apart and swallow the pieces, which may become lodged in the esophagus, stomach or intestines. Stick with chew toys that are basically indestructible. "Kongs" that can be stuffed with healthy treats are designed to be safe and digestible.
- Long, stringy things are a kitty's dream, but the riskiest toys for cats involve ribbon, yarn and loose little parts that can get stuck in the intestines, often necessitating surgery. Surprise kitty with a new ball that's too big to swallow, a stuffed catnip toy.

### FORGET 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.

### LEAVE THE LEFTOVERS

Fatty, spicy and "no-no" human foods, as well as bones, should not be fed to your furry friends. Pets can join the festivities in other fun ways that won't lead to costly medical bills.

### THAT HOLIDAY GLOW

Don't leave lit 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!

### ALL WIRED UP

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

### CAREFUL WITH COCKTAILS

If your celebration includes adult alcoholic beverages, be sure to place drinks where pets cannot get to them. If ingested, your pet could become weak, ill and may even go into a coma, possibly resulting in death from respiratory failure.

### TIME OUT

Give your furry friend his own space – a quiet place to retreat to for a "time out" complete with fresh water and a place to snuggle. Shy pups and kitties may want to hide out under a piece of furniture, in their cage or kennel, or in a separate room away from strangers and all the commotion.

### NEWYEAR'S NOISE

As you count down to the New Year, please keep in mind those noisy poppers can terrify pets and cause possible damage to sensitive ears. Many pets are afraid of the noise from fireworks and firecrackers. If left alone, they may become scared and/or cause damage around your home. Please make sure they have a safe and secure place if your plans include going out for the evening.

*Information provided by the ASPCA.  
For more information about pet safety,  
please visit: [www.asPCA.org](http://www.asPCA.org)*



### An Editorial...(Continued from Pg. 13)

Another thing that really gets my dander up, are the masters that don't bother to "pick up" after us, if you get my drift. It's a rule and deed restriction in Eagle Springs that masters must do this, but... some masters seem to think that the word "common area" means they don't have to be responsible and "pick up," or be considerate of their neighbors. Why there are some masters that are SO inconsiderate that they just don't bother at all... I am SO thankful that my master always picks up after me. Did I mention how angry my master gets when she steps in poop?

But, by far the worst is all the things the rest of us pups can pick up from ALL THAT POOP! YIKES! I have nightmares just thinking about the Tapeworms, Roundworms, Salmonellosis, Giardia, E.Coli, Parvovirus, etc. Oh, and did I mention the flies? However unfortunate, sniffing each other's poop is just something we of the canine persuasion cannot resist, so it would be most considerate (and better for our health and the health of our neighbors) if our masters would do the responsible thing and pick up after us.

My friends and I are very social and as such, we can sometimes be rather... shall we say... Vocal? I, myself, am the quiet type, but some of my friends just can't resist, they simply need to hear themselves barking... constantly... (not unlike some humans I know) but it can be quite annoying. I do wish they all had good masters that would let them know when enough is enough! We surely do not want to upset or disturb our neighbors... why, some of them might have sleeping babies or be trying to work or study or do something else that is quite important.

Recently I overheard my master muttering about how much it costs our entire community just because of all the time it takes to answer the complaints about us dogs and to clean up after those masters who don't bother. I was aghast! That means less money for biscuits and chews! Something MUST be done!

*Well, friends...  
I'm off for my afternoon nap.  
Until next time...*



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