



Join Firehouse Animal Health Center in Round Rock for Santa Pet Pics -- a free and open to the public event!

Dogs, cats, and kids are invited to sit in Santa's lap while our professional photographer snaps pics. All photos will be available for free within 7 days of the event. This is the perfect way to grab a great photo for your 2018 holiday card. Beverages and snacks will be served.

Saturday, December 1st | 4-6pm
541 Louis Henna Blvd
Round Rock, TX 78664
512.310.7387

NEWSLETTER INFO

NEWSLETTER

Editorforestcreek@peelinc.com

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Ten Steps for Winterizing Your Home

By Julie Waidelich

With winter fast approaching, it's time to prepare your home for the freezing temperatures. Winterizing your home will go a long way in protecting what is most likely your most valuable asset.

- **Have Furnace Inspected** - An HVAC contractor can check to ensure your furnace is working safely. The filter should be inspected monthly and replaced when it becomes dirty. Pleated filters are recommended.
- **Insulate Pipes** - For exposed pipes or ones in an unheated area, water inside can freeze and cause them to burst. Buy pipe insulation at the hardware store, cut to fit, wrap it around and secure with duct tape.
- **Have Fireplace Cleaned** - Soot in a wood-burning fireplace can ignite. An annual inspection and cleaning by a certified chimney sweep is recommended. If you rarely use your fireplace or have a gas fireplace, an inspection every three years will suffice.
- **Keep Locks from Freezing** - Powdered graphite lubricant can be sprayed into your door locks to prevent them from freezing. Buy spray at the hardware store. Do this once every season.
- **Seal Drafts** - Using a lit candle go along baseboards and windowsills. If it flickers you have a draft. On baseboards, seal the gaps with caulking. For windows and doors, weather stripping can be used.
- **Clear Gutters** - Gutters become clogged with leaves and debris that can easily freeze, damaging your roof. With gloves and a tall ladder you can complete the job in a couple of hours.
- **Drain Sprinklers** - An irrigation contractor can drain water in your sprinkler system and blow out remaining water with compressed air. This prevents the pipes from expanding and cracking.
- **Remove Overgrown Branches** - Branches growing over power lines, house, garage or driveway could break off in a storm, resulting in major damage.
- **Add Mulch** - A blanket of hardwood mulch added to flowerbeds will help regulate soil temperature. This acts as a form of insulation, protecting the roots so your plants will survive extreme temperatures.
- **Trim Perennials** - Cut plants back to three inches above ground. This will save your perennials from insects that could gather there and harm your home when they resurface in spring.

Julie Waidelich is a local real estate broker and owner of Nest Properties Austin.



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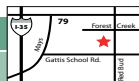
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Traditional Homemade Stuffing



This simple homemade stuffing is perfect for weeknight dinners or the holidays!

Author: Liz Fourez, lovegrowswild.com

Ingredients

- 1 pound firm white bread, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 2 cups onion, finely diced
- 2 cups celery, finely diced
- 2½ cups low-sodium chicken broth, divided
- ¼ cup fresh parsley, chopped
- 2 teaspoons poultry seasoning
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon black pepper
- 2 large eggs

Instructions

Preheat oven to 250°F. Place the bread cubes in a single layer on baking sheets and bake for 1 hour, stirring occasionally. Set aside and allow the bread to cool.

Melt the butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the onion and celery and cook for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally, until the vegetables are tender and almost golden. Scrape the vegetables and butter into an extra large bowl and add the cooled bread cubes, parsley, poultry seasoning, salt, pepper and 1¼ cup of the chicken broth. In a small bowl, whisk the 2 eggs and the remaining 1¼ cup chicken broth until combined and pour into the bowl of stuffing. Gently mix the stuffing until all the ingredients are completely combined and place in a buttered 13x9-inch baking dish. Cover the dish with foil and bake for 30 minutes. Then remove the foil and bake for another 25-35 minutes until the center is set and the top is golden brown and crisp.

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