

Kirby Creek Village

Kirby Creek Village Homeowners Association Quarterly Newsletter

DEC/JAN/FEB 2012



NOTES & NEWS

2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LARRY BAUMANN President
REGINA GILLIAM Vice President
PHILIPPA MCDONALD Sec./Treas.

ANNUAL ASSESSMENTS

The Board of Directors set the Annual Assessments for 2012 at \$240. This amount has remained the same for six consecutive years. Annual Assessments are payable on January 1st each year.

DISCOUNT FOR EARLY PAYMENT

The Board of Directors agreed to continue the policy of a TWENTY DOLLAR (\$20) discount to all owners who have paid their 2012 assessments by Dec. 31, 2011.

In order to take advantage of this discount, your dues for 2012 must be paid, plus any delinquent amounts, by the Dec. 31 due date. The \$20 discount can be deducted from your payment.

Find Us on the Web

www.KirbyCreekVillageHOA.com

HIGHLIGHTS

***** SAVE THE DATE *****

KCVA ANNUAL MEETING
SATURDAY, FEB. 25, 2012
10 A.M.
KCVA CLUBHOUSE

NEW LAWS GOVERNING HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATIONS

During 2011, new laws were passed in Texas that will have a direct effect on how we run our Association.

Some of the new requirements we must now meet are being evaluated and must be implemented by year end.

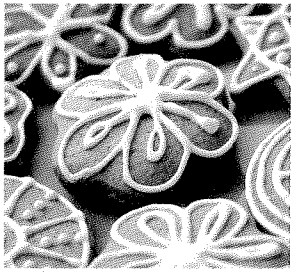
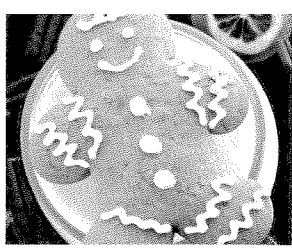
These new laws deal with, among other things, payment and collection of assessments, liens, foreclosures, regulation of solar energy devices, religious and flag displays, resale certificates, HOA legal documents, HOA records, meetings and elections.

There will no doubt be some cost this year to implement these new requirements, and we are trying to determine what the effect of these new laws will be on the on-going future annual cost to insure we are complying with the new laws.

At the Annual Meeting in February we will summarize these changes. By then we should be able to estimate what effect these changes will have on your future annual assessments.

ANNUAL MEETING RAFFLE

ONE lucky homeowner who attends the Annual Meeting and has paid their 2012 Annual Assessments (and any other outstanding balances) by December 31, 2011, will win **FULL REFUND OF THEIR 2012 DUES!**
Must Be Present to Win.



BULLETIN BOARD

~ CONTACT US ~

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TRIVIA WHIZ

New Year's Eve Traditions

Many people have their own personal traditions of what to do each Dec. 31 at midnight. However, Americans have a few shared customs, some of which date back hundreds of years.

"Auld Lang Syne." Some call it "the most famous song no one knows the words to," but most people can belt out a line or two. The tradition of singing this song started with Guy Lombardo when he and his band performed it on New Year's Eve in 1929 in New York City.

Ball drop. The ball drop in New York City, which started in 1907, draws throngs of viewers to Times Square. Millions more around the world watch the event live on TV. In recent years, the ball has become more eco-friendly—it's now illuminated by energy-efficient LED lights.

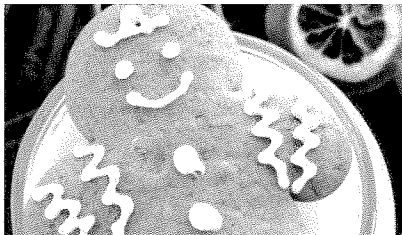
Resolutions. Making New Year's resolutions is a practice reaching back to ancient Babylon. For centuries, people have seen the new year as a good time for a new beginning or goal.

Fireworks. Also rooted in ancient practices, public fireworks displays are often enthusiastically set off at midnight. The Chinese invented fireworks specifically to be used for the new year, and the theory goes back to ancient times when noise and fire were thought to banish spirits and elicit good luck.

Foods. Some people consider collard greens and black-eyed peas lucky New Year's Eve choices, because they resemble paper money and coins. Noodles and grains symbolize long life and abundance. Ring-shaped cakes are reminders of life coming full circle.

Kiss the Old Year Goodbye

On New Year's Eve, it's customary for couples to pucker up and for singles to find someone to kiss. Some people believe that a New Year's kiss will stave off loneliness the rest of the year. Others believe that a loving embrace sets the tone for a joyous new year.



The Foundation of Gingerbread Houses

Before you decorate a gingerbread house with windows made of icing and a roof adorned with gumdrops, consider how this tasty treat made its way to America.

Tummy tamer. In ancient times, Malaysians used gingerroot to calm upset stomachs and prevent colds. It was also one of the main spices used in curry recipes and other vegetarian dishes.

Bread booster. Around 1300, Europeans added ginger to stale bread crumbs to help cement them

together and enhance the flavor. During this time, gingerroot was commonly known as gingebras, a term meaning "preserved ginger." The treat slowly evolved into a sweet cookie, and "gingebras" morphed into "gingerbread."

Delicious decorations. Early German settlers brought the novelty of making gingerbread houses to America, and the tasty treat became a fun and messy tradition. Usual decorations include gumdrops, rainbow sprinkles, icing and lots of sugary candies.

'Tis the season to get your fingers sticky with icing and decorate your own gingerbread house. Today, gingerbread can be found in all sorts of treats, from soft and savory cakes to thin, crisp cookies. Head to your local grocery store to get your favorite ingredients for making a gingerbread house come to life.

Living Healthy

Less Is More on Your Plate

After indulging in holiday treats, New Year's resolutions of healthy eating habits and exercise come to mind. But instead of making drastic changes and eliminating sweets from your diet altogether, the Department of Agriculture suggests altering your intake of certain foods. MyPlate, which replaced the USDA's food pyramid, offers easy-to-follow dietary guidelines and tips on how to eat healthy. Here are some pointers to keep in mind:

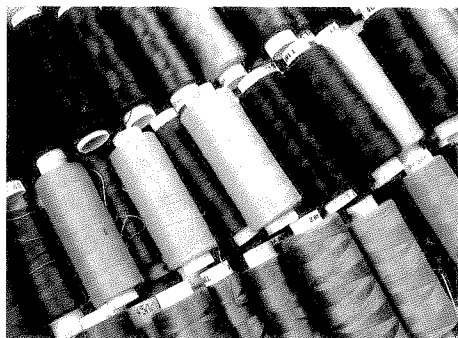
Scale back on salty and sweet treats, but don't cut them out altogether. For example, replace calorie-rich ice cream with fat-free frozen yogurt, and mix in fruit instead of sprinkles or cookie dough.

According to the Mayo Clinic, the majority of Americans do not have enough nutrient-rich foods in their diets. Add more fruits, veggies, whole grains and low-fat dairy products to balance out your meals.

Feeling stuffed and uncomfortable after eating? Limit portion sizes to better control your food intake. Restaurants often double the recommended serving size in their entrees, so split a meal with a friend or bring home leftovers. If you're eating at home, find a smaller dinner plate that will help you manage the amount of food you consume during a meal.

Try drinking a glass of water before you sit down to eat. Thirst is often mistaken for hunger, so reach for a cup of water before you graze in the pantry. Eight ounces will also help fill you up so you will eat less.

Enjoy food and indulge yourself once in a while. Just remember that moderation is the key!



Old Needle Crafts Gain New Popularity

These days, it seems that everything is electronic, so the idea of picking up a needle (or two) and creating an item by hand may seem quaint. But needlework continues to attract fans. Stitching your own gifts is a perfect way to craft personalized presents while saving money. You can choose from many types of needlework to enjoy:

Embroidery is the practice of decorating fabric by making designs with a needle and thread. Embroidered fabrics sometimes are embellished with beads, pearls, metal and sequins.

Crochet is the process of using a hooked needle to create garments from yarn. New trends, such as using gigantic needles or recycled yarn, add a fun edge, making crochet more fashionable and appealing to younger generations.

Knitting is similar to crochet in several ways, but it involves two needles and different stitches, such as the purl and the stockinette. Beginning knitters often hone their skills on scarves and caps—perfect winter gifts!

Quilting involves sewing several layers of fabric together. Quilters often use colorful fabric swatches to make intricate designs. Quilts are functional and decorative—many quilters purchase special racks to display their creative handiwork.

Are you itching to start stitching but don't know where to start? Specialty shops offer supplies and lessons. Get out your needles and make something new!

One Minute Chef

Chocolate-Fig Banana Bread Ingredients:

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 cups mashed, very ripe bananas (about 4)
- 2 large eggs
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup stemmed, chopped Blue Ribbon Orchard Choice or Sun-Maid Figs
- 1/2 cup miniature chocolate morsels

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350° F. In large bowl, whisk together flour, sugar, baking powder, soda and salt.

In separate bowl, whisk together bananas, eggs, oil and vanilla. Whisk liquids into dry ingredients, mixing just until blended. Stir in figs and chocolate. Scrape batter into oiled 9 by 5-inch loaf pan. Bake in the middle of the oven for 60 to 70 minutes (cover with foil after about 30 minutes to prevent overbrowning) or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean.

Cool 10 minutes in pan. Run sharp knife around edge of pan and remove bread from pan to wire rack to cool. Wrap airtight and store at room temperature or freeze.

For more recipes, visit www.ValleyFig.com.



WIT & WISDOM

"A lot of people like snow. I find it to be an unnecessary freezing of water."

—**Carl Reiner**

"They say that every snowflake is different. If that were true, how could the world go on? How could we ever get up off our knees? How could we ever recover from the wonder of it?"

—**Jeanette Winterson**

"Snow and adolescence are the only problems that disappear if you ignore them long enough."

—**Earl Wilson**

"The snow itself is lonely or, if you prefer, self-sufficient. There is no other time when the whole world seems composed of one thing and one thing only."

—**Joseph Wood Krutch**

"We build statues out of snow, and weep to see them melt."

—**Sir Walter Scott**

"Cats are smarter than dogs. You can't get eight cats to pull a sled through snow."

—**Jeff Valdez**

"The first fall of snow is not only an event, it is a magical event. You go to bed in one kind of world and wake up in another quite different, and if this is not enchantment then where is it to be found?"

—**J.B. Priestley**

"The Eskimos had 52 names for snow because it was important to them; there ought to be as many for love."

—**Margaret Atwood**

"I grew up thinking of snow as a luxury you visit."

—**John Landis**



GET INVOLVED ... BECOME A BOARD MEMBER
We Are Looking for Volunteers to Serve on the Board of Directors.

Who is Eligible to Become a Board Member? Any KCV owner who has not been convicted of a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude is eligible to serve.

What is the Term of a Board Member? The Officers of the Association are elected for a three year term, with only one term expiring each year, unless a Board Member resigns, is removed from office, or otherwise disqualified to serve.

What Are the Responsibilities of a Board Member? The authority of Board Members is established in the Restrictions and Bylaws. Board Members are responsible for giving direction to the management of the Association. BFMC Property Management is the current Managing Agent for the Association. Board Members set the policies and procedures to be followed by the management company in the management of the Association.

What are the Qualifications Needed to Serve? The most successful and best contributing Board Members vary from people with business background, real estate background, and/or management background. Most important is willingness to abide by the responsibilities given to Board Members as outlined in the documents.

How Much Time is Required to Serve? During the past year, the Board Members have attended one Board meeting every two months lasting about 2 hours. Throughout the year, Board Members may also be called upon to make certain decisions or give directions to the management company upon request. This is generally done via email and/or phone call and has taken very little

time of the Directors.

How Much Will I be Paid? Board Members work as volunteers. They receive no pay and no special treatment for being a Board Member. However, the knowledge that can be obtained concerning the management of the community and the handling of business matters can greatly enhance the backgrounds of volunteers. Having the background of a Board Member can enhance your resume and identify you as a person with management skills and experience.

There is a great deal of personal reward for knowing you have made a contribution to your community and your fellow owners. You will have a hand in improving the appearance of the community, the financial management of your homeowners association, and protecting the value of your home.

How Do I Get Involved? There will be one three-year term ending in February. Election of a volunteer for the Board position will be held at the Annual Meeting scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 25, 2012. Anyone interested in running should contact BFMC via phone or e-mail to request an application. Background from your application will be summarized and given to meeting attendees so they will know something about the volunteers running for election. The Board wants to give all volunteers who want to run for election an equal opportunity to run. Nominations will also be received from the floor. If you plan to nominate someone, please check with that prospective nominee in advance to ensure that he/she is willing and able to serve.

KIRBY CREEK VILLAGE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

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