



Rattan Creek Neighborhood News

Serving Milwood at North Austin MUD # 1 since 1983

Distributed Monthly By The Rattan Creek Neighborhood Association, Vol. 15, No. 10

December 2000/January 2001

EVENTS

December

Dec 10 **Caroling in the Park,**
7 pm at Rattan Creek Park



Dec 14 Last day of School-RRISD

Dec 15,16 **Judging "Holiday Lights"-Be sure to be ready!!**

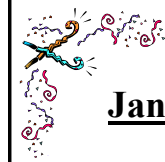
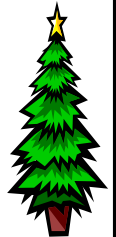
Dec 17 **Final Judging of "Holiday Lights" Contest**

Dec 20 **MUD Meeting,** 6 pm
100 Congress, ste 1300

Dec 22 **Hanukkah**

Dec 25 **Christmas Day**

Dec 26 **Kwanzaa begins**



January

Jan 3 RRISD

Starts

Jan 15 **MLK Holiday**
RRISD

Jan 17 **MUD Meeting,** 6 pm
100 Congress, ste 1300

Jan 18 **RCNA Meeting,** 7 pm
Rattan Creek Pool Entrance

Have a safe Holiday Season!!

Caroling In The Park

Sunday,

December 10

6 pm

Rattan Creek Park



Sing Carols around the
Bon Fire!



Don't miss Santa...

The Jollyville Fire Department will be bringing Santa from his sleigh to our park, to meet with each little boy and girl, who would like to see Santa just one last time before Christmas.

He should be arriving about 6:15 PM.

"Don't forget to thank the Jollyville Fire Department for all their participation throughout the year with our events."

MOM AND DAD's:

Here is a photo op for you to get pictures of the children with Santa at no charge!!

RCNA Board of Directors
 P.O. Box 200584
 Austin, Tx 78720-0584

Website: www.rattancreek.org

RCNA Board of Directors:

President Currently Vacant Position

email: presrcna@rattancreek.org

Vice President

Richard Miller 331-6838

email: richardmiller@austin.rr.com

Secretary

Deborah Avalos 219-1027

Treasurer

Hutch Gregg 335-0455

Email: hutchg@austin.rr.com

RCNA Committees:

Membership: Volunteer Needed

Safety/Security, Streets/Utilities:

Marty Robinson 219-1812

Publicity/Social:

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email: REBIHOME@aol.com

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Distribution:

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Recipe Corner:

Stephanie Doherty 249-0253

Email: doherty2@flash.net

Yard of the Month:

Jon and Gina Martin 331-1109

The Rattan Creek Neighborhood News welcomes your letters and guest columns. Letters must have a verifiable signature. Guest columns and letters will be printed on as space available basis. Neither the Rattan Creek Neighborhood News nor the Rattan Creek Neighborhood Association accept responsibility for the opinions expressed in editorials, letters or guest columns. The Rattan Creek Neighborhood News reserves the right not to publish any submissions and the right to edit all submissions. Mail to the following address: Jo Jones, RCNA Editor, 13119 Green River Trail, Austin, Tx 78729. 512-335-1805.

Fire Safety

REAL CHRISTMAS TREES can be dangerous if not properly handled. For several years in the US approximately 500 fires each year have started with Christmas trees. Follow these precautions if you use a real tree inside your house or apartment.

- a. Look for and purchase only a tree that is fresh. The needles on a fresh tree will be shiny green and pliable. Needles should not come off when you run a tree branch lightly through your hand. If needles are shedding or brittle, the tree is not fresh.
- b. Cut off approximately 1/2 inch of the base of the trunk to expose new wood and capillaries before placing the tree in the stand.
- c. The tree stand **MUST** allow for the bottom of the tree trunk to be in water. A gallon or more capacity is recommended. The tree may use a gallon of water in the first few days inside a dwelling. Add water as necessary.
- d. Decorative lights should bear the label of Underwriters Laboratory (UL®). Follow the light manufacturer's instructions. Do not connect more lights together than the manufacture specifies. If you string too many light strings together they will overheat. Replacement bulbs should be the correct wattage as specified by the manufacturer.

BURNING CANDLES are dangerous if not properly handled. Several fires are started each year in this area by candles. Some fire codes or rules prohibit the use of candles in multifamily dwellings (apartments). If you live in an apartment, check with the manager before using candles. If you do use candles, please follow these precautions:

- a. Use candles sticks or holders that are designed to hold candles upright and are made of noncombustible material (metal, glass or ceramic). Do not melt wax into a saucer or dish and stick the candle to it. These candles tend to fall over and may continue to burn.
- b. Never place a candle near a real Christmas tree or tree boughs used for decorations. Never place combustibles such as bows, plastic wreaths or garlands at the base of burning candles. Keep candles away from curtains, drapes, or any other combustibles.
- c. Do not leave candles burning in a room if an adult is not present.

FIRES IN FIREPLACES can be dangerous if not properly managed. Numerous fires are caused each year in this area by improper use of fireplaces or improper ash disposal. When using a fireplace, the following precautions should be observed:

- a. Keep furniture, combustibles and firewood at a safe distance from the fireplace.
- b. Make sure the chimney flue vent is open before lighting the fire.
- c. Close the fire screen after lighting the fire.
- d. If commercial, pressed fire logs are used, the instructions accompanying them should be followed and only one log at a time should be burned. Do not cut these logs into smaller sizes.
- e. Do not use the fireplace as an incinerator to burn paper, cardboard, packing material, etc.

(Continued on page 6)

President's Notes

First, a thank you to the Boy Scouts and Leaders of Troop 259 for their help during the neighborhood clean-up weekend. They will also be joining us for Caroling in the Park.

Last month, the majority of complaints you called me about had to do with boats left on the streets and in driveways. Check your deed restrictions for your section (under the heading "Unsightly articles; Vehicles) and take action.

For example, in my part of the neighborhood, any vehicle "deemed to be unsightly" is not allowed. This includes "trailers, graders, trucks other than pickups, boats, tractors, campers, wagons, buses, motorcycles, motor scooters and garden maintenance equipment." (Ref: Milwood Section 31-A Declaration of Restrictions: Section II-R, Vol. 1761, p. 265)

I also heard about a few incidents of theft and vandalism. I don't know why anybody would want to take a cement birdbath or steal Halloween lights but I would vigorously prosecute them if I

found out.

I'll see you December 10th for Caroling in the Park. This is a perfect opportunity for the you to have a **FREE PHOTO SESSION WITH SANTA**. Be sure to bring your cameras. We will have Polaroids, but we sometimes run out, depending on the line! Please remember the photographers are volunteers!!

Don't forget the Holiday Light Contest, judging will be December 15, 16, and the finals selected December 17. The results will be posted on the website; www.rattancreek.org, December 18, for those who would like to drive around and enjoy this years' lights. Be sure to have your lights on **ALL THREE NIGHTS** (to be judged)!!

Richard Miller
Acting President

RCNA Membership

Membership in the RCNA runs on the calendar year system.

What do I get for my \$ 20 a year?

Your annual dues help pay for events like the **Easter Egg Hunt**. If you have never gone to one, come out and see what joy is brought to all the boys and girls!

Annual "Members Only" Pool Party to start off the summer swim season.

Teen Nights – throughout the summer.

Rattan Fest – This will be our 10th year. This one will be special! 5K run, booths, entertainment and more.

Caroling in the Park / Holiday Lights

We need volunteers for all the planned events. Please contact a board member for more information or watch the newsletter for the chairperson to contact.

Rattan Creek Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 200584 – Austin, Tx 78720-0584
Annual Membership Dues – \$20
(January – December 2001)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail: _____

Membership: Renewal New

I would like to volunteer to assist with:
 Activities Committees Newsletter

Thank You For Your Continued Support!!



We Depend On It!!

Around Rattan Creek

New Neighbors and Babies:

No New Neighbors or Babies to report this month.



If you know someone has just moved into the neighborhood, or just had a baby, help us to welcome the new folks and/or congratulate our neighbors on their special event.

Please contact Terri Olsem at 219-7931, Or email to her at terriolsem@aol.com.

Brainstorming:

Please save the vending machine prize containers. Each time your children an HEB Buddy Buck at the store or get a prize out of the vending machines, please save the plastic "egg" that it comes in. These are ideal for use at our annual Easter Egg Hunt held at the park.

Please contact Dallas Hall at 257-3494 for drop-off location.

Welcome Home Realty, Inc.

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Broker

335-4024

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E-mail: JoRovello@aol.com
RCNA Member/Milwood Resident



Milwood Mom Activities

Infants: (9 mo - 18 mo) Call Noopur Das at 335-7551.

Young Toddlers: (1 1/2 to 2 years) Call Mike or Melissa Harvey at 918-1912.

Young Toddlers: (2 to 2 1/2 years) Call Kim Cotton at 257-1238.

Toddlers: (3 years) Call Dallas Hall at 257-3494.

Toddlers: (3 1/2 year olds) Call Candance Kreiling at 331-9773.

Toddlers: (4 year olds) Nancy Salter 219-5216. Meets every Wednesday at various homes, call Nancy for locations.

Children: (7 yrs plus) Mary Jane Tagtow 219-6780. Meeting several times a week for coffee, swimming, lunch, etc. Calendar available.

Home schooling Group: (all ages) Annette Anderson 250-5137.

LOTS OF MOMS LOOKING FOR GROUPS:

If you are interested in starting a group, please call Karen Memrick at 258-1370

*** Milwood Mom leaders..... Please call Karen Memrick at 258-1370 for updates, changes or reports on activities.**

Thanks.

Recipe Corner

Who better to model a main course for a Christmas dinner after than the one and only: Martha Stewart!
 This month's recipe comes from her website: www.marthastewart.com. Bon Appetit!

**Beef Tenderloin with Shallots
 and Red Wine Glaze**

- 2 1/4 pounds beef tenderloin, trimmed and tied
- 8 sprigs fresh rosemary
- 16 shallots
- 2 T. olive oil
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1/2 c. dry red wine
- 1/2 c. Homemade Chicken Stock , or canned low-sodium chicken broth, skimmed of fat

1. Let tenderloin come to room temperature, about 45 minutes. Heat oven to 425° with rack in center. Arrange 7 rosemary sprigs in a medium roasting pan; place tenderloin on top. Arrange shallots around tenderloin. Rub meat and shallots with oil; sprinkle with salt and pepper.

2. Roast 25 minutes. Turn shallots for even browning; if roast is dry, baste with more oil or pan juices. Cook until shallots are golden, 10 to 15 minutes more; transfer to a small bowl; reserve.

Meat should register 120° with instant-read thermometer; timing will vary with thickness of meat. Transfer beef to a medium platter. Let sit 20 minutes at room temperature before carving.

3. Meanwhile, chop remaining rosemary into small pieces. Place roasting pan over high heat. Add wine and stock. Cook, scraping bottom of pan to collect any cooked-on bits, until liquid has reduced by half, 6 to 8 minutes. Pass through strainer. Serve beef with gravy and reserved shallots.

Please send all your recipes, ideas for the column, website links, and any other comments on Recipe Corner to Stephanie Doherty, 7832 Portland Trail, Austin, Tx 78729 or e-mail her at: doherty2@flash.net.

Tutor Time

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Austin, Tx 78729

512-249-0018



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*All Day Special:
 includes pedicure, manicure, facial,
 massage, hairstyle, make-up
 and Lunch.*

(Continued from page 2)

- f. Never use the flammable or combustible liquid as a fire starter.
- g. Fireplace ashes can remain hot enough to start a fire for 24 hours or longer. Do not attempt to collect ashes until 24 hours after the fire has burned out. Ashes should only be put in metal containers and then not placed on or near combustibles. Do not put ashes in outside plastic containers until at least 48 hours after the fire has burned out.
- h. CHIMNEY FIRES - If a fireplace is used often, or over a period of time, a buildup of tar and soot called creosote will condense and collect on the inside of the chimney. This creosote will burn. If it gets thick enough and hot enough, it will ignite inside the chimney. A chimney fire will usually be noted by a loud, roaring noise that may last several minutes. These fires can be damage the chimney and may cause cracks in the masonry flues. They may throw sparks and flames out the top of the chimney. If you think you have, or had, a chimney fire call the fire department immediately by dialing 911.

By having the chimney periodically inspected and cleaned, if necessary, by a professional chimney sweep. Do not build unusually large or hot fires and observe the precautions in d, e, and f above.

Each household should have a portable dry chemical FIRE EXTINGUISHER readily available. The recommended size and type should be rated by UL as 2-A:10-B:C or larger numbers (approximately a 5 pound size). The very smallest extinguisher for practical use should be rated as 1:A10-B:C(approximately 2 1/2 pound size). The "A:B:C" rated designation is important. It means the extinguisher chemical is effective on ordinary fires (Class A fires such as paper, wood, cloth, etc.), on flammable liquids (Class B fires such as oil and grease fires), and it is safe to use on energized electrical equipment (Class C fires). Read the instructions printed on the extinguisher BEFORE they need to be used. Report the fire by dialing 911 before using the extinguisher. If the fire is on or in a stove, turn off the heat as soon as safely possible. When using a fire extinguisher keep your back to an exit. Avoid breathing smoke. If the fire becomes too large, get out and close the

(Continued on page 7)

HOW CAN YOU PREVENT A CHIMNEY FIRE?

Jd summers

(Continued from page 6)
door behind you.

Please feel free to call me at **258-1038**, if you have any questions.

John Golding
Chief, Jollyville Fire Department

Congratulations !!!

Congratulations go to Milwood resident and Austin Area Homeschool 4th grader Zachary Shipp, the Williamson County winner for "Draw a Disaster, Learn What to Do" Art Contest.

The annual event, sponsored by The American Red Cross of Central Texas and by Dell, included entries from over 1200 4th graders from several central Texas counties. The awards ceremony took place October 20th at the Round Rock Performing Arts Center.

Zach was awarded a \$100.00 U.S. Savings Bond for "outstanding representation and talented display of a Natural Disaster with appropriate safety tips".

Zach's drawing of a flooded low water crossing included the following safety tips: Never drive around barricades. Don't drive through fast moving water. If your car stalls, climb to high ground.



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Austin, TX 78731 Fax: 371-7128

Winter Maintenance Tips:

A Little Heat Please!

If the Weather Bureau issues a Freeze Warning, Please follow these guidelines to help prevent frozen or busted pipes:

- **KEEP YOUR HEAT TURNED ON AT ALL TIMES!** Do not turn your heat off even if you plan to be out of town for a few days. Just set your thermostat on at least 60°.
- **OPEN ALL CABINET DOORS UNDER THE SINKS** to allow heat to circulate and keep the pipes warm.
- **ALLOW ALL FAUCETS TO DRIP** with a small steady stream of water. (running water does not freeze) Don't forget to remove any sink stoppers!!
- **WRAP YOUR EXTERIOR FAUCETS** or cover them with the faucet nipples.(you can buy them at the hardware store)
- **DON'T FORGET THE PETS!!**

These are just a few precautions that may save you some headache and heartache. Happy Holidays!

Holiday Safety for Kids!!

It is an ongoing problem; that many of Rattan Creek Residents are not paying attention to the three and four way stop signs, and unfortunately neither are the CHILDREN!

I watched in horror last evening when a car, **thankfully did stop** however the kids on bikes, shot across the street without regard to any road safety and common sense. These kids had no helmets, reflectors or lights on their bicycles. These kids, which were middle school age, came out of the dark and the car starting up from a stop almost hit both of them. **Thank you to the alert driver.** We all know how busy Dallas Drive is. The kids, rather indignant to the situation, yelled at the driver, who was not at fault.

Please watch out for the kids this holiday season, as we have just witnessed, they are not watching us. Driving rules apply not only to cars, but bicycles and scooters (motorized) as well.

Have a safe holiday season.
Jo Jones



13561 Pond Springs Rd.
(512) 258-0093

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**PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY
BEFORE COMPLETING APPLICATION**

- All Members receiving badges must be listed, with birthdates, for the application to be considered complete
- Guest passes can only be purchased by a member of the pool. All guests must be accompanied by a pool member.
- One complimentary pass, which can be used three (3) times, is issued with each badge purchased. (two (2) passes will be issued with each annual pass.)
- A packet of ten (10) guest passes consist of four (4) cards totaling ten (10) uses.
- A check made payable to North Austin MUD #1 (NAM1) Pool must accompany the application to be processed.
- The check for the pool, tennis key and the RCNA must be mailed separately from the payment for the NAM1 water bill.
- Replacement fees for lost or stolen badges are as follows:
Summer/Winter Badge \$5.00each Annual Badge \$10.00 each
- If purchasing a combination of summer only / winter only and annual badges, please specify for whom the annual badges are to be assigned to.

**ALL INCOMPLETE OR INCORRECT APPLICATIONS
WILL BE RETURNED WITHOUT PROCESSING.**

PLEASE ALLOW TWO (2) WEEKS FOR PROCESSING.

RATTAN CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

NORTH AUSTIN MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 - RATTAN CREEK PARK POOL

Application to Use Recreational Facilities and Release of Liability

PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE COMPLETING – INCOMPLETE APPS. WILL BE RETURNED

NAMUD #1 Water Bill Account No. _____ Home Telephone Number _____
 (Application will be considered incomplete without account number)

Name: _____
 (As it appears on NAM1 bill)

Address: _____

Emergency Contact Person: _____ Telephone Number: _____

I have made application for use of the District's recreational facilities on behalf of myself and the listed members of my family and our guests. I understand that the District's recreational facilities are for use of authorized persons only, and agree that all use by me, my family and our guests shall be in accordance with the District's "Rattan Creek Park Pool, Court Rules and Regulations." I agree that the District does not, by the providing of recreational facilities, assume any responsibility or liability to our guests or us. We assume all responsibility for, and waive any claim against the District for accidental injury, property damage or death arising out of the use of these facilities by any of our guests or us. We agree to indemnify and hold harmless the District, its directors, agents, employees and consultants whether paid or volunteer, from any and all claims by us or our guests which may arise out of use of the District's recreational facilities. If this application is on behalf of any minor children, the application represents that the applicant is the legal guardian of said children and fully responsible for such children, and authorized to execute this application and release on their behalf. I understand that the children, if under ten (10) years of age, must be accompanied by a person fourteen (14) years of age or older when using the District's facilities. *I further understand that I am responsible for any damage to District facilities caused by my family, my guests or myself.*

Applicant Signature: _____ **Date:** ____/____/____
 (Application will be considered incomplete without signature)

Household Members Attending Pool: (All members receiving badges must be listed)
 (Badges required for ages 3 and up) **Date of Birth** **Tag I.D. Number**
 (To be filled in by NAM1)

_____	____/____/____	_____
_____	____/____/____	_____
_____	____/____/____	_____
_____	____/____/____	_____
_____	____/____/____	_____

NO REGISTRATION FORMS WILL BE TAKEN AT THE POOL.

2000 Winter Fees:

Make Checks Payable To North Austin M.U.D. #1 Pool

Quantity
 _____ In District Badges @ \$20 per badge \$ _____

_____ Out of District Membership @ \$200 per household \$ _____
 (Up to 4 Badges if needed)

_____ Additional O.D. Badges @ \$20 each additional badge \$ _____

_____ Guest Passes (only w/ badges) @ \$2 each (one time use) \$ _____

_____ 10 Guest Passes (only w/ badges) @ \$15 \$ _____

_____ Tennis Court Key (In District Only) @ \$15 each \$ _____

_____ RCNA Membership (In District Only) @ \$20 per household \$ _____

_____ Annual In-District Badges @ \$40 per badge \$ _____

Check MUST accompany this registration form to be processed. Total \$ _____

Mail or Deliver to ECO Resources, 9511 Ranch Road 620 N., Austin, Texas 78726

Rattan Creek Park, Pool and Court Rules and Regulations

Rules are established and adopted by the North Austin Municipal Utility District #1 Board of Directors
Pool Identification tags and tennis court keys must be purchased through the District Manager
ECO Resources 9511 RR 620 N, Austin, Texas 78726-2908

Pool Rules and Regulations

Identification

1. Pool is available to District residents who have paid tag fees and their guests. Out of District memberships are available. Only individuals with tags may enter pool area.
2. Identification tags must be worn by swimmers at all times.
3. Report lost or stolen I.D. tags to the pool manager. Replacement tags can be purchased through ECO Resources for a \$5.00 fee.
4. Use of pool I.D. tags by any one other than the swimmer listed on the current year's registration form will lead to forfeiture of that I.D.

General Requirements and Conduct

1. Conduct by any person deemed to be dangerous, unwarranted, or offensive is grounds for discipline by the lifeguards. Offensive behavior in particular, will be dealt with on an individual basis and could result in suspension from the pool. Any individual suspended three times may also lose all pool privileges for the season.
2. Running, jumping, skipping, or any activity other than ordinary walking in the pool area is strictly prohibited.
3. Bicycles and skateboards must be walked in front of the pool entrance for safety. No motorized vehicles are permitted in the park. No pets are allowed in the fenced pool area. Pets must be on a leash while in the park.
4. Pool may close for five (5) minutes each hour as a safety precaution
5. Floating devices are not allowed in the pool. Water wings or swim rings for non-swimming children may be used if accompanied by parent or approved baby-sitter.
6. Glass containers of any type are not allowed inside the fenced area or in the bath house area.
7. No cutoffs or street clothes are allowed in the pool.
8. Only lifeguards are to be on the lifeguard stands.
9. No person shall talk to, shout at, or in any manner distract a lifeguard while on the lifeguard stand except in the case of an emergency.
10. Only masks approved by the Pool Manager will be allowed in the pool.
11. One lane will normally be designated for lap swimming at all times, additional lanes may be added at the discretion of the Pool Manager.
12. No smoking or alcoholic beverages are allowed in the fenced pool area.

Adult Supervision

1. Children under ten (10) years of age must be accompanied by a parent/guardian or authorized baby-sitter at all times while inside the fenced pool area, unless approved by Pool Manager.
2. Parents are required to provide written authorization naming a specific approved baby-sitter to attend their children under 10 years old at the pool. The baby-sitter must be fourteen (14) years of age or older and be a pool member or have a valid guest pass.

Guest Policy

1. Guest(s) must be accompanied by a registered pool member and submit a valid guest pass for admission. Pool members must accept responsibility for their guests.
2. Guest(s) must register with the gate keeper upon admission to the pool facility and sign a waiver of liability.

Private Parties

1. Adults eighteen (18) years and older holding a pool I.D. may make reservations to use the pool for a private party when the pool is not open for regular operating hours. All parties must terminate (all participants departing the facility) by 11:30 p.m.
2. Reservations must be made at least four (4) days in advance with the Pool Manager. Reservations are confirmed by a \$50.00 deposit. A reservation is not confirmed until the Pool Manager receives the deposit. The cost for rental of the pool is \$10.00 per hour

plus lifeguard fees.

3. Persons responsible for any parties must hire lifeguards. Lifeguards must be those guards that are under contract with the District.
4. Any damages resulting from a private party will be the responsibility of the lessee.

Wading Pool

1. Children taller than a height set by the Pool Manager will not be allowed in the wading pool.
2. Lifeguards will not monitor the wading pool. Children in the wading pool must have a parent or baby-sitter present at all times.

Pool Hours (as posted at the pool)

SUMMER SCHEDULE

Weekday hours are 11 a. m. to 9 p.m. Saturday hours are 11 a. m. to 9 p. m.; and Sunday hours are 12 Noon to 9 p. m..

WINTER SCHEDULE

Weekday hours are 12 noon to 1 pm and 4:30 to 8:00 pm. Saturday Sunday and Holidays 12:00 to 8 pm. Winter Maintenance closing will be posted at the pool.

General Information

1. At the discretion of the Pool Manager and as approved by the District Manager, certain periods of the normal open hours may be set aside for specialized activities such as, adults only swim, swim lessons, swim meets, and other special events.
2. Hours may be shortened before and after school starts, and during swim team season. Check the Pool Bulletin Board for scheduled events and scheduling changes.

Tennis/Sports Court Rules and Regulations

(In District Members Only)

1. No dangerous or offensive conduct will be allowed on the courts.
2. No pets, bicycles, skateboards, or motorized vehicles allowed on the courts
3. No alcoholic beverages are allowed inside the fenced court area.
4. No glass containers are allowed inside the fenced court areas.
5. A playing time limit of one hour (60 minutes) will be observed when other members are waiting to use the facilities.
6. Tennis courts one and two are subject to reservation by tennis leagues, not to exceed five (5) hours a week as posted at the courts.
7. A member may have a maximum of four (4) guests at a time on the sports courts.
8. At the discretion of the District Manager, certain specialized activities on the courts may be arranged.
9. A maximum of (4) players are allowed per tennis court at any time.
10. Soccer tennis is strictly prohibited.

Questions or Problems

Contact the Pool Manager or
Bill Burke at 331-7066.

**North Austin Municipal Utility District No. 1
Rattan Creek Pool Winter Schedule 2000/ 2001**

October 2000

October 1 - 31: Pool Open - Winter Swim

Monday - Wednesday - Friday
12:00 - 1:30 PM, and 4:30 to 8:00 PM.
Saturday - Sunday 12:00 - 8:00 PM

October 9 & 23 : School Holiday

Pool Open: 12:00 to 8:00 PM (each day)

February 2001

February 1 - 15: Pool Closed for Maintenance

February 16 - 29: Pool Open - Winter Swim

Monday - Wednesday - Friday
12:00 - 1:30 PM, and 4:30 to 8:00 PM.
Saturday - Sunday 12:00 - 8:00 PM

Time to get in shape for the summer
join the Rattan Creek Masters Swim Club
Contact John at maggio@texas.net

November 2000

November 1 - 30: Pool Open - Winter Swim

Monday - Wednesday - Friday
12:00 - 1:30 PM, and 4:30 to 8:00 PM.
Saturday - Sunday 12:00 - 8:00 PM

November 22 & 24: Thanksgiving Holidays:

Pool Open 12:00 to 8:00 PM

Pool Closed: November 25 (Thursday)

March 2001

March 1 - 31: Pool Open - Winter Swim

Monday - Wednesday - Friday
12:00 - 1:30 PM, and
4:30 to 8:00 PM.
Saturday - Sunday 12:00 - 8:00 PM

March 12 - 16: Spring Break

Pool hours : 12:00 to 8:00 PM

December 2000

December 1 - 14: Pool Open - Winter Swim

Monday - Wednesday - Friday
12:00 - 1:30 PM, and 4:30 to 8:00 PM.
Saturday - Sunday 12:00 - 8:00 pm

December 15 - January 2, 2000: Winter Holiday

Pool Open: 12:00 to 8:00 PM daily

**Pool Closed: December 24 & 25
(Friday & Saturday) and January 1 (Monday)**

April 2001

April 1 - 30: Pool Open - Winter Swim

Monday - Wednesday - Friday
12:00 - 1:30 PM, and 4:30 to 8:00 PM.
Saturday - Sunday 12:00 - 8:00 PM

April 13 & 16: Spring Holiday

Pool Open 12:00 to 8:00 PM

Pool closed: April 23 (Sunday)

April 30 Winter Swim Schedule Closed

January 2001

January 4 - 31: Pool Open - Winter Swim

Monday - Wednesday - Friday
12:00 - 1:30 PM, and
4:30 to 8:00 PM.
Saturday - Sunday 12:00 - 8:00 PM

January 15: Student Holiday

Pool Open 12:00 - 8:00 pm

Rattan Creek Pool is Managed by
Clearwater Management
Phone - 331-7066

McNeil High Swim Team is swimming at the
Rattan Creek Pool.

MHS practice: Monday - Friday 7:00 - 9:00 AM

Swim Meets will be posted but usually occur on
Saturday mornings.

Manager - Raine Maggio
Assistant Manager - Tony Watt
Pool phone - 257-8175

A WISE CHOICE

A Woman came out of her house and saw three old men with long white beards sitting in her front yard. She did not recognize them. She said, "I don't think I know you, but you must be hungry. Please come in and have something to eat."

"We don't go into a house together," they replied.

"Why is that?" she wanted to know.

One of the old men explained, "his name is Wealth," he said pointing to one of his friends. Then he said, pointing to another one, "his name is Success and I am Love." Then he added, "Why don't you go in your home and ask your family which one of us you want in your home."

The woman went in and told her husband what was said. Her husband was overjoyed. "How nice!" he said. "since that is the case, let us invite Wealth. Let him come in and fill our home with wealth." Her son and daughter both chimed in, "Why don't we invite Success? With it will come plenty of wealth!"

But the mother thought Love would be better for everyone. After some discussion, everyone else agreed with the woman and sent her out to invite Love in for dinner. The woman went out and asked all three old men, "Which one of you is Love? Please come in and be our guest."

Love got up and started walking toward the house. The other two also got up and started following him. Surprised, the lady asked Wealth and Success, "I only invited Love, why are you coming in?"

The old men replied together, "If you had invited Wealth or Success the other two of us would have stay out. But, wherever there is Love, there is also Wealth and Success!"

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Milwood Resident/RCNA Member

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THE "LITTLE" THINGS

As we near another holiday season, we will once again pause and think about the things in life we are thankful for. We usually have no trouble thinking about the big things; like a shelter over our head, food on the table, or a good family, but what about the little things? What about a hot cup of coffee on a cold morning or a warm blanket on a cold night? What about a phone call from a friend you haven't heard from in a while or a child's smile after a stressful week? What about a patch of bluebonnets or a trickling spring? Catching every traffic light perfectly or discovering the bill was less than you thought; having a day to do absolutely nothing or a night to eat out; wrestling with the kids on the floor or dancing in the rain. Celebrating a birth or being comforted by a friend. Having a shoulder to cry on or a joke to laugh at.

Life is filled with little things that make it

great. Things that if not relished will pass by with no impact. For some reason we allow the negative things to dictate how our day or month or year was. Could it be that the good things were there, we just did not acknowledge them -- the little things that we should be thankful for. In the Bible, 1 Thessalonians 5:18 says, "give thanks in all circumstances, . . ." This holiday season; don't let the big things overpower the small. Be thankful for both. You may find that the little things aren't that "little" after all.

Keith Abbott

North Hills Community Church

Emergency Numbers:

Emergency – 911

Non-Emergency Numbers:

**Williamson County Sheriff
943-1300**

**Travis County Sheriff
473-9770**

**Williamson County Constable
248-3239**

**Jollyville Fire Dept.
258-1038**



A Place for New Beginnings!

Casual • Contemporary • Community

December Series:

"Handling Holiday Stress"

12/3: Getting a Handle on Gift-Giving

12/10: Surviving the Family Get-Together

12/17: Avoiding Holiday Let-Down

Look for *Pre-Christmas Service* details
in our next mailer.

North Hills Community Church

is currently meeting in the

Jollyville Elementary Cafetorium at

6720 Corpus Christi

Service begins @ 10:30 AM

Nursery & Children's Ministries available during service.

Come early for coffee, juice, and donuts!

Contact us at: **NHCC@jump.net** or **388.0270**

Find us on the web at: **www.nhconline.org**

December & January Yard Activities, Frost Protection & To Prune or Not? :

Preventative maintenance is the name of the game in the winter, with several items listed below. The obvious ones have to do with preventing frost damage. First, a real preventative is to spray plants with liquid seaweed monthly to harden the plants and help them hold moisture. Another method of sealing in the winter moisture is spraying with an anti-transpirant product called Cloud Cover.

When a freeze is forecast (overnight temperature below 25 degrees) there are several ways to minimize damage. Covering plants with cloth or plastic will hold in the ground heat and keep the cold wind from the plants. Cloth coverings are best because they do not conduct the heat away from the plants and if not removed the next morning, the plants will be OK. Plastic coverings are cheap and easy to apply and dry out quickly **but:** the next morning, plastic coverings must be removed quickly so the sun will not scald the plants.

Another easy preventative to minimize freeze damage, is a good spraying with water in the evening so it will require much colder air to freeze the water and then the plants. And in any case,

spray again in the morning so the plants will thaw gradually. If plants turn brown after freezing, cut this material off and discard it so it doesn't rot and attract bugs and fungus.

Remember to water thoroughly, if we continue to have a warm windy spell, the plants need moisture all winter long. Mulching will conserve soil moisture and mulching also helps protect the roots from freezing. Even if the top growth dies, plants with a strong root system will quickly recover in the spring.

Winter is the time to prune. While the trees and shrubs are dormant, it is time to cut off broken branches and prune to shape. The Texas Department of Agriculture says "pruning is only helpful to remove dead or diseased wood, for periodic thinning, or for removing branches growing toward and hitting the house. Topping trees is generally not recommended if the tree is growing too fast and out of shape, remove it now and plant a better mannered native tree.

(Continued on page 16)

Kelly

(Planting Continued from page 15)

Pruning cuts should NOT be flush: they should cut just outside the branch collar, leaving a small stub. The branch collar is the wider area of bark growth where the branch is attached to the trunk . Leaving the collar promotes proper healing by the branch bark over the small stub. **Do NOT** use pruning paint, it can slow down the healing process by harboring moisture, insects and pathogens and excluding oxygen.

An exception to the no-paint rule is the live oaks, where the paint may discourage insect vectors, or carriers, of oak wilt disease. These trees should be pruned in late fall, or winter when the vectors are inactive. (More on that below)

Live Oak Trees Require special care Oak wilt disease is still a serious problem in the Austin Area. We have had several groups of trees in our neighborhood infected that were removed and ditched around to keep it from spreading through touching root systems. The good news is that our trees have been here for hundreds of years and survived many passings of the live oak wilt. It is just another of Mother Natures way of thinning out too dense populations and providing more

diversified plants. This is why the Austin Releaf and TreeFolks groups encourage use of many different varieties of trees to assure on-going vegetation after the cyclical invasions of bugs and blight.

Oak Wilt Shows as: Large areas of leaves dying very quickly. A red oak can die in two weeks. In a live oak the leaves turn brown in symmetrical patterns. This infectious fungal disease is spread by sap-feeding beetles bringing the fungus from an infected tree to your freshly cut wound. Also the fungus is spread from infected trees through interconnected roots. If you make a cut with an infected saw blade or do not immediately paint fresh cuts, your tree can become infected by the beetles attracted by the fresh sap at the wound.

To help reduce oak wilt follow these precautions when trimming live oak trees.

* Never prune live oak trees in the spring or fall when beetles are active. Prune in the dead of winter before the flush of growth in February or in the heat of July or August. .

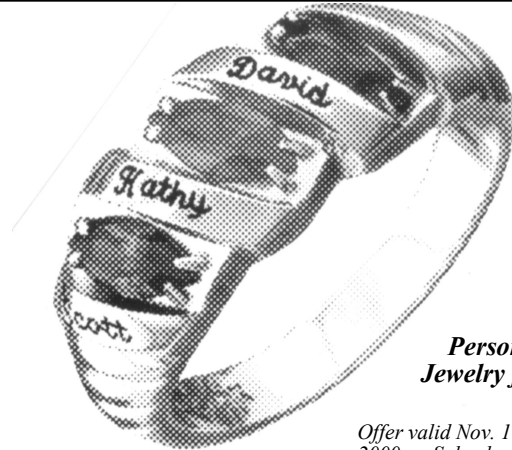
(Continued on page 17)

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Milwood Resident

(Continued from page 16)

* Always disinfect your saws and clippers before and after cutting each tree. And paint wounds immediately with pruning sealer.

* Always purchased fully seasoned and dry firewood as oak wilt can be spread by beetles living in green wood.. Cover any firewood with clear plastic and bury the edges. Use up all stored fire wood by February 15th.

*The safest way to prune live oaks is to hire a professional do the work with sterile saws who will haul off all limbs.

Remember to water all trees and shrubs if we have a long dry spell, healthy trees will withstand frosts and diseases better. To strengthen live oak trees, fertilize under and around an area which is 1-1/2 times the drip zone and water well during December through February when the trees are actively growing and are: dropping leaves, blooming, dropping husks and blooms, and spreading yellow pollen on our cars. This is a critical time for watering and fertilizing your live oak trees. .

For more information about Oak Wilt call

the Travis county Agricultural Extension agent or call the Texas Forest Service at 266-9535, they will come and inspect any suspected trees at no cost.

Prune shrubs now while dormant if done too late in the spring, a spurt of new tender growth in an unseasonable warm spell will be frozen by a late frost.

Crepe myrtles can be trimmed to shape or down to pencil sized branches as desired up through mid February. They bloom on new wood so pruning later in the spring reduces blooming.

Bright colors from annual plants can brighten up the entire landscape. Select a few sunny spots and add some flowering annuals like the pansies, flowering kale, calendula, dianthus, snapdragons, and sweet alyssum. Prepare for spring color by adding bulbs such as hyacinths, daffodils, ranunculus, and gay feather. Keep tulip bulbs in the refrigerator at 45 degrees for 45 days or until mid December. If there is no rainfall, it is important to water in the winter. Water in the mornings to

(Continued on page 18)

The History of Hanukkah

The festival of Chanukah celebrates the Jewish peoples' struggle for religious freedom. The festival has been observed, in Israel and the Diaspora, sometimes even at the risk of life. The story behind the holiday, of how the menorah in the Holy Temple miraculously stayed lit for eight days, with very little oil, is recounted each year as we light the Chanukah candles.

History and Meaning

The story of Chanukah actually begins in the year 336 B.C.E. when Alexander the Great conquered the Persian Empire which included Judea (modern day Israel). The Jews' relationship with Alexander was long and fruitful. Alexander promised the Jews that his empire would not interfere with their religious practices both in Judea and in the Diaspora. He exempted the Jews from the royal tribute and invited them to participate in the Greek army which showed that their loyalties were not suspect. After the death of Alexander, Judea was ruled by Ptolemies of Alexandria. During this period, many of the Jews were influenced by the ideas of Hellenism and began to assimilate the Greek culture. It was at this time that King Ptolemy, to

promote a better understanding of the Jews, commissioned the famous Greek translation of the Bible known as the Septuagint.

Later, the Ptolemaic Empire of Egypt and the Seleucid Empire of Syria fought to gain control of Judea. The Seleucids won. Judea was ruled by the Syrian king Antiochus IV who did not allow the Jews to freely worship one God but demanded that everyone bow down to the many idols of Greek religion.

A strong-willed old priest named Mattathias grew increasingly outraged with the Syrian dictate. He stirred up the passions of his people, urging them to fight against the religious oppression. With his five sons and a band of Jewish settlers - mostly farmers and shepherds - Mattathias fled the town of Modin, outside Jerusalem, and gathered the 'troops' in the Judean Hills. Here, Mattathias' son, Judah the Maccabee ("The Hammer") took over as leader of the small army and led the men in guerrilla warfare against the Syrian army. Judah's brilliance as a fighter and commander cannot be overlooked.

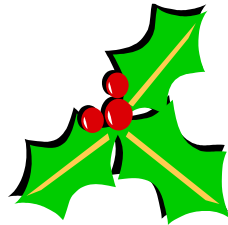
Against all odds, and after many battles, the Jews

(Continued on page 20)

(Continued from page 17)

prevent brown patch in lawns and other fungus.

**Happy gardening,
Chuck Simms**



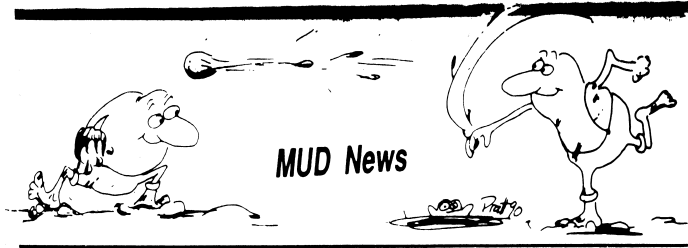
The family and friends of CJ Meek would like to thank the Rattan Creek neighborhood in helping raise \$100 for the Tennis Scholarship Memorial for CJ. And for those who did not get by the booth at the Rattan Creek Festival, there is still an opportunity to give.

Simply make checks payable to "*Tennis Scholarship Memorial for Carajean Meek*". Be sure to write on the back "For deposit to account #77517324". You can either send or deposit the donation to any Compass Bank. If you drop it by the bank ask the teller to make a photocopy of the check and let the Meek family know of your donation. The local bank address is Compass Bank, 13497 North Hwy 183, Suite #100, Austin, TX 78750. Or you can mail it to or take it by the Meek's at 7806 Taranto Drive.

Neighbors supporting neighbors, that is what makes Rattan Creek a great place to live.

Thanks again!
Annie Lancaster

Billy Young



North Austin Municipal Utility District Board of Directors Report on Commercial Development, Parks, and Pool Activities:

Christmas/New Years Day Holiday Trash Pickup Schedule

The holiday schedule for solid waste collection on Christmas Week (December 25th - 29th) and New Years Day (January 1st - 5th) will be on Saturday and Thursday.

Residents scheduled for Monday service for both **Christmas day and New Years Day** will be picked up on the **Saturday preceding both Christmas day and New Years Day**. Residents scheduled for Thursday will remain on the Thursday pick up schedule.

Christmas Tree Curbside

Pick up Program


Christmas trees will be collected during the **week of January 8th - 12th**.



Residents may place their Christmas trees at the curb along with their trash and they will be picked up on the **same days as their trash is regularly scheduled (Monday or Thursday)**.

Trees may be as tall as six feet (6'). If a tree is taller than six feet (6'), then it must be cut into three-foot (3') segments, bundled and tied in order for our personnel to be able to handle the trees and place into the truck.

Due to a potential large volume of trees and trash that may be accumulated, it may take two separate trips to collect a resident's trash and trees. Therefore, do not be alarmed if the trash is collected and the trees are still at the curb. The trees will be picked up on the same day as the trash.



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NA MUD #1 Board of Directors:

Place One - **Keith Collins**,
Ass't Secretary/Treasurer (5/04)
kcollins@northaustinmud1.org

Place Two - **Don Conklin**,
Treasurer (5/02)
dconklin@northaustinmud1.org

Place Three - **Terry Ripperda**,
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tripperda@northaustinmud1.org

Place Four - **Alan McNeil**,
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amcneil@northaustinmud1.org

Place Five - **Chuck Simms**,
Secretary (5/04)
csimms@northaustinmud1.org

Website: www.northaustinmud1.org

There Could Be a Silent Killer In Your Home

Once again as the nights cool off and the summer fades into memory, it is time to start up that old furnace and heat our homes. We all take our gas heating for granted, with its quick even heat and ease of operation. However, there are many dangers inherent with a central gas heating system that you need to be aware of so you can protect yourself and your loved ones.

For one there is the possibility of gas leaks in the home. Natural gas by itself has no color or odor. When you notice a gas leak, what you are smelling is an artificial odorant added to the gas during transport. Your gas piping can be checked for leaks with an electronic detector or with a mixture of water and soap that will bubble if there are any leaks at the joints. If you suspect natural gas leaks in your home immediately call your gas company.

Another danger is carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. Carbon Monoxide is a silent killer because it is an odorless, colorless gas that reduces your bloods' ability to carry oxygen. In effect you can suffocate even if there is adequate oxygen present in the room. The effects of carbon

monoxide are also cumulative, meaning it tends to build up and stay in the blood stream for a period of time and additional exposures add up.

Anytime you burn fuel several byproducts are given off. In a case of incomplete combustion, one of the products can also be CO. You may be surprised to know that a properly tuned, clean burning furnace could be vented directly into the home with little rise in the CO level. However, anything that would cause an incomplete combustion cycle in conjunction with improper venting will cause a rapid rise in the output of CO from your furnace.

With the advent of the in home carbon monoxide detectors, many people have been lulled into a false sense of security. Purchasers of these detectors **MUST READ** and follow the instructions! All units available at places like Home Depot and Lowe's use a metal oxide sensor, that the manufacturer recommends be replaced every year. There is only one CO detector on the market that uses the electrochemical sensor and actually performs a self-check daily, and those

(Continued on page 21)

Remember
Winter Water Averaging
Begins November 20, 2000
Through February 19, 2001
NA MUD #1

Deed Restriction Violations:

Deed restriction violations must be submitted in writing to:

**Senior Citizens Center
 408 Ridgewood
 Cedar Park, Tx 78613**

Be sure to include the address in question, nature of your concern and your name and address.

(Continued from page 17)

gained victory over the Syrian soldiers.

When the Maccabees and their army returned to Jerusalem they found their Temple in ruins. They scrubbed, cleaned and put it to order again. On the 25th day of Kislev, Judah called the people together to re-dedicate the Temple.

When it came time to re-light the Menorah only one small jar of oil that had not been defiled by the Greeks could be found within the entire Temple. It would take an eight-day round trip journey to obtain new pure oil. But the high Priest, determined to rededicate the Temple even if the menorah could be kindled for only one day, lit the menorah. The next day, to everyone's amazement, the menorah was miraculously still lit. The oil burned for eight days, until a new supply of oil could be brought. The community rejoiced, thanking God for his favor.

To honor this occasion and the spirit of free thought, Jews around the world have celebrated Chanukah every year since then.

(Continued from page 20)

are only available through Licensed Heating and Cooling Professionals.

Your furnace should also be checked for proper draft pressures annually. It is a simple check that assures that combustion gases are pulled from the furnace. Any leaking in your supply air ducting could cause negative pressures in your home and prevent proper drafting of your furnace. Not only will this reduce the efficiency of the furnace but could also be potentially dangerous.

There are just some reasons it is important to have your heating system checked annually, PRIOR to full operation. Not only will it assure your safety but in most cases, will pay for itself in energy savings.

David Coucke,
President of Aire Serv Heating and Air Conditioning of Austin, a certified Engineer and a Rattan Creek Resident.



Don't forget
the annual
Caroling in the Park'
at
Rattan Creek Park
December 10
There will be singing
around the bonfire,
Santa and lots of fun!

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CLASSIFIEDS

Classified Ad rates are 25¢ per word, per month. Deadline for ad's is the first of each month for the following month/issue. Ads must be received by the Friday before Newsletter deadline. **Payment in full is required before publication.** Any ads received after the deadline will be held until the next month's publication. No exceptions will be made. Send to **RCNA, c/o Francis Mitchell, 12912 Margit Drive, Austin, Tx 78729. 331-4002**

BeutiControl Cosmetics-Julie Lucas. 331-9531. New Clients Welcome. (12/00)

Creative Memories – Scrapbooking supplies and instruction. LeeAnn Llewellyn, Consultant. **Corrected : 663-9433.** (12/00)

Mr. Robert's Painting, your neighbor painter. Quality workmanship. Interior/Exterior. 260-0777 or 331-1351. (4/01)

A&A Carpets: 249-0060. (04/01)

All American Coatings: Specialized in quick, neat, quality interior/exterior painting/remodeling. 249-0060. (04/01)

MaryKay - Julia Hall 257-1067 or 796-7718, email: juliahall@mail.utexas.edu. Website: <http://www.mymk.com/jhall5>. *Milwood Resident discount.* (8/01)

Mary Kay Cosmetics. Let me help you with skin care, color, nail products, fragrances, gifts. Full inventory. Order on-line any time of day or night or call me. Prompt and courteous service. Slyvia Frisch 335-4949, email: sylviafmk@aol.com, www.mymk.com/sfrisch (01/01)

The Massage Lady has a Christmas Special. 2 Full Bodies – \$75.00. Call Pam Combs for a gift certificate. 336-7135 (h) or 428-3537 (w). (01/01)

Self-Improvement Through Hypnosis: Experience this gentle and effective way to help change your life, emotionally and spiritually: Set and achieve goals, improve concentration, study skills, relaxation and stress reduction, weight control, stop smoking. Milwood resident. A New Beginning Hypnosis Center. 331-1300. (04/01)

Interested in Mary Kay or Avon products? Call to receive free brochure(s), samples, or to schedule

a free facial, makeover, or skin care class. Stacy 336-9244. Stacey@alumni.utexas.net. (12/00)

Need a mature, fun, college grad to babysit while away on weekends or during the week or other occasions? Lots of experience & references. Stacy 336-9244. Stacey@alumni.utexas.net. (12/00)

TEEN SERVICES

ATTENTION TEENAGERS: Your ads run free but **must be renewed once every 6 months.** The date at the end of your ad indicates the last month your ad will run. All ads must be submitted in writing and mailed to:

**RCNA, c/o Francis Mitchell,
12912 Margit, Austin Tx, 78729.**

Lawn Service– Corry, light landscaping and general lawn care-lots of experience. Call 423-0425.

Stephanie Atiase, 15. Responsible and experienced babysitter. Work great with children and babies. Reasonable rates. I also can watch over pets in your home. Call 335-5404. (12/00)

Ashey Foust, 13. Extremely responsible. Certified and experienced babysitter who works well with children. Call 250-0781. (12/00)

Fun babysitter. Adrea Mire, 16. Experienced with children of all ages. Available to work days during summer months. References upon request. Reasonable rates. Call 2540-2104. (12/00)

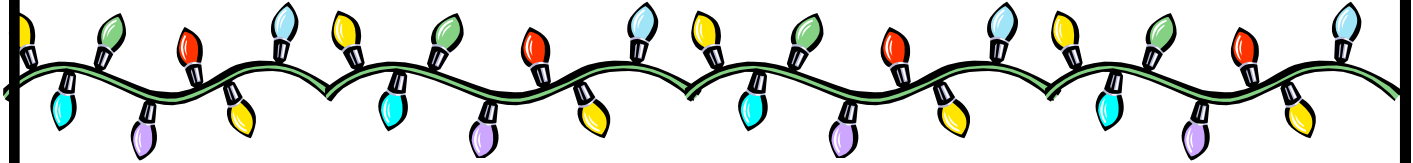
Excellent babysitter. Great with children, babies and pets too. Price rates and times vary. Please contact me at 336-1808. Ashley Weber, 14. (12/00)

Francesca Flores, 13. Responsible and experienced baby/pet sitter. Works great with children, babies, and all pets. Available to work days/nights during summer months. Call 336-8232. (02/01)

Sade Chambers, 14. Extremely responsible and experienced babysitter. I work well with children and babies. Reasonable rates. I also pet sit in your home. Call 335-0177. (3/01)

Gasbrielle Schram, 14. Responsible babysitter who works great with children of all ages. I'm experienced and certified. Will also pet sit. Call 918-9149. (3/01)

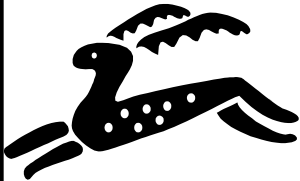
Anna Sturza, 14. I'm a very responsible 14 year old girl that has alot of babysitting experience. I live in the Bluffs. 335-3005. (05/01)



Decorate Your Home Contest

Let's make Milwood

*One of the places to see
this Christmas Season!*



**The RCNA is excited to announce it's
Third Annual Christmas Contest.**

The rules are simple:

Be sure to have your home decorated for the holidays!

Judging will be held Dec 15, 16,
Final judging will be on December 17th.



The top three homes will be selected and
announced on the RCNA Website.
The list of homes will be posted
By December 18th, at 10:00 pm.



Prizes will be given for the top three
homes!

Happy Holidays!

