



Thanksgiving Edition – November 2011

Friends of VOP –

Happy Thanksgiving from the board of directors! We hope everyone is enjoying the cooler weather after the heat of summer. With friends and family coming to visit, please be sure to visit the Village of Oak Park's website for a list of recipes, or to share your own:

<http://www.villageofoakparkneighbors.com/recipe-exchange/>

With Old Man Winter right around the corner, please consider these tips for dealing with freezing temperatures:

COLD WEATHER TIPS (use at your own discretion)

- Dress in layered clothing and wear some kind of head cover.
- Keep pets inside.
- Bring potted plants inside.
- Check space heaters for sufficient ventilation and wire condition.
- Never place space heaters close to flammable objects, such as drapes or bedding.
- Make sure fireplace flues are working properly.
- Check extension cords for breaks or fraying.
- Do not use charcoal or gas grills indoors. They produce deadly carbon monoxide fumes.
- Check on the elderly and infirmed.
- Disconnect and drain garden hoses.
- Cover outside faucets with insulating foam covers.
- Turn off water to outside faucets.
- Turn off sprinkler system and blow compressed air through the lines to drain them.
- Close garage doors.
- Insulate exposed pipes (both hot and cold) under house with foam pipe insulation.
- Open cabinet doors under sinks.
- Set icemaker to make ice if the water line to it runs under the house.
- Don't forget to check on pipes to your washing machine in the laundry room
- Locate water main cut-off valve, and have a cut-off key handy.
- After the weather has warmed above freezing and any frozen pipes have thawed, turn off dripping faucets and monitor your water meter to check for unseen leaks.

How to Protect the Outside of Your Home

- Clean your gutters and downspouts before cold weather arrives.
- Spray an ice repellent solution on steps and walks before freezing weather arrives
- Check antifreeze levels in cars. Add if needed, and run engine to circulate new antifreeze in the crankcase.
- Add freeze resistant windshield wiper fluid, and spray to circulate it in lines.
- Check air pressure in tires, since cold weather causes the pressure to lower.
- Add mulch around plants, and cover plants that are prone to frost damage with burlap or cloth. Remove covering when temperatures warm above freezing.
- Drain birdbaths and fountains
- Gently sweep snow off plants and shrubs in an upward motion with a broom.
- Use rock salt, sand, or clay based kitty litter on walks and drives (NOTE: Salt can damage grass and other plants).

IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE HOME DURING SUB-FREEZING TEMPERATURES:

Set the temperature of your home heating system no lower than 55 degrees to prevent pipes from bursting.

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND SERVICES

To receive Bedford Police and Fire department notifications: www.nixle.com Nixle's mission is to enable government agencies, small to medium size businesses and enterprise-level organizations to communicate in a secure way and exchange multimedia content over a trusted mobile platform.

Additionally, residents can email the City of Bedford at bace@lists.bedfordtx.gov to receive Bedford Alerting Citizens email notifications and for crime reports see www.crimereports.com/

Best regards,

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Village of Oak Park
www.vophoa.com

