

# TANGLEWOOD TRIBUNE

December 2009

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays,

There's a chill in the air - perfect weather for this wondrous time of the year. Your household is probably as chaotic as mine. Recovering from Thanksgiving and wondering why you had that second piece of pumpkin pie, starting your holiday list and finishing up all the shopping, cooking and decorating to ensure your family and loved ones have a special time. The children are more energetic than you would like, just counting the days until school is out and then until Christmas morning arrives. Trips being planned, 2010 resolutions beginning to rumble through your head while checking out the latest membership fees at the local gyms are just a part of our daily lives it seems. Whatever holiday you observe, we probably all admit we get busy and often lose sight of the true meaning of the season. For me, it is about the blessed event of the birth of my savior which has offered me a truly blessed life, with three beautiful children and three grandchildren. Please join with me this year, in helping someone less fortunate than you to know there are others who care for them. If you do not have time and want to adopt a family, let me know and I will be happy to do the shopping for you. If as a neighborhood we want to band together and pool our resources, let me know that and I will coordinate all that is needed. Thank you to those of you who always decorate our entrances. My good wishes to each of you for a wonderful season and may this year you experience the joy of all around you."

Sincerely,

*Donna B. Thomas*

## Plants with Winter Interest

By Mary Welch-Keesey, Ph.D.

Creating a winter garden is a unique challenge. Instead of bright colors, you must design with shape and texture, striking architecture and subtle contrast. Since many herbaceous plants disappear in winter, woody plants – trees and shrubs – become the dominant landscape interest.

To add interest to the winter garden, include plants that stay green most of the winter, not only trees and shrubs but groundcovers and perennials as well. Include plants that add color in other ways – with fruit and colorful stems. Architectural interest takes on added importance during the winter, so consider plants with interesting form, bark and seed pods. There are some plants that burst into bloom at the first breath of spring. Add these to your winter garden not only for color but as a delightful surprise to celebrate the end of winter.

As with all landscape design, choose plants appropriate to your site – take into account soil pH, soil drainage, and light level. Make sure there will be enough space for the plant, even after it reaches full size. Personal preference is important, so try to look at these plants in winter before you add them to your landscape.

For a complete list of plant ideas please visit: [http://www.indyzoo.com/pdf/Plants\\_with\\_Winter\\_Interest.pdf](http://www.indyzoo.com/pdf/Plants_with_Winter_Interest.pdf)



We all need a little help from time to time and when a need arises, who wouldn't love to have a great list of quality contractors to turn to?

**Please send us the names and contact information of those contractors that you would like to recommend.**

**Register to win your *FREE* dinner for two at *Sauce* in McKinney!**

**[www.donnabthomas.com](http://www.donnabthomas.com)**

For questions or comments please e-mail Donna at: [donna@donnabthomas.com](mailto:donna@donnabthomas.com) or call 214-629-7586

# TANGLEWOOD TRIBUNE

## 40th Anniversary of Santa's Helpers at Channel 8

The annual toy drive has brought joy to thousands of children who otherwise would go without presents during the holiday season. Santa's Helpers wouldn't exist without the generosity of our viewers, and hundreds of volunteers who have helped make the toy drive a success every year.

Wendy Summers and her family now volunteer for the toy drive in what has become a family tradition. She said she watched the drive year after year on Channel 8 while she was growing up before she decided to take action.

"Then when I did see it come on TV one night, I thought, 'Well, that's what I think we need to do as a family,' " she said.

That was three years ago. The Summers have come to volunteer with Santa's Helpers ever since. Her husband Jason, deployed last year during the toy drive, is looking forward to helping out this year with his wife and children. "I get a kick out of watching them," he said. "They are just smiling from ear to ear. They're glowing. They have such a great time." Each year 12-year-old Megan and 10-year-old Brendan don't

just volunteer. They raise money on their own, filling huge stockings and sacks full of toys for Santa's Helpers. This will be the fourth year they and their parents will help gather toys dropped off at one of several drive-through events held in December. "It is fun, because I know the feeling of me getting toys every year and I love it," Megan said. "And I want other kids to know, that don't know that feeling."

The Summers hope they are instilling a giving spirit that their children will carry with them as they grow up.

"During the season of Christmas, we don't only receive stuff, but we also need to be givers," Wendy Summers said.

That's a lesson these children already understand. "You're doing it for a good cause, and you are just wanting to help out," Brendan said. If you would like to drop off a toy for Santa's Helpers, our first event is Friday night at The Nutcracker performance at the Eisemann Center in Richardson.

**For a complete list of our Santa's Helpers toy drop-off events, you can log on to our website at WFAA.com.**

(provided by WFAA)

### **FIRE AND ICE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

Brian Chandler, while off duty as a McKinney firefighter, has been decorating homes in Tanglewood and the gazebo at the main entrance for years. He has been installing lights on the gazebo for free all of these last four years. So, if you're looking for a good, reasonable installer, please be as supportive of Brian as he has been of us. His phone number is 817-846-6271. It is not too early to get on his schedule!

### **Tanglewood Neighbors**

#### **Book Club**

#### **New schedule of books!**

**For details contact Lorneta Jennings:**

**lojen@aol.com**

### **Tanglewood Stats for last 6 Months:**

**Closed Sales: 8**

**Avg. Sales price: \$534,695**

**Avg. Days on Market: 192**

### **McKinney 370k—700k last 6 months:**

**Closed Sales: 99**

**Avg. Sales price: \$449,391**

**Avg. Days on Market: 217**

**If you would like to see what the homes in your neighborhood are ACTUALLY selling for, please go to [www.searchhomevalues.info](http://www.searchhomevalues.info), this incredible free tool will e-mail you a customized report in just minutes!**

# Area Activities and News



Imagine a winter with no warm coat, hat or gloves. Unfortunately, there are children in Allen who face that prospect every year. We are joining forces with Rotary Club of Allen to help support the Coats for Kids Campaign. Please donate a new Childs coat (Boys and Girls Sizes 6-16), matching hats and gloves are appreciated too!

Drop off locations: Watters Creek Concierge Office (Located in the breezeway between Le Creuset and Terra Cafe) Borders (The upper entrance)

Make sure no child goes without a warm coat this winter. The coats will be distributed to the kids in Allen Schools who would otherwise not have them.

## WATTERS CREEK—ALLEN

### Friday Lunch Time with Santa

**December 4, 11 and 18, noon to 1:30 p.m.**

The first three Friday's of December children of all ages are invited to come and eat lunch with Santa and enjoy tales about life at the North Pole. Complimentary lunches for children will be provided, while supplies last. Lunchtime with Santa is from noon to 1:30 p.m. and is located at the Fireplace near The Green.

### Cookie Decorating with Mrs. Claus

**December 5, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

Celebrate the holidays in sweet style by decorating holiday cookies with Santa's better half. Fun for all ages, this free activity also includes story time and entertainment with Mrs. Claus. Located on the Green.

### Santa and His Reindeer

**December 12, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Meet Santa, sit in his sleigh and get up-close with his beloved reindeer on The Green. Families will have the opportunity to take their own photos, at no charge. This event is free and open to the public. Located on the Green.

### Big Screen on the Green - Holiday Edition

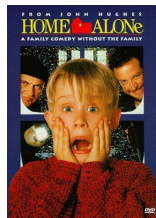
**December 17 - 19, movies start at 6:30 p.m.**

Families are invited to bring a blanket and watch an entertaining holiday movie on a gigantic two-story inflatable movie screen located in the heart of Watters Creek on The Green while enjoying a magical snowfall shower. No lawn chairs, coolers or alcohol permitted. Weather permitting movies begin at 6:30 p.m.

**Dec. 17th**



**Dec. 18th**



**Dec. 18th**



What's your favorite place to eat in Allen and why?  
Answers will be posted next month!  
E-mail responses to: [donna@donnabthomas.com](mailto:donna@donnabthomas.com)

## Dallas Symphony Presents



December 3-5

### Christmas Pops

The DSO and special guest soloists perform holiday hits at this celebration in honor of the Season of Joy lead by Principal Pops Conductor Richard Kaufman. Don't miss this yuletide favorite!

December 10-20



### Cheer!

The season's most popular and festive holiday concert featuring the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Dallas Symphony Chorus and a children's choir.



December 12

### Deck the Hall

A children's concert will feature Emmy award-winning children's artist the Biscuit Brothers and the Booker T. Washington High school for the Visual and Performing Arts Orchestra at the Meyerson Symphony Center.



December 26 & 27

### Mannheim Steamroller

No Christmas would be complete without the sounds of Mannheim Steamroller, and the DSO is bringing this holiday favorite to the Meyerson for two incredible nights - December 26 and 27.



December 31 & January 1

### A New Year's Concert

Start the New Year with joy, optimism and a grin from ear-to-ear as the Dallas Symphony Presents A New Years Concert Celebration!

## McKinney Repertory Theatre

### A Christmas Carol adaptation by Dr. Andrew Harris December 4, 5, 6, 2009

This 55 minute one-act adaptation by McKinney by McKinney resident and UNT theatre professor Dr. Andrew Harris will be performed on December 4th & 5th at 7:30 pm, and December 6th at 2:00 pm. All performances are in the Courtroom Theatre of the McKinney Performing Arts Center.

### Christmas Tree Lighting

**Friday, December 4, 7 p.m., Civic Plaza**

The Christmas Tree Lighting provides a community event for the citizens of Allen to celebrate the upcoming holiday season. The Christmas tree is a 35 foot artificial tree featuring more than 20,000 lights. There are an additional 40,000 lights decorating the Civic Plaza and the buildings surrounding the plaza.

### Rudolph Run

**Saturday, December 5, 7 a.m., Downtown Allen**

The Rudolph Run began as a small event in 1995 to promote health and fitness within the community. With the partnership between Allen Parks and Recreation and Allen ISD, the event has grown from 300 runners to more than 3,000 runners from all over the North Texas area.

### Pancake Breakfast with Santa

**Saturday, December 5, 7-11 a.m., First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall**

Bring the family to enjoy a great breakfast of pancakes and sausage. Children can take a free photo with Santa. Tickets purchased at the door cost \$7 for adults and \$4 for children 5 to 9 years old.



For all of your real estate needs:  
Donna B. Thomas Properties  
214-629-7586  
[donna@donnabthomas.com](mailto:donna@donnabthomas.com)

# December '09

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 Hanukkah begins at sundown	12 Hanukkah
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Winter Begins	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas	26
27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve		

For questions or comments please e-mail Donna at: [donna@donnabthomas.com](mailto:donna@donnabthomas.com)