

December, 2014

Issue 2



Calendar of Events

Westwood Events

*December 6, 2014 - 11:00AM
Alder Park Ribbon Cutting*

Simpsonville Events

*December 7, 2014 - 3:00PM
Simpsonville Christmas
Parade*



westwoodneighborhood.org
facebook.com/groups/WestwoodSC
facebook.com/pages/Westwood-
Neighbors /851426068220637

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Building a Better Community

By: Lou Hutchings

Welcome to the Westwood Neighborhood newsletter. We hope that you will find it useful and informative. The Westwood Neighborhood group was started recently by a number of concerned residents to promote the strengthening of bonds between neighbors, advocate publicly and privately for our needs, encourage pride and foster a sense of community in Westwood.

We do not desire to be just another Facebook group. Our goal is to become a true association of residents, family and friends of Westwood. The Westwood Neighborhood group will have organization and structure and

together we can develop a plan for the future of our community. By uniting, and improving our neighborhood, we hope to increase property values and increase the overall satisfaction of our residents.

We've created a logo, newsletter, and website to reach out to all of you. Of course, the Westwood Neighborhood Facebook group will remain active. If you wish to join the efforts but don't have internet, we're developing a list of those who are interested to keep in touch by phone, text, or postal mail. Join us in working together to build a better community.



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About Westwood

By: Lou Hutchings

Westwood Subdivision in Simpsonville SC was established in the late 1960's and most homes in Westwood were built in the early 1970's. There are well over 1000 homes in Westwood connected by approximately 9 miles of roads. Westwood is close to everything Simpsonville has to offer with easy access to I-385, Fairview Rd, Davenport Rd, West Georgia Road and Fairview Road shopping. West-

wood is near Hillcrest Memorial Hospital (part of the GHS).

Westwood has three neighborhood parks including Alder Park. Homes in the neighborhood usually sell in a range from 100k to mid 130's. Many homes feature renovations and increased square footage. Most lots range from 0.25 to 0.49 acres. The schools are Plain Elementary, Bryson Middle, and Hillcrest High. Property taxes in Westwood can range from mid 300's to mid 1500's depending on appraisals and ownership status.

Winterize Your Home

By: Meghan Dorman

Here is a list to help winterize your home, greatly reduce your energy costs during the winter months.

- * Dodge drafts by making a draft snake or using a rolled towel at the base of doors
- * Change filters once a month
- * Run fans in reverse – recirculate heat
- * Winterize your AC and water lines –drain hoses and A/C pipes. If your AC unit has a water shutoff valve, shut it off. Turn off any exterior water spigots. Remove AC window units
- * Turn down your water heater. Many are unnecessarily set at 140 degrees, lower it to 120 degrees and save up to 10% on your electric bill
- * Install storm windows and doors
- * Give your heating system a tune up. Many utility companies offer a free annual checkup
- * For every degree you lower the thermostat during heating season, you'll save between 1 and 3% of your heating bill. Make it easier with a programmable thermostat; they are widely available for as little as \$50, and the average family saves \$180 a year. Put on a sweater instead of adjusting your thermostat.
- * Use caulking and weather-stripping; take a close look at places where two different building materials meet, such as corners, around chimneys, where pipes or wires exit and along the foundation.
- * Increase your insulation. The federal government will reimburse you for 30% of the cost, up to \$1,500 for highly efficient insulation.
- * Insulate your pipes, also reimbursable by the federal govt.
- * Have your duct system inspected, and sealed if needed.
- * If you have propane or oil furnace make sure it is topped off.
- * Have your chimney swept, check for any damage or cracks. Be sure it is clear of animals, bird nests, or soot.
- * Have your sprinkler system winterized, no later than October.

Continued on next page...



Holiday Recipes

Italian Christmas Cookies

(spaghettsauceandmeatballs.com)

Cookies

3 1/2 cups flour
1 cup sugar
1 stick butter
6 eggs
1 TBSP pure anise extract
1 1/2 tsp baking powder

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

Combine Sugar and butter. Add eggs and anise extract.

In separate bowl combine 3 cups flour and baking powder and then add to sugar, butter, egg, and anise mixture.

Add remaining flour, mix well. Dough will be sticky.

Bake 12 minutes, remove immediately and place on cooling rack.

Icing

3 cups powdered sugar
1/4 milk
1/2 tsp pure vanilla extract
candy sprinkles - NonPareils

Winterize Cont'd

* Make sure you have emergency supplies: flashlights, candles, matches, gallons of water, manual can opener, food for you and your pets, first aid kit, batteries.

* Have any missing or damaged shingles on your roof replaced.

* Trim overgrown branches back from the house and electrical wires to prevent iced-over or wind-swept branches from causing property damage or a power problem in harsh weather. Remove any dead limbs if possible, this is the number one thing people forget to do and it can cause a lot of home and lawn damage.

Add milk to powdered sugar a little at a time until desired consistency. Add vanilla.

Drip icing on cooled cookie, add candy sprinkle and allow to icing to harden.

Bourbon Balls

(Jenn Beattie Hulehan)

1 cup vanilla wafers, finely crushed
1 cup finely chopped pecans
1 cup powdered sugar
2 TBSP cocoa powder
1/2 cup bourbon
1 TBSP + 1 1/2 tsp corn syrup
extra powdered sugar, sifted

Thoroughly combine wafers, pecans, 1 cup sugar, and cocoa.

In separate bowl, blend bourbon and corn syrup. Stir bourbon mix into dry mix. Blend well.

Cover and chill, 3 - 4 hours, min.

Form into 1 inch balls and roll in powdered sugar.



Trivia Corner

Check back every month for a new trivia question. Look for the answer on westwoodneighborhood.org or in next months newsletter.

Can you name all 7 streets in Westwood that are not related to a tribe, a tree or that end in wood?



Happy Holidays!

F C N Y D W V A A Z N A W K I D O T M Y
 R I P T N U X P B S E K A L F W O N S A
 O M Q U L H O Z E F B Y Z U A L F Y O D
 S T P V N E N V V F W H I K K O W C S V
 T D U N R C O A I G N I D D E L S Z B D
 L C L J K L Z N M Y D O A L G J F U D P
 T T P G G G E A Y W S M H X L Y P J P W
 O C O L D M T C C H O R V X F B C W M E
 T A F Z P Q N A L E G N A W O N S D O Y
 H A K K U N A H H V V F S E Q H U K H Y
 W A S A M T S I R H C D Z K Y I W N J A
 P B I N X K P M Y I P E T U X W S P S T
 F T C W I N T E R K Z C U G Y T E N Z Q
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 A J N O L O X G Y R A M J O U W I M N F
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 V Q W Y E Z G N J P F R L P T K M U A E
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|-----------|-----------|
| WINTER | SCARF |
| COLD | SHOVEL |
| SNOWMAN | SNOWANGEL |
| FREEZING | SLEDDING |
| DECEMBER | SKIING |
| ICE | CHRISTMAS |
| FROST | NEW YEARS |
| SNOWFLAKE | KWANZAA |
| GLOVES | HANUKKAH |
| HAT | |
| COAT | |
| BOOTS | |

Westwood Online Forum

Did your beloved pet wander off? Did you find someone else's beloved pet and you don't know who the owner is? Do you have something that you are wanting to sell or give away? Is there that something special that you have been looking to buy? Do you know of an event happening in the area or are you looking to find something to do? Maybe you just want to chat with your neighbors and meet some new ones.



Join us in the forums!

Visit westwoodneighborhood.org and get started today!

