

# Woodland Hills



The Official Publication of the Woodland Hills Homeowner's Association

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## Thank you...

to everyone who came out Saturday, October 20th, for Movie Night. We hope you had a great time. Please join us again on Saturday, December 1st, from 3:00- 6:00 as we light the park, enjoy sleigh rides and drink hot cider. Special Thanks to Terri Anderson for her work in putting together Movie on the Park.

## Timely Tips for November Gardeners

Transform your landscape with the addition of fresh, colorful blooms. Pansies are by far the most popular in Winter color. The Matrix Pansey has been outstanding for our Texas weather. It will "stretch" during bouts of warm temperatures and it is bred to grow out rather than up. This compact grower offers shorter, sturdier stems to support large, colorful blooms. Dianthus (also known as "Pinks"), Snapdragons, cyclamen, Violas and the fragrant Alyssum are also good choices for cold tolerant annuals. Ornamental Cabbage and Kale provide interesting texture in the landscape as well as color. For best effect, limit your planting to 2 or 3 colors per bed.

The key to growing beautiful annual flowers is soil preparation. Select a well drained flower bed and add plenty of organic matter. Calloway's Flower Mix or contains compost plus a boost of fertilizer, water management crystals and a wetting agent. Adding it to the soil at the time of planting will provide extra nutrients for growth and blooms. Remember to add 2 to 3 inches of mulch to all beds to reduce moisture loss, prevent weeds from germinating and to insulate the soil from cold.

## October Garden Tips

*Submitted by Darlene Page*

*All hail the great pumpkin!  
Wow your neighbors with  
stand-out Autumn décor*

Pumpkins, gourds and ornamental corn provide limitless creative possibilities! With some extra effort and innovation you can move beyond standard jack o' lanterns to stunning displays. Here are some tips to get you started!

- Go for height! If one pumpkin is good, two or three are definitely better! Instead of placing pumpkins/gourds side by side on the porch, consider stacking smaller ones, securing them with super glue or another strong adhesive.
- Add adornment. A bit of ribbon goes a long way. Add a bow to the stems of pumpkins, with streamers trailing down. The same method can be used to tie-up husks of ornamental corn.
- Break out the paint. Puffy fabric paint is an excellent way to dress up pumpkins. Create intricate swirls and "beadwork" by using small drops of paint. Or just let the kids go crazy, creating their own unique designs. No sharp knives required!
- Hollow it out. A hollowed-out pumpkin presents a well of opportunities. Drop in a potted Mum or make your own arrangement out of cornhusks, cut flowers—even twigs and Fall-colored leaves from your yard!

Looking for more great ideas or want to share some of your own? Join the My Texas Garden Club and connect with other gardeners! Visit [www.calloways.com/mytexasgardenclub](http://www.calloways.com/mytexasgardenclub) to learn more.

*Need some photos for your website or newsletter? We're here for you! Copy and paste the ones below. Or send an email to [smartinez@calloways.com](mailto:smartinez@calloways.com) for standalone JPG images. Please include the following credit line: Image courtesy of Calloway's Nursery Inc.*



# Woodland Hills

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.....	817-267-0144
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.....	682-503-6597, louie_sullins@ml.com
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.....	817-864-9052, tiki100@verizon.net
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.....	817-475-1389, tanderson3312@sbcglobal.net
<b>Property Manager</b> .....	Shonda Britton
.....	972-755-1063, sbritton@selectmgco.com
<b>Woodland Hills Website</b> .....	www.woodlandhills-hoa.com

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## Save the Date!

*Submitted by Terri Nielsen*

## Christmas in the Park

Saturday, December 1, 2012

from 3 pm to 6 pm

Come join in the fun with sleigh rides, hot apple cider and the lighting of the park.



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## What's Happening in Woodland Hills?

★ 10 Properties Currently Listed For Sale	★ 1 Property Currently Under Contract	★ 19 Properties Sold in the Last 6 Months
Average List Price - \$377,129	Average List Price - \$269,990	Average List Price - \$432,197
Average Price Per Sq.Ft. - \$111.91	Average Price Per Sq.Ft. - \$126.22	Average Price Per Sq.Ft. - \$118.66
Average Days on Market - 122	Average Days on Market - 40	Average Days on Market - 75

(As of 10/22/12)

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## AUTO BURGLARY PREVENTION TIPS:

**DON'T LEAVE VALUABLES IN YOUR CAR.** That sounds like “common sense”, but drivers/passengers do leave items of value in plain view every day. If you leave valuable items visible in your car, your car is automatically a target. If you choose to leave your car open do not leave anything in it – not even your registration.

If you must leave valuable items in your car while out and about, place items out of sight before reaching your destination or move them inconspicuously. This includes packages, backpacks, gym bags, GPS units, MP3 players, and so forth. Someone may be watching when you put items under a seat or throw something over them. An opportunistic thief is on the lookout for trunk-packing, and can break into your car the minute you're out of sight. If you can't take them with you, at least lock the items in your glove compartment (if capable of locking and large enough) or your trunk (if you have one).

**LEAVE NO TRACE.** Don't leave any “sign” that there might be valuables “out of sight” in your vehicle, such as docking stations, phone chargers or connector cables. Leave nothing in “plain sight” that might make your vehicle worth “investigating” by a thief; not even loose coins or a CD.

**TRY TO PARK IN BUSY, WELL-LIGHTED AREAS.** Try to park in well-traveled areas. Large anonymous lots are hit by thieves much more often than parking immediately adjacent to residential housing or other occupied buildings. Auto-burglars prefer breaking into cars where they will not be observed or attract notice, and choose their targets accordingly.

**LOCK ALL YOUR VEHICLE'S DOORS** even if you plan to be gone for only a brief time. Every year, we have items stolen from unlocked vehicles where the owner was only going to be gone “just for a second”. It only takes seconds to steal your stuff! It's not at all uncommon **SET ANY ALARM OR ANTI-THEFT DEVICE.** If you have one, use it! Many people believe that car alarms no longer make a difference, but they can be an effective deterrent to an auto-burglar, who most often chooses the easiest target. If they have two cars to choose from, one with an alarm and one without, they will likely burglarize the one without (unless you've left out valuables just too good to ignore!) for thieves to walk down a row of parked vehicles and check vehicle doors to see if they are unlocked. Don't leave any window open or even cracked open, including vent/wing windows and sunroofs.

**WHAT ITEMS ARE MOST COMMONLY STOLEN FROM VEHICLES?**

- Backpacks, gym bags, briefcases, day-planners
- Cash/coins, checkbooks and credit/debit cards

- Wallets and purses (even when hidden under a seat or in an unlocked glove compartment)
- Laptop computers, iPods and MP3 players, (and docking stations)
- Cell phones (and chargers)
- Portable GPS navigation systems
- Stereo/CD players (and faceplates), amps, speakers (even when bolted down!)
- Jewelry, keys, mail (identity theft), tools. Anything of obvious value

### MARK YOUR VALUABLES!

As a last line of defense (not really to prevent theft as much as to aid in recovery), mark your valuables. Record all serial numbers, even though many serial numbers are on removable “labels”, rather than “engraved” into the valuable items. We'd suggest inscribing/engraving a “personal identifier” on all valuables.

Don't use your social security number (identity theft) — use your driver's license (DL) number, prefaced by your DL “state”, such as “TX-B1234567”. With that marking, any police officer can trace your valuable back to you, wherever it's recovered, and the chances of being reunited with your stolen valuables is dramatically increased.

### WHAT TO DO IF SOMETHING IS STOLEN OUT OF YOUR CAR

As soon as you notice something's stolen (or that your car has been broken into) do not touch/adjust anything in, on, or around the car. As soon as possible, call the police to report the incident. The emergency number is 911, non emergency is 817-743-4522 (NETCOM), and email is [colleyvillepd@colleyville.com](mailto:colleyvillepd@colleyville.com)

### REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

If you see suspicious activity, CALL 911.

“Suspicious Activity” would include:

- Persons walking up and down the street and/or parking lots looking into cars or trying door handles.
- Vehicles cruising the street and/or parking lots at very slow speeds for extended periods while observing parked cars.
- Persons making any kind of mark or placing anything on parked vehicles
- Persons sitting in running parked cars for protracted periods, and vehicles dropping one person off while continuing to cruise the same area. We'd prefer to check on an innocent citizen going about their business than to not check and end up taking theft-from-vehicle reports.

Last month two cars were broken into within the Woodland Hills HOA. In both instances the cars were left overnight in the driveways unlocked. Please remember to lock your cars and take possessions with you or store them in the trunk.





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## DFW Clean

The Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Coalition and DFW Airport co hosted Odyssey Day last October 20, 2012. The event, held every 2 years, is intended to educate our community of compressed natural gas, electricity, biodiesel and other alternative fuels and technologies powering vehicles that pollute less and decrease petroleum consumption.

DFW Clean Cities is a locally based, private and public partnership group that works to advance the economic, environmental and energy security goals of the United States by supporting local decisions to adopt practices that contribute to the reduction of petroleum consumption in the transportation sector. DFW Clean Cities was one of the first Clean Cities under the Energy Policy Act's provision for an organization that promotes the use of alternative fuels to lessen America's dependence on foreign sources of petroleum.

DFW Airport is a leader in the region and nation in sustainability and environmental efforts. The airport fleet includes more than 400 alternative fuel vehicles, significantly reducing gasoline consumption. In September, the airport unveiled two electric vehicle charging ports available for free to DFW Valet customers, and for the second consecutive year the Environmental Protection Agency awarded DFW membership into the Green Power Leadership Club. By purchasing 30 percent of the airport's electricity needs from renewable wind sources, DFW has established itself as a leader in the EPA Green Power Partnership Program.



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## PET CORNER

### *CAN I GIVE MY DOG THANKSGIVING SCRAPS?*

*Submitted by Kristen West*

We know it's tempting, but most Thanksgiving scraps are not safest treat for your pets. Cooked turkey bones are a big no-no as they can splinter and result in a trip to pet ER. Additionally, overindulging your pet in other fatty foods can lead to stomach upset, diarrhea or even life-threatening pancreatitis. Other items to avoid are onion, sage, garlic ... and please, don't ever give your pet alcohol.

If you can't turn away from those puppy-dog eyes, a bite or two of pet-safe veggies like plain broccoli, sweet potato or carrots, or a small taste of plain turkey is usually OK. Put the treats in a Kong or other puzzle toy while you sit down to eat with your family so that your furry begger is happily preoccupied!



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## FOLLOW OUR TOP 10 WAYS TO SAVE GAS!

*Submitted by Leonard Johnson*

If you are serious about saving gas, it is important to understand that you see the largest savings when you practice a combination of proper car care and smart driving behaviors. An aggressive attack plan can save you hundreds of dollars per year on fuel.

1. Drive fewer miles: Combine errands, carpool when possible, eliminate unnecessary trips. The average vehicle uses a gallon of gas for every 20 miles driven. A few thousand less miles per year adds up to big money!
2. Correct tire pressure: This one has gotten a lot of press lately, but improper tire pressure can cost 3% in fuel economy
3. Replace dirty air filters: Replacing your air filter every 12,000 miles will save 10% in fuel
4. Pay attention to the Orange Engine Light: This light warns you when something is wrong in your fuel or emission system. A faulty Oxygen sensor or fuel injector can waste 35% more fuel and increase harmful pollutants your vehicle emits
5. Check the Gas Cap: 147 million gallons of gas vaporizes annually in the US due to loose gas caps
6. Avoid "Jack Rabbit" starts: The key to good fuel economy is smooth starts and stops
7. Slow Down: Every 5 miles faster than 60 mph is like paying an additional .26 cents a gallon for gas
8. Remove excess weight: Every 100 pounds of weight reduces your mpg by 2%
9. Change your motor oil: Reduces friction and increases fuel mileage by 2%
10. Inspect brakes: Dragging brakes can seriously decrease fuel mileage



## Thanksgiving Pie Contest



Please email [tiki100@verizon.net](mailto:tiki100@verizon.net) which one of the 3 pies you like best. We'll reveal the winner in next month's newsletter.

### Pie #1

#### Apple Crumble

You need one pie shell.

Combine 1 ½ sticks of cold butter (cut into pieces), 1 ½ cups of flour, ¾ cup of light brown sugar, 1/3 cup of sugar, ¼ tsp. salt and ¼ tsp. of cinnamon until mixture resembles small pebbles. Set aside.

Combine 5.5 pounds of peeled, cored and cut apples with 1 tablespoon lemon juice, 1/8 teaspoon salt, 3 tbs. flour, and 1 cup of sugar. Mix well.

Place apple mixture in pie shell and bake 45 minutes at 350 degrees. Add crumble mixture and bake an additional 45 minutes or until golden brown.

Best served cool.

### Pie #2

#### Pumpkin Pie

Bake an empty pie shell 10 minutes at 350 degrees.

Beat 8 ounces of soft cream cheese, 2 cups of canned pumpkin, 1 cup of sugar, ¼ tsp. salt, 2 eggs, 1 cup half and half, ½ stick of melted butter, 1 tsp. vanilla and ½ tsp of cinnamon. Pour in the hot pie shell and bake 50 minutes. Serve with whip cream.

### Pie #3

#### Old Fashion Raisin Pie

Preheat oven to 450 degrees.

In a saucepan combine 2 cups of water, ½ cup sugar, 2 tbsp. flour, ¼ tsp. salt, ½ tsp. vanilla, 1 tbsp. butter, 1 tbsp. lemon juice. Stir well and add 2 cups of raisins. Simmer 10 minutes stirring frequently. Pour mixture into a pie shell, cover with a second pastry, seal edges and poke holes in the top to vent. Bake in 450 degree oven for 15 minutes and then reduce oven's heat to 350 to continue baking an additional 25 to 30 minutes.





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