

# Bridle Brook

## B U L L E T I N

Volume 2 Issue 4

Winter 2008

### January 25th election to determine three new board members; meet and greet scheduled

The Bridle Brook Home Owners Association Board of Directors will be receiving a major face lift this January when three new Board members will be getting settled into their seats.

These three Board members will be joining Michelle Kelley and Jim Dunham on the Board with all three being elected on Thursday, January 29th during the first HOA meeting of 2009 at St. James United Methodist Church located on Vaughn Road. The three elected members that evening will be filling the seats of Dan Hall, Patrick Hancock and a vacant seat.

Anyone wishing to serve on the Board of Directors must be nominated first. Nominations can be sent in by anyone to [boardmembers@mybridlebrook.com](mailto:boardmembers@mybridlebrook.com). Those preferring to do their nominating in writing can do so by mailing it to Board Nominations, P.O. Box 640010, Pike Road, AL.

36064.

The neighborhood by-laws require a quorum of 92 households voting in order to elect the new members. However, if a quorum is not met during the HOA meeting, the current Board Directors are then given the option of choosing residents to fill the empty seats.

Serving on the Board of Directors carries with it many of the very same duties and responsibilities as overseeing any other business, yet done completely by volunteers. Serving as a board member is a rewarding experience that should be undertaken by those who see it as an opportunity to serve their fellow neighbors while protecting and enhancing the assets of the community. It is serious business, but also a task worth doing well in order to safeguard the investments of every resident and homeowner in the neighborhood.

### Santa's coming to Bridle Brook!



HEY KIDS!

Please join me at the clubhouse for milk and cookies on Sunday, December 7, 2008 from 2-4 p.m.

I will be all dressed up and ready to have my picture made with YOU, so be sure to bring your camera!

Please help me fill my bag with canned food so we can help others. I will deliver this food to the Montgomery Food Bank, and they will distribute it to those in need. Please bring food items such as canned vegetables, soups, meats, fruits, etc. Non-perishable items only please.

I look forward to seeing you at the clubhouse.

I'll be waiting for you!

### January 2009 marks the deadline for Home Owners Dues

The Bridle Brook Farms HOA Board voted to raise the current dues to \$250.00 a year starting January 2009. Raising the dues will cover the approved budget and projected expenses during the upcoming year; as was discussed during the July 24th, 2008 Home Owners Association meeting. Please note the dues will be due January 31, 2009 in the amount of \$250.00.

For those of you who need to split payments, \$125 will be due on January 31st while the remaining \$125 will become due on July 31, 2009.

Dues can be paid in two ways. Residents can either pay via check to the address at the bottom of this page or via the website address at the bottom of this page.

# News and Notes from the Farms

If you have not received your BRIDLE BROOK EMAIL NEWS, send an email to [news@bridlebrook.com](mailto:news@bridlebrook.com) and we will put you on the list. This is a great way to be up to date with the latest news in between newsletters including many items not listed in the newsletters.

\* \* \*

For those who haven't noticed, PIKE ROAD STATION has really taken off in the last few months. The addition of Fine Foods Market, the new Library, Hissyfits and Z-Tec are proof that Pike Road is growing into the area that people will want to be living in for years to come!

# Peanut Butter Snowballs

- 1 cup confectioner's sugar
- 1/2 cup creamy peanut butter
- 3 Tbsp butter or margarine, softened
- 1 lb. white confectionery coating

In a mixing bowl, combine sugar, peanut butter and butter. Mix well. Shape into 1 inch balls and place on a wax paper lined cooking sheet. Chill for 30 minutes or until firm. Meanwhile, melt the white coating in a double boiler or microwave safe bowl. Dip balls and place on waxed paper to harden. Yields 2 dozen. This recipe makes a nice gift to share with friends or neighbors at Christmas. Use a gift tin or a very colorful box.

Submitted by Ronnie Watkins

*The Very First Bridle Brook cookbook "Favorites from the Farm: A Collection of History and Recipes" is available now for \$12 per book through the website at <http://www.mybridlebrook.com>. The book has nearly 300 of the best recipes from your friends and neighbors around Bridle Brook and makes for a great Christmas gift for teachers, family, white elephant gifts, stocking stuffers and more. All proceeds of the book sales go to fund future Bridle Brook Farms events.*

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**To submit information, please use the "Contact Us" link on the website.**

# The origins of the modern day Christmas traditions

What's the most popular Christmas song of all time? Bing Crosby's version of "White Christmas". And "Silent Night"-arguably the most recognizable Christmas hymn-was written in 1818, by an Austrian pastor, Joseph Mohr. As Christmas Eve came, that year, the organ in his church was broken, so together with his friend, Franz Gruber, he wrote this new tune for the service that night, and played it on his guitar for his congregation. And "Jingle Bells" was originally written for a Thanksgiving celebration, in 1857.

As important as Christmas is to us, today, it's only been in the past 150 years or so that the day has been an official holiday, in America. Thanksgiving was a much more important secular holiday to early Americans. In fact, Alabama was the first state in America to recognize Christmas as a holiday, officially, in 1836-and it wasn't until 1905 that Christmas became officially recognized by Oklahoma.

Electric lights for Christmas trees were first invented by The Edison Company in 1882. Up until then, if trees were lit, candles were used-and then, usually only on Christmas Eve night.

The Christmas abbreviation-Xmas-is thought by some to be sacrilegious, but in fact the first letter of the Greek word for Christ is chi, which is X. Before the invention of the printing press, "Xmas" was often used, in print, to save time and ink.

We get our custom of hanging stockings by the mantle from the Dutch, though their custom is to leave wooden shoes by the fire-place-they fill the shoes with fruits for the donkey St. Nicholas uses to carry his gifts for children.

*Information provided by ezinearticles.com*

# IMPORTANT DATES

## Clip and Save

### DECEMBER 7

Santa Comes To Bridle Brook!  
Clubhouse  
2-4 p.m.

### JANUARY 19

Deadline for Nominations for new Board Members

### JANUARY 29

Home Owners Association Meeting  
Election for New Board Members  
St. James United Methodist Church  
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

### JANUARY 30

HOA dues

### FEBRUARY 15

HOA dues now late

### APRIL 18

Neighborhood Yard Sale

# Top Toys for Christmas 1958 vs. 2008

- 1) Hula Hoop
- 2) Etch-A-Sketch
- 3) Barbie Doll
- 4) Mr. Potato Head
- 5) Lincoln Logs
- 6) Slinky
- 7) Army Men
- 8) Pick-Up Stix
- 9) View Master
- 10) Paddle Ball

- 1) Nintendo Wii
- 2) Fisher Price Elmo Live
- 3) Guitar Hero/Rock Band
- 4) Baby Alive Learns To Potty
- 5) Kota The Triceratops
- 6) Zune MP3 Player
- 7) High School Musical Dolls
- 8) Wall-E Remote Control Robot
- 9) U-Dance Game
- 10) Bakugan Battle Brawlers

The Bridle Brook Farms Newsletter Committee is looking for a volunteer with Quark Express experience to help in the layout of the newsletter.

Every single Bridle Brook committee needs new volunteers to help keep the neighborhood clean, informed, entertained, safe and fun! Please visit the website located at the address at the bottom of the page, click on "Committees" and find a committee that you'd like to help in the new year!

**Check [www.mybridlebrook.com](http://www.mybridlebrook.com) regularly for up-to-the-minute news!**

# Yard Sale tips to make more money this year

With Bridle Brook's next Community Yard Sale taking place on April 18th, now is the time to start working towards that date. With the proper planning and time spent, a family can make upwards of \$500 or more from a yard sale. Here's some tips to help you get going:

- \* Have the prices for everything on clear display. People are more apt to buy something if they know how much it costs.
- \* Be prepared for the "early birds". These are the people that show up in your driveway at 5:30 a.m. wanting first dibs on your goods. While they can be a detriment to your sleep, Early Birds will usually pay top price for the items that they are interested in. If the deal doesn't benefit you, tell the Early Bird that they can come back after 10 a.m. and then you'll give them a bargain ... if the item is still there. If they want the item bad enough, they'll pay full price. A successful yard sale can make \$200 before 7 a.m. if you deal with the Early Birds!
- \* Have an extension cord on hand to prove that any electronics you're selling are in working order.
- \* Naturally, antiques always move quickly at yard sales. But lawn equipment and tools are a close second.
- \* Try and talk your immediate neighbors into having a yard sale. A street with a lot of yard sales on it benefits everyone. People like to park their cars and walk from house to house rather than drive a block to each yard sale.
- \* For your big ticket items such as furniture or electronics, have a figure in your head that you will settle for. If you have

a sofa priced at \$125, a good "rock bottom" price for you might be \$75. There's a decision to be made here, would you rather have \$75 cash or a sofa that you're trying to get rid of? Make sure that everyone working the Yard Sale knows that "rock bottom" price.

These are just a few of the tips that can help you make money.



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