

FOX & DOWNS CONNECTION

NEWS AFFECTING YOU

Our annual homeowners' association meeting is 10 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 27, at Pleasant Ridge Elementary School.

A new pool security system is on the agenda.

Come in person or by proxy.

What's happening around the block

- Oct. 31 Halloween
- Nov. 20 Board meeting
- Nov. 23 Thanksgiving
- Dec. 3 Horse-drawn sleigh rides

FANTASTIC FALL FESTIVITIES



It was a perfect autumn day for our annual picnic.

About 60 neighbors stopped by Quivira Park on October 14 to enjoy some community fellowship and burgers, hot-dogs and grilled chicken.

The tasty fixings didn't stop there; baked beans, pasta salad and jumbo-sized chocolate chip cookies hit the spot for hungry neighbors.

Lulu Bell the clown delighted the junior members of our community with face painting and balloon sculptures.

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HORSES, SANTA AND LOTS OF HO-HO-HO

We've got a special holiday event planned for the whole family: an afternoon of wintry fun with a horse-drawn Santa Sleigh ride throughout our neighborhood streets along with appearances by Santa and Mrs. Claus.

In coordination with neighboring HOA Fairfield Manor, we are planning this afternoon-long event to be held 1-6 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 3.

Clydesdale horses, from Pioneer Trails Adventure, will be pull-

ing wagons for a fun trip-trop course winding around through our neighborhood streets.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will stop by to pass out treats and to take photos with everyone.

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KEEPING IT JUST RIGHT

Snuggling up on the sofa with a good book and hot cocoa sounds like a great way to spend a wintry day, but only if it's warm inside.

Before the cold weather digs in, take a look around your home and make sure it's as energy efficient as it can be.

Consumer Reports offers up these easy-on-the-budget suggestions:

Lose the leaks – A little weather stripping and insulation can go

a long way to keeping cold out



and warm in. Seal gaps around chimneys, furnace flues, plumbing pipes, ductwork, light fixtures, attic soffits and outlets. Watch out for dirty insulation, a telltale sign of air leaks. And don't forget to insulate ductwork and water pipes. You can save up to 30 percent in energy costs annually.

Every degree counts – Lower your household thermostat by five degrees in the day and 10 overnight. You'll save up to 20 percent in heating costs.

Brighten with CFLs – Make a bulb switch in frequently used lights, opting for compact fluorescents lights. Switching out halogen bulbs can also mean big savings. They use between 60 and 80 percent more energy than CFLs, and you'll save up to 50 percent in lighting costs.

FALL PICNIC

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All of the kids kept the inflatable jump room bouncing with their acrobatics and belly-flopping flips, while some families tried their hand at volleyball.

Many thanks to Sharon McEnroe and the entire social committee for their tireless efforts spearheading this celebration. You did a great job and we appreciate you!

Passing loading and unloading school buses is illegal.

But did you know...

The bus drivers can and will turn in offending drivers' vehicle information to Overland Park Police, who will issue a traffic citation to the drivers.

HORSES, SANTA

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Our social committee is putting the final details together for the day.

More details to come—be sure to check out our Web site for the latest news!

If you're interested in helping organize the event, let us know. Send an e-mail to committee@bedforddownshomes.com.

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1,000 WORDS ABOUT THE FALL PICNIC

