

Holiday News Flash from Becky

(your WCHOA President)

Hope you survived eating too much on Thanksgiving – and didn't have to dig up too many obscure recipes for leftover turkey. This is really a special time of year,



with so many holidays to celebrate in November, December and January. Whether you celebrate all of them or only a few, please be thankful for family and friends. And remember those who are less fortunate – each of us can make a difference and help somebody

form a wonderful, lifetime memory of a holiday that otherwise might not have been so special. After all, 'Tis the season!

If you're traveling, as so many of us will be, we wish you a safe and pleasant journey – free of traffic jams, road construction, hazardous winter weather, airport crowds and delays. A White Christmas is one thing, but driving in it is another. Please be careful out there and get home safely to our Willow Creek Estates neighborhood.



You make it sparkling gem that it is – whatever the season—and we're looking forward to an exciting new year with you!

Next Up—2016 Annual Christmas Lighting Contest

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in our neighborhood. That means it's time for the Willow Creek Estates Christmas Holiday Lighting contest!

Some of our neighbors have already started putting up colorful holiday lights, making sure Willow Creek sparkles throughout the season. We'll start judging a bit earlier this year, December 17, so everyone can see the winners' lights before Christmas, since some neighbors remove their lights on Boxing Day (the day after Christmas). The winners will be announced during the week before Christmas.



So much hard work and well-earned pride goes into this annual effort, that we want to make sure that everyone's hard work and creativity is appreciated. You

can help us by sending along pictures of your lights or a neighbor's, so we can share them on our website.

Winners will receive a \$25 gift card and one free-year of membership in the Willow Creek Homeowners Association. These are the categories we'll be judging:

- **Best Children's Theme**
- **Most Elegant**
- **Most Colorful**
- **Most Innovative or Imaginative**

We will let you know about Christmas tree disposal in one of our email updates.

All that Food Reminded me of Recipes:



Are you willing to share your best recipes? We are looking for the very, very best. Maybe your grandmother or grandfather made it. Maybe you inherited a few of those very special “oldies but goodies”? We all have those “this is the best ever” recipes and often share them with friends. Why not expand the reach? It's like cornbread salad—a million calories, a Southern tradition, and everyone loves it. But how many of you make it? Or key lime cake? Caramel cake? Seven-layer dip? Blonde brownies? Italian wedding cake? Lemon rice soup? Five-bean salad? Roasted veggies? Two-potato scalloped potatoes? (My cousin used to make blueberry Jell-O salad. It wasn't exactly my thing, but everyone else loved it. Go figure.)

We could go on forever—there are so many great recipes that it would take multiple lifetimes to try them all. Do you like traditional recipes? Easy versions of old favorites? Or something new and different? We'll do our best to cover as many bases as possible.

If you send us your favorites, we'll catalog them and start the community dialogue. It would be great if we eventually had enough recipes for a Willow Creek Estates recipe book, but we'll begin by posting your submissions in the “Just Willow Creek” area on our website. We'll go slowly and try various entries. We look forward

to your submission to wchoa99@gmail.com. (Personally, I'm very eager to be part of an informal network of test kitchens. Sounds yummy!) Thank you for sharing!

Just a Friendly Reminder—Please Drive Carefully . . . and Be Extra Alert for Walkers and Joggers

Don't forget during holiday periods that young people home from school will be out and about, so please drive carefully through the neighborhood. Also, be especially alert for walkers and joggers, since it gets dark earlier this time of year. So even if they're wearing light-colored or reflective clothing, or carrying flashlights, it can be harder to see them on the side of the road. And many of them will be visitors, unfamiliar with local traffic patterns. This is especially true on the more-heavily-traveled main entrances to our neighborhood. We've all seen speeding trucks and autos and too many near misses. All walkers or joggers should wear safety vests for better visibility. And all drivers should be extra alert. Please. It's the neighborly thing to do.



Thank you and Happy Holidays,
Becky, Your President