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LIFE INSIDE DECORDOVA BEND ESTATES

FAIRWAY

VOL. 4 ISSUE 12 | December 2024

magazine

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DCBE REAL ESTATE MARKET REPORT

Average List Price (27 Listings).....	\$596,265
Avg. Sq. Ft List Price	\$216.62
Homes Under Contract Not Closed	6
Average Sold/Closed Price (4 Sales)	\$397,375
Avg. Sq. Ft. Sold/Closed Price	\$155.01
Average Days on Market	112



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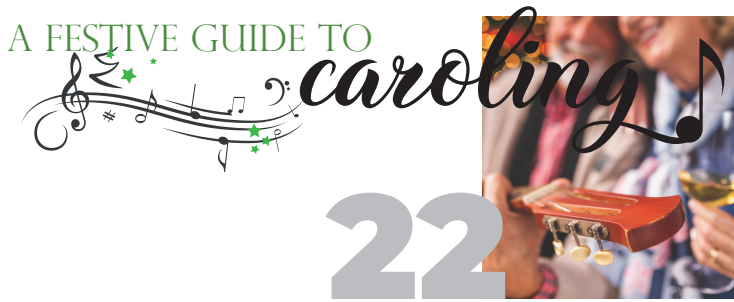
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Fairway is the official magazine of DeCordova Bend Estates and is distributed to each household every month. We strive to provide residents with news and information about events, activities and people in the community. The views expressed by contributors may not necessarily be those of Fairway Magazine or Hyde Media Group. All rights reserved and no part of this publication may be reproduced or copied in any form or by any means without the written permission of Hyde Media Group, LLC. © 2024.

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DeCordova Bend Estates is a gated golf course community with beautiful waterfront views located near Granbury, Texas. DeCordova is a popular choice for newcomers.

FAIRWAY MAGAZINE DEADLINES

If you have editorial or photography for Fairway, please write to Fairway@hcnews.com. The deadline for submissions is the first day of the month prior to publication date. EX: Jan. 1 for the February issue.

Advertising also closes on the 1st of the month prior to publication date. Contact Brittany.Bowers@hcnews.com or call 817-559-5099 and ask for Brittany Bowers.

DECORDOVA BEND ESTATES CLUBHOUSE

5301 Country Club Drive
817-326-2381

STAFF

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Matt Fleming	Administration matt@dcbeweb.com	223
Jessica Kirksey	Clubhouse Manager.....	232
Stephanie Garner	Membership Director & Architectural stephanie@dcbeweb.com	229
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DEPARTMENTS

Dining Reservations & Questions	682-498-1043
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Main Gate	301, 817-326-4640
North Gate	302, 817-326-5277
Fire Department (non-emergency)	817-326-2659
Waste Connections	940-328-1176

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, Dec. 12 at 5 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATES

No City Council meeting in December

ON THE COVER

ON THE COVER

Winners of the Granbury Education Foundation Fifty Fellas Food Fest are Matthew Butler and Ryan Payne. They won for best entrée.

Matthew and Ryan will be preparing their Birria tacos for an upcoming Taco Tuesday. Bring this magazine with you and save money! Watch your email for details.



MONTHLY COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

- Architectural Control** 2nd & 4th Thursday 8:30 a.m.
- Facility Maintenance Oversight**..... 2nd Thursday 6 p.m.
- Finance**..... 3rd Wednesday 8:30 a.m.
- Golf** 1st Friday 8:30 a.m.
- Legal By-Laws** 4th Tuesday 5 p.m.
- Long Range Planning**..... TBD
- Membership & Nominating** 1st Wednesday 2:30 p.m.
- Recreational** 1st Thursday 5 p.m.
- Security**..... 1st Wednesday 8:30 a.m.

TRAILER AND DUMPSTER STORAGE

NEW TRAILER STORAGE & DUMPSTER USAGE HOURS:

Members of DeCordova ONLY.
(No Contractors)

7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Thursday and Saturday.

For access to the area for trailers outside of these times, you will need to call either security gate at the below listed numbers.

Main Gate: 817-326-4640
North Gate: 817-326-5277

REMINDERS FOR USAGE

Dumpsters (Smaller Containers)

1. All items must be fully contained within the dumpster
2. No batteries
3. No tires
4. No roofing materials
5. No appliances with Freon
6. No gas-powered implements
7. No paint that is still liquid
8. Construction materials must be completely disassembled and cut into lengths of not more than three feet
9. All boxes must be broken down flat
10. No household garbage
11. No bagged leaves and grass clippings

12. No overstuffed furniture, mattresses or box springs
13. No large appliances (clothes or dish washers or dryers)
14. No Yard waste or Tree trimmings

30-yard Roll Off (Large Container)

1. No batteries
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3. No tires
4. No oil
5. No appliances with Freon in them, the appliance must be red tagged to show that the Freon has been professionally removed



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JM and Michele Simmonds
Founders and Owners

FIND THE GOLF BALL

Let's have some fun! Somewhere in this issue of Fairway, there is a hidden golf ball for readers to find. Hint: It's on one of the advertisements. This ball doesn't play fair so you may have to search high and low.

When you think you have spotted the ball, send us an email with your answer. The deadline is 5 p.m. on Dec. 10. No mulligans!

Email your guess and contact info to fairway@hcnews.com. Those with the correct answer will be entered into a random drawing for a \$100 gift certificate and four movie passes. Happy hunting!

Winners will receive a call from the DCBE office to notify them when the prize is ready for pick-up.



Want to Contribute to Your Neighborhood Magazine?

See something that makes you think "that ought to be in the magazine"? Send us ideas for stories or photos of friends, family, nature, wildlife, sports action, special moments, and you might see it in print!

A few tips: Photos should be high quality JPGs—at least 4x6 inches at 300 dpi. If you are sending them from a smart device, choose "Actual Size" or "Original Size" to send. Low resolution, out of focus, inappropriate or otherwise poor-quality photos, or those that have been heavily edited or filtered, will not be published. Contact us at fairway@hcnews.com.

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION:
All-Tex Insurance, p. 29

LAST MONTH'S WINNER:
Susan Ciskowski

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- ✓ **As-is**
- ✓ **Quick Close**



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FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

DeCordova Bend community,

December is a wonderful time of year. I can't wait to see the Christmas decorations as I drive to and from work each day.

Please make sure to read your weekly emails and social media posts to stay on top of what is happening at the club.

The year is about to change, and my plans for 2025 will certainly give you all something to see and do at DCBE!

Thank you all for your support and being a part of this incredible club!



YARD OF THE MONTH - OCTOBER 2024 **Congratulations!**

Mark and Gail Couger
4907 Grande Court



Jordan and Jonelta Welch
5410 Comanche Vista Trail



From my family to yours.

I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and joyous Christmas! What a day to celebrate after the gift that we have received. I am thankful for all that Christ has given me and my family, and we truly feel blessed to be in the light of Jesus who loved us beyond our own imagination. I am also blessed to be able to serve such an incredible membership here at DCBE. You all have shown so much support, and I can't tell you enough how grateful we are to serve DeCordova Bend Estates & Country Club.

The Bible says "God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that we may have eternal life" (John 3:16). What a Christmas gift! Better than any gift that can be produced, purchased or even received from the closest family. He also says "Whatever you do to the least of these, you have done unto me" (Matthew 25:40). This is our chance to show the love that has been freely given to us to those in our path, not only during this time but from this day forward.

I hope you all travel safely, love one another, and realize what blessings we all have. So, from my family to yours and from me to you,

God Bless you and yours always!

The Mulherins

REGISTER FOR CLASSES @ WC



SCAN QR CODE
TO VIEW SCHEDULE
OF CLASSES



REGISTRATION DATES FOR SPRING 2025

PRIORITY REGISTRATION: OCTOBER 29

CURRENT STUDENTS OPENS: NOVEMBER 5

NEW & TRANSFER STUDENTS OPENS: DECEMBER 3

**SPRING 2025 CLASSES
BEGIN JANUARY 13**



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Weatherford, TX 76086

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Hurst, TX 76053

817-595-4500


Aledo - Medspa

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Aledo, TX 76008

682-707-7455

DCBE PET CLUB

Angel Tree



On Nov. 9, the DCBE Pet Club had our Holiday Photo Shoot. At that time we set up our version of an “Angel Tree” for our local rescues—Hood County Animal Shelter, Friends for Animals, Second Chance Farm, and Texas Rescue Equine Xperience. The tree is set up outside of the Pro Shop.

To participate in this act of love and giving, please take your choice of ornaments off the tree and purchase the product noted on that ornament. Then write your name, email, and phone number on the back of the ornament and tape it to the product. Bring the product back to the club and place it in the pet pen next to the tree before the Dec. 15.

If you choose to donate gift cards or a monetary amount, there will be envelopes provided. Just insert your gift inside the envelope and hang it back on the tree before the Dec. 15.

December

ATTENTION ALL LADY GOLFERS

Hey, lady golfers! Come join the LGA here at DCBE. We play every Thursday morning with a tee time of 9:00 a.m. This is a great way to meet new friends and enjoy fellowship. Most ladies eat lunch and visit after play.

We have all skill levels of golfers. We have a group that plays nine holes and we have a group that plays 18 holes. There is a place for all skill levels.

Membership forms are available in the pro shop. Dues are \$40 annually. Please come join us!

9:00 A.M. START TIME NOVEMBER PLAY DAY SCHEDULE:

- Dec. 5 - LGA Christmas Party/Awards
- Dec. 12 - Pink Ball - ABCD
- Dec. 19 - Par4s Gross/Net
- Dec. 26 - Gross/Net

It's been a great year serving as LGA President. We have several new members and all our play days and tournaments have been successful!. Thanks to all the ladies and the pro shop for their help. Looking forward to next year as Judy Cordell takes over the reins. Come join us!
~Sonja Dildy.



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BIRTHDAY WISHES

December

Check the ForeTees app for the December birthday dinner date and time.



DEC 1

BABS CLAY
RAYMOND ELLISON
STEVEN HENDERSON
JACALYN HOPPER
JOEL REDDINGTON
KELLIE ROUTEN
BILL STEGLICH
KATHY VANDERZEE

DEC 2

JERRY CHAPPELLE
LEE ANN CHILES
JULIE CLOUTIER
JANET EVERITT
RICHARD GILLILAND
DAVE N. HARDIN
ANISSA HUCKERT
LISA MORROW
GLEN POYSER
DEBORAH RILEY

DEC 3

JAMES ALLEN
JILL BISHOP
JIMMIE CRAIN
JOE DAUGHERTY
MELVIN DOOLEY
ELLEN CHRISTINE EMMONS
JAY HEFFRON
CHRIS WIDNER

DEC 4

KYRIE AKERLEY
ANNE CUNNINGHAM
JASON DUDEK
DONICA SAWYER
ALEXANDER MLADENOVIC
KELLY REYNOLDS
CATHIE SHEPHERD

DEC 5

AL BISHOP
PATSY BROWN
JEFFREY MIKEL CHARBONNET
KAROL FRENCH
GENE GREGORY
CYNTHIA JEWELL
JERRY LEE MOFFITT
DIANNE NELSON

DEC 6

MYKEL HOLAHAN
PAULA MORRIS
BONNIE ODOM
JAMES RANDLE
TOM SHELTON
EARL WILLIAMS

DEC 7

VICKIE FIDLER
MARY HALL
NITA ROY
T.R. SARTOR
LAURIE SEYMOUR
BOBBY HICKS
JOSHUA WALKER

DEC 8

BRITTNY CELLARS
DEAN CHUMBLEY
RICKEY DOWNS
DAVID HUETT
STACY MITCHELL
TAYLOR NUSSER
LISSA OLIVER
SUSAN TAMPLEN
RONALD WILLIAMS
GEORGIA WOLFE

DEC 9

ALAN COSBY
SONJA DILDY
MARY JANE MALONE

DEC 10

NATHAN BURGER
SHAWN CHINN
MELINDA HUNTER-RIFE
ROGER LEWIS
RENEE S. METCALF
BROOKE MONTOKA

DEC 11

DINA CELLARS
RANDALL RIFE
DEDE JACOBY
PATRICIA SISCO

DEC 12

KERI KIRK

DEC 13

DEBRA DIXON
MICHAEL ENGLISH
CHET PHILLIPS
LAUREN REITER
BILL ROE
LARRY RUPP
KIM SAVOY
NICK SIMON
CHRISTINA STUTZ

DEC 14

MASON CERVENKA
RON GLASS
VERNON HORNELL
GERARD JOHANSEN
MICHAEL SOUTHARD
DENNIS STRINI

DEC 15

CATHY BROOKS
TAYLOR HANDY
WADE KILLOUGH
CYNTHIA LANGFORD
SHANE WHEELER
IAN WILLIAMS

DEC 16

PTINA DANIELS
BONITA WHITNEY
BILLY KEADLE
BRIAN LOVING
KAREN MCLEAN
TOMMY OSBORNE
CHERYL WOOTEN

DEC 17

BARRY BROWN
SUZETTE BUCHANAN
ALI BYRD
TEDDY CLOUD
CYNTHIA DOMBROWSKI
MARCIA GASTON
JENNIFER MIDDLETON
RICHARD MOURNING
FLOYD TUCKER
AUTUMN WILKINS
DEL KENNEDY

DEC 18

CATHY LYNN ADAMS
ALBERT ARCHER
BEVERLY ARCHER
CHERYL ELLIOTT
SHEILA HICKMAN
JESSICA KEY
COREY SHELTON
GRACE TORNIK
WANDA WAGGONER
MICHAEL WALLING

DEC 19

SAUNYA BISHOP
LOUELLEN BUTLER
JOHN DEAL
CHARITY DURST
PAT FEATHERSTON
KELLYE GODWIN
DAVID HUGGINS
JEAN LIMROTH
LORELIE WEBER

DEC 20

DON ASHLEY
WAYNE BURNS
CONNIE DONNACHIE
KEN HARRISON
MARGE HELGESEN
KAREN BOUDREAUX
WILLIAM PORTER

DEC 21

CLIFFORD BISHOP
JOHN BURGESS II
A.W. CRISP
LYNNE GREEN
DAVID KOECHEL
MARK LUTTRELL

DEC 22

SARAH CLEVELAND
FRED DRYSDALE
WILL GEISSLER
RICK DURMON
HAL MCLEOD
RODNEY MANN
FAUSTINO MARTINEZ
JAMES ORR
JEFFREY THORSTENSON
MILTON WALKER

DEC 23

MARION CASHIOLA
BRYAN CUNNINGHAM
SANDY DICKSON
BENNIE HUDGINS
CAROL MCKERNAN
DESTREY OWEN

DEC 24

MICHAEL BENGE
TODD CRAIN
LYNN KENDALL

DEC 25

NANCY BRADSHAW
AMANDA GARZA
RANDY GLASSCOCK
PAMELA NEWSOME
ANITA PALMER
MELISSA PELTON
CYRUS RICHIE
CAROL ROBINSON
ANDREW WISDOM

DEC 26

REX DAVIS
KENNETH PROSISE
WILLIAM RANSOM
DAVID TIDWELL

DEC 27

ELIZABETH AIKEN
LARRY BARCLAY
DONNIE CROWSON
LINDA DIXON
CAROLYN MCLEOD
JOYCE SMITH
JERRY TOWLES

DEC 28

ROGERS COLEMAN
RORY CORBELL
RODDY EATON
HAL GILL
JULI GUHL
LAWANDA HUNT
KATHY TOBLER
PHILIP VANNETTE
BECKY WERNETH

JACOB DILL
BROOKE DILL

DEC 29

VONDA CLERKE
CAROL G. HARDCASTLE
PAMELA GIFFORD
KIMBERLY JUDGE
MICHAEL LEWIS
DAMIAN MAJUTA
TERESA NOLLEY
CHERI PENN
VICKIE PIDGEON
WILLIAM REED
KATHY WILLIAMS

DEC 30

ROBERT HARRY
TERESA KINSEY
ANNIE LENORMAND
LINDA MAYS
VIRGINIA WALKER

DEC 31

NORMA BLOHOWIAK
LINDA BUBEL
LAURA BUSH
LINDA SUE DOWELL
LYNDA DUNN
DUNN
DANA GOODE
CHERYL LINDSAY
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KRIS ROE
NATHAN ROBNETT

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Wishing you and yours a Very Merry Christmas

Dear Decordova Bend Estates Membership,

As the Christmas season approaches, the Board of Directors kindly requests your support for the DCBE Employee Christmas Fund. This fund allows members to show their gratitude for the hard work and dedication of our employees.

Many of our employees work tirelessly to support their families or further their education. Your contribution to the Employee Christmas Fund will help make the holiday season brighter for their loved ones. We are truly grateful for the generosity shown by our members in previous years.

For new members seeking guidance on how much to contribute, previous donations have ranged from \$100 to \$200 or more, depending on Club usage.

Please indicate on the form provided the amount you wish to donate to this year's Employee Christmas Fund and return it by December 17th. Any donations received after this date will be equally distributed after the holidays. Thank you once again for your continued support.

Merry Christmas & God Bless to you and yours!

Matthew Mulherin GM/COO

and

DCBE Board of Directors

**Please detach and return the portion below to the Administrative Office
I wish to contribute to the Employee Christmas Fund as follows:**

\$100.00 _____ \$200.00 _____ Other \$ _____

Enclosed Check \$ _____ Charge my account \$ _____

Amounts may be charged in one sum or apportioned over three months. Please indicate your desired method. (Please indicate your DCBE member account number even if you are donating by check.)

Charge all to my January account

Charge to my January and February account

Charge to my January, February, and March account

Member Signature

Member Account #

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Sr. Client Relations Specialist

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DCBE ARTISTS

DCBE has many talented artists and photographers and our membership loves to view these works, whether you choose to sell or not. We have a professional hanging system in the clubhouse to display work and there is room for more. If you are interested in participating in our continuous show please contact Mary Jo Jung by phone or text at 817-688-8322, or by email at mjung17@gmail.com. If you have questions please reach out and a procedure form will be sent to you.



HOME RENOVATIONS ADDITIONS OUTDOOR PROJECTS

*No project too small
References Available*

-  Kitchen/ Bath remodels
 -  Painting/Flooring
 -  Outdoor Kitchens/ Fireplace
 -  Pergolas/Patios
 -  Home Modifications
 -  Ramps
 -  Hand Railing
 -  Grab Bars
- AND MUCH MORE!**

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SECURITY REPORT

October 2024

During the month of October 2024 security responded to 51 calls for service and issued 13 Notices of Rules Violations.

As Christmas approaches, we want to take a moment to wish you and your families a safe and enjoyable time. We appreciate your ongoing support and cooperation in helping us keep the community secure.

Knowing that we have your backing inspires us to go above and beyond in our efforts to ensure the safety and comfort of

all residents.

Thank you for being an integral part of the community. If there's ever anything we can do for you, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Thank you to everyone who has brought food and snacks to all the security personnel, your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a great start to the New Year!

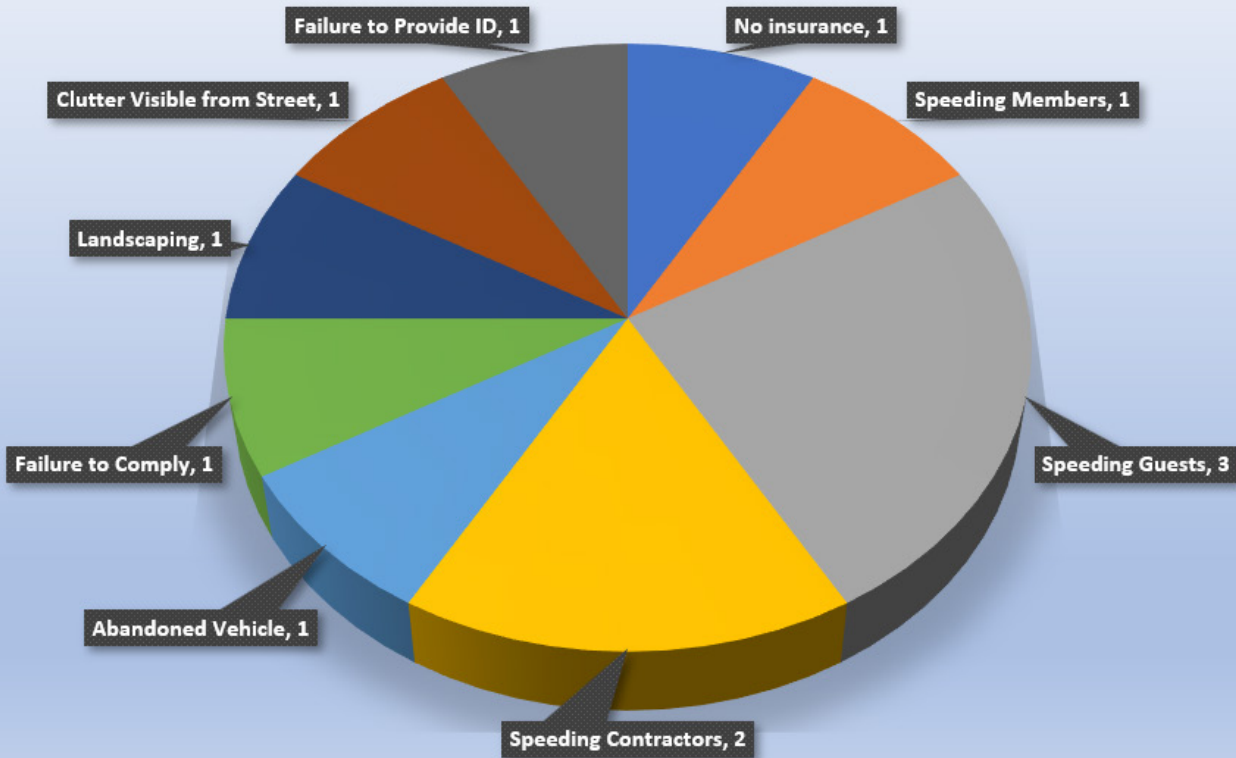
Synopsis Report Totals FYE 2024

Type Offense	Jan-24		Feb-24		Mar-24		Apr-24		May-24		Jun-24		Jul-24		Aug-24		Sep-24		Oct-24	
	Reports	NORV's	Reports	NORV's	Reports	NORV's	Reports	NORV's	Reports	NORV's	Reports	NORV's	Reports	NORV's	Reports	NORV's	Reports	NORV's	Reports	NORV's
Traffic																				
<i>Speeding</i>		6		2		2		6		2		4		3		3		2		6
<i>Misc. Traffic/Accident</i>	3		1		2				2		3		2		4		1		2	
<i>Hit/Broke Gate Arm</i>				1			1	1	1						2	1		2		
<i>Parking/Temp. Parking</i>	1	2	1	5	1	2	3		4		4		9		2	1	2		1	
<i>No Driver's License/INS.</i>		4					1	2												1
<i>Underage Driving</i>									1		1	1	2		1					
<i>Failure to Stop</i>																	1	1		
<i>Suspicious Vehicle</i>							1				2		2		1				1	
<i>Reckless Driving</i>					1	1	3		1						1	1				
Animals																				
<i>Barking Dog</i>	4	1			5	2	3	4			1	1	1		2		1		4	
<i>Leash Law</i>					1	1									2		3		1	
<i>Aggressive Animal</i>	1				2								1		1		1			
Incidents																				
<i>Trespassing</i>																				1
<i>Misconduct/Disorderly</i>			2	2	1	1	1	1			2	3	3	1						1
<i>Failure to Provide ID</i>																				1
<i>Dmstic. Disturbance</i>													1				1			
<i>Disturbances</i>			1														1			
<i>W Being Chks</i>	3		1		1		4		3		1		3		2		3			
<i>Member Assists</i>	42		32		52		54		47		24		16		10		2			
<i>Theft</i>									2											
<i>Burglary</i>									1											
<i>Medical Assists</i>	19		7		11		17		13		21		38		28		28		21	
<i>Misc. Rules Violations</i>	2	3	1	3		3			3	4			4	1	1	1	5		1	3
<i>Vandalism</i>					1				1											
<i>Noise Complaint</i>					1				1	1	1		4		2		1		4	
<i>False Alarm</i>	2				1				1	1	1		1		3		1		2	
<i>Failur to Comply</i>		1			1	1	3	1	1	1	1								1	1
<i>Assault</i>																				
<i>Unauthorized Entry</i>							1		1		3		2	1	4	1	1		4	
<i>Misc. Complaints</i>	6		5		5		5		6		7		7		7		5		4	
<i>Fireworks/Firearms</i>	1										1				2				1	
<i>Mischief</i>									1		2		4				4		2	
<i>Fire</i>																				1
<i>Burning on Property</i>	1		1										1							
<i>Suspicious Person</i>					2						3									
<i>Lost Child/Adult</i>					1						2									
Totals:	85	17	52	13	89	13	97	15	90	3	83	10	101	6	75	8	61	5	51	13

NORV - Notice of Rules Violation

Notice of Rules Violations

October 2024



■ Always call 911 first if you have an emergency

- North/Back Gate
817-326-5277
- Main/Front Gate
817-326-4640
- Security Office
817-326-2677

FROM THE CHIEF: ALWAYS AVAILABLE

I am asking all DCBE members to please contact me if you feel that security was unable to handle your complaint in an efficient professional manner so that I can address the situation. I am available 24/7 at 817-964-8114. You can also stop by my office or simply send me an email at chief@dcbeweb.com.



A FESTIVE GUIDE TO



caroling

Christmas caroling is a joyful tradition that has endured for centuries. Christmas caroling can be traced to the fourth century in Rome. Latin hymns were written to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Historians believe that even before the emergence of Christianity midwinter songs existed to lift people's spirits through the bleak weather and extended hours of darkness.

Christmas caroling continues to unite communities and spread holiday cheer through song. It is time to inspire a resurgence of caroling by planning to gather friends, family, or neighbors for a caroling session. This guide can help anyone plan a memorable caroling event.

GATHER YOUR GROUP

Begin by assembling a group of singers. No one needs to be an expert singer, as enthusiasm goes a long way. Reach out to friends, family, coworkers, and/or local community members. Try to get a diverse group of people together whose main goal is to have fun.

FIND THE RIGHT TIME AND DATE

Typically evening hours after work or during weekends are when you can reach the greatest number of people. The goal is to enable participants to relax and enjoy the experience.

MAP OUT A CAROLING ROUTE

Carefully identify neighborhoods or locations that are known for being festive. While the organizer may choose to carol around his or her own neighborhood, it may be possible to engage more of the community in other settings. Look at local nursing homes or even community centers as caroling locations. Contact businesses along Main Street to see if caroling in the center of town to coincide with holiday shopping may be a good idea.

COMPILE A LIST OF CLASSICS

Most people will want to hear the carols and other songs they know and love. Make a list of classic Christmas songs that aren't overly complicated and singers will already know how to sing, such as "Jingle Bells," "Deck the Halls," "Frosty the Snowman," and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." If a particularly accomplished singer is in the group, he or she might do a featured solo. Be sure to have printed copies of the lyrics and sheet music for all participants.

ENLIST SOME MUSICIANS

Although caroling is traditionally done a capella, having someone who plays an instrument, like a guitar or violin, can ensure everyone is on the right note and can keep the pace of each song.

PLAN TO REST

Singing can be joyful, but also tiring. Bring along refreshments so the carolers can rest their voices and stop to grab a drink or snack. Tea, coffee and cocoa can warm up participants on chilly days. Perhaps make one of the caroling stops in front of a local coffee shop and pop in after a set.

COORDINATE ATTIRE

Although everyone does not have to dress alike, a similar element, such as a red scarf or green mittens, can unite the group.

ADD A CHARITABLE ELEMENT

Consider incorporating a charitable aspect to the caroling. Collect financial or food donations for a local food pantry, or do a toy drive while caroling, encouraging people to offer a wrapped gift in exchange for some beautiful music.

Christmas music often sets the holiday scene, and carolers can bring familiar songs into neighborhoods this time of year.



New MEMBERS Welcome!

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- Charles Morrison
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- James & April Folsom
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SUDOKU

Sudoku is a popular logic-based puzzle game that has gained worldwide popularity. The objective of Sudoku is to fill a 9x9 grid with digits so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3x3 subgrids (also known as "regions") contain all of the digits from 1 to 9. The puzzle starts with some cells already filled with numbers, and the player must use logic and reasoning to fill in the remaining cells.

UNDERSTANDING THE GRID

The Sudoku grid consists of 81 cells arranged in a 9x9 layout. The grid is further divided into nine 3x3 subgrids, commonly referred to as regions.

THE OBJECTIVE

Your goal is to fill the entire grid with digits from 1 to 9. Each row, column, and region must contain all the digits from 1 to 9, without repetition. The puzzle starts with some cells already filled in with numbers. These numbers are the clues to help you solve the puzzle.

								8
		8			2		5	
	5			6		3	9	2
1	6			3				
		9	6	7	5	4		
				2			3	9
6	8	2		4			1	
	9		7			8		
7								

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UNIQUE NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATIONS ACROSS THE GLOBE

It is time to turn the page on one year and usher in another. Each December 31, people all over the world reminisce, celebrate, plan, and party in honor of the changing calendar.

Many are likely familiar with some of the common ways to ring in the new year, which include champagne toasts, fireworks and watching the ball drop in Times Square. Yet, there are many other ways to celebrate this occasion and welcome a new year with hope and good luck. Enjoy these ways to commemorate the start of 2025.

MAKE SOME NOISE

Although fireworks are commonplace on New Year's Eve in various locales around the world, in Thailand it once was traditional to fire guns to frighten off demons. National Thailand reports that it is no longer legal to fire weapons during New Year's Eve festivities, but other noisemakers can simulate the ancient tradition. Thailand also has its own New Year celebration in April called Songkran, a three-day event. It's customary to splash water and shoot colorful water guns, which is another idea for ringing in the new year.

SMASH POMEGRANATES FOR LUCK

Many have heard of smashing grapes to make wine, and the band Smashing Pumpkins has millions of devoted followers across the globe. The comic Gallagher used to smash watermelons on stage. But in Turkey, smashing a pomegranate outside your front door is said to bring good luck. The fruit is seen as a symbol of prosperity, abundance and health.

MAKE SOME GOOD LUCK "HOPPIN' JOHN"

Hoppin' John is a traditional New Year's Day dish from regions of the southern United States. The dish is made with black-eyed peas and pork bacon and is said to bring good luck to those who consume it for the new year, according to the Old Farmers Almanac.

CHOOSE HONEY-DIPPED APPLES

People can take a page from the Jewish New Year tradition, which sees celebrants dipping apples in honey for a sweet new year. Rosh Hashanah takes place in late summer or early fall because it follows the Hebrew lunisolar calendar. However, anyone can apply similar customs to the New Year's celebrations taking place each January 1.

PUT ON SOME POLKA DOTS

In the Philippines, wearing polka-dotted clothing on New Year's Eve is a tradition said to bring good fortune in the new year, according to Philstar Life.

WATCH A SUNRISE

Chances are many revelers are staying up late on New Year's Eve and into the next day, so they'll have ample opportunity to catch the sunrise. In Japan, watching the first sunrise of the new year is called "hatsuhinode," and is a practice thought to bring good fortune.

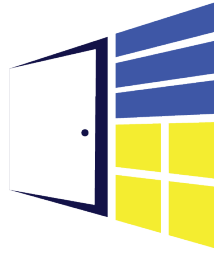
GRAB SOME CASH

There's a perpetuating superstition that it's better to have some extra money in your wallet to enter the New Year full of financial prosperity. Also, it's best to wipe out any unpaid debts before December 31 disappears; otherwise, the months ahead might not be financially sound.

New Year's traditions have persisted throughout the years and are borne of customs from all over the world.



Wearing polka-dotted clothing on New Year's Eve is a tradition said to bring good fortune in the new year.



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DECEMBER



Tuesdays

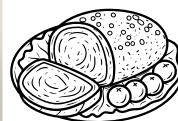
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A new CHEF in town



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Steve Mitchell is a Texas native with over 28 years of experience in the restaurant and hospitality industry. He is known for his masterful signature dishes and classic sauces infused with unique

combinations of spices and fresh herbs from around the world.

Steve was born in Fort Worth, Texas, but grew up in Wichita Falls, Texas. Chef Steve is married to Jana Mitchell, whom he has known since high school. She is a NICU nurse for Texas Health, and they have two boys, Gavin & Tyler Mitchell, who both graduated from UTA. After graduating from Wichita Falls High School and serving in the Marine Corps, he moved back to Fort Worth and began his career in the hospitality industry.

Chef Steve trained as an apprentice with a Culinary Institute of America graduate for 4 years. During this time, Steve honed his craft as Executive Chef for Lucile's Stateside Bistro, H-3 Ranch, and Executive Chef and Director of Operations at The Grille at The Harbor on Possum Kingdom Lake. He helped create, own, and develop Yucatan Taco Stand, Fuzzy's Taco Shop, Bistro 1031, DWF Culinary Service, and The Harbor Golf Club. At these establishments, Chef Steve was responsible for setting up food & beverage programs, writing menu recipes, and training young cooks to assist and mentor to their culinary dreams.

In addition to handling culinary operations, Chef

Steve has overseen large and small catering events, weddings, corporate events, multi-unit operations, private resorts, private jet catering, clubs, and in-home private chefs for soirées. He has also created new dishes, developed concepts, implemented opening operations, and prepared concepts for franchise partners. Steve has been published in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Fort Worth City's First Magazine, Top Chef, and Best New Restaurant. He has received awards from area food shows such as Big Brothers and Sisters, March of Dimes, and 65 Roses. Steve is a proud member of the Texas Chefs Association and the United States Personal Chefs Association.

With his experience in the restaurant, private club, and hospitality industry, Steve has a proven record in managing and developing luxury and restaurant projects. He has been involved in the operational development, marketing, and opening of 15 different restaurants, resorts, clubs, bars, and hotels in the DFW area, from commercial centers to vacation resorts, both regionally and nationally.



A wicker chair with a pink blanket and a patterned pillow on a wooden deck outdoors. The chair is positioned on a wooden deck with a patterned rug underneath. A pink blanket is draped over the chair and onto the rug. A black and white geometric patterned pillow is placed on the seat. To the right of the chair is a black wire lantern. In the background, there are green plants and a white wall. The overall scene is a cozy outdoor setting.

MAXIMIZE OUTDOOR SPACES THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

The holiday season comes at a time when the weather can be anywhere from cool to frigid. But even if the weather outside is somewhat frightful, holiday entertaining in outdoor spaces can still be delightful. Making the most of outdoor spaces during the holidays and the rest of the winter can enable guests to spread out, which should make things more comfortable for them. With that goal in mind, the following are some tips for putting outdoor areas to good use when hosting loved ones this holiday season.

DECORATE FIRST

An easy way to make outdoor entertaining spaces more welcoming is to coordinate the decor with the interior of the home. Greenery wrapped with lights around railings and fencing can create the perfect ambiance. Candles, wreaths and small, decorated Christmas trees can finish the effect.

CONSIDER A FIRE OR HEATING ELEMENT

Unless you live in a temperate climate, you'll need some way to keep guests warm. Center the outdoor entertaining space around a fire pit, outdoor fireplace or an outdoor heater. Make sure to illuminate the outdoor area so that guests can find their way around with ease.

HOST AN EARLY GATHERING

The sun sets early in fall and winter, so it may not only get colder, but also darker at a time when guests typically arrive. Think about moving up the start time of your holiday event if you'll be having an outdoor area, so guests can see one another and stay a little warmer.

USE THE GRILL

Keep foods warm by using the grill or an outdoor griddle; otherwise, set up the food buffet-style inside so guests can make their plates and gravitate where they feel comfortable.

PROVIDE BLANKETS OR FLEECES

In addition to warming elements around your entertaining space, stock a large basket with cozy throws, blankets or fleece jackets that guests can use to warm up. Hats and scarves also may be appreciated.

INVEST IN WATERPROOF FURNITURE

Upgrade your exterior seating with plush outdoor couches and lounges that are decked out in weather-resistant fabrics. Make them more comfortable with throw pillows that coordinate with a holiday entertaining theme.

SET UP TWO DRINK STATIONS

Set up beverages both inside and outside the home so guests can easily refill their drinks wherever they are relaxing. Think about having some warm drinks outside, such as mulled cider or hot chocolate, so guests can be warmed from the inside as well.

USE A WIRELESS SPEAKER

A Bluetooth-enabled wireless speaker placed outside allows guests to listen to holiday tunes while they are enjoying themselves.

Using well-equipped outdoor areas for entertaining can expand the possibilities and guest list for holiday gatherings.

ACROSS

- 1 in Hays County on I-35
- 5 Christmas carol
- 6 most Astro innings have 6 of these
- 7 Decatur is the seat of this county
- 8 TXism: "bright eyed bushy tailed"
- 9 TX-born Smith who won pole vault gold in 1948 (init.)
- 12 TX Willie's "On the Road _____"
- 17 TXism: "put _____ back burner"
- 19 high dollar areas at Cowboy games in AT&T Stadium
- 21 a direct flight, e.g.
- 22 TX-based "Chili's Grill _____"

- 46 TXism: "she has to stand _____ place twice to cast a shadow" (thin)
- 48 beneficial things
- 49 she swore in LBJ on Air Force One (3 wds.)
- 50 "menu mama" thank yous
- 51 former Eastland AM
- 52 Cowboys' confer.
- 53 "_____ It Romantic"
- 54 TX Trini sang "If _____ a Hammer"

DOWN

- 1 TXism: "what she don't _____ learning" (knowledgeable)
- 2 TXism: "he'll kick _____ a funeral home" (mean horse)
- 3 proper response to question, "Should we move from Texas?" (2 wds.)
- 4 "anything _____ you need?"
- 9 this Preminger directed TX Prentiss in "In Harm's Way"
- 10 some believe the Marfa lights are these (2 wds.)
- 11 Labor Day mo.

- 12 TXism: "fit _____ fiddle" (healthy)
- 13 Axl Rose group who played at old Texas Stadium (3 wds.)
- 14 senator's assistant
- 15 TXism: "let _____" (leave it alone)
- 16 TXism: "within ear shot"
- 18 nat'l eavesdropper
- 20 last yr. in h.s.
- 23 Houston Rocket star, Elvin (init.)
- 24 "Texas Monthly," e.g. (abbr.)
- 25 this McDaniel was first black Texas Secretary of State

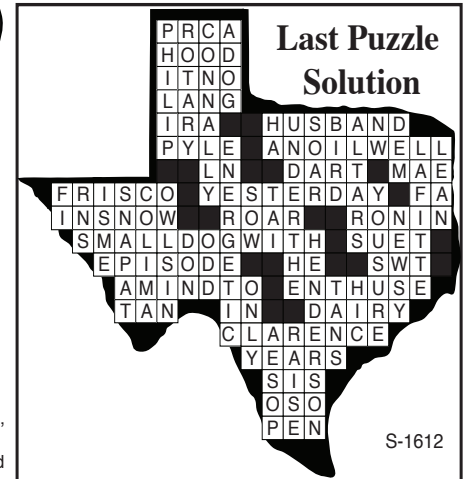
- 26 action of vomiting
- 27 TXism: "works from can't see _____ see" (hard worker)
- 32 Texas "Only the Lonely" singer (init.)
- 33 "____ Olde Shoppe"
- 34 first 2 init. of 25th governor, Colquitt
- 36 a way to go (abbr.)
- 37 expel
- 38 first flag over Texas
- 39 "Battle _____ Jacinto"
- 40 forcibly pull from a person's grasp
- 41 "surf the _____"
- 43 TX Bob Wills: "____ ha, take it away Leon"
- 45 this LB Darrin helped the Cowboys win 2 Super Bowls (init.)
- 47 abstains from
- 48 TXism: "happy as _____ on Santa's lap"
- 55 _____ gallon hat

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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Puzzle solution for Crossword Puzzle on page 32.



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ACROSS

- 1 professional cowboy assoc. (abbr.)
- 5 Granbury's county
- 6 TXism: "pay ___ never mind"
- 7 this k.d. & TX Roy Orbison won a "Crying" Grammy
- 8 Texans might have this retirement acct.
- 9 TX George W. to Laura
- 16 San Antonio street: "Gomer ___"
- 18 TXism: "if it ain't true, there ain't ___ in Texas"
- 21 this Liam started with TX Martin in "Leap of Faith" (init.)
- 22 Dallas public transportation co. (abbr.)
- 23 TX Wiley Post airplane: Winnie ___
- 24 in Collin County on highway 289
- 30 TXism: "fast enough to catch ___"
- 34 he danced with TX Ginger (init.)
- 35 where Texas kids don't get to play much (2 wds.)
- 36 lion sound
- 37 DeNiro action thriller film (1998)
- 39 TXism: "cautious as a ___ a big bone"
- 43 cattle fat
- 44 5/3/91 was the date of the final one for "Dallas"

- 45 TXism: "___ two-steps to his own beat"
- 46 Gov. ___ Lanham (1902-06)
- 47 TXism: "got ___" (inclined)
- 49 to make excited
- 52 TXism: "___ his hide"
- 53 TX Debbie Reynolds 1952 musical: "Singin' ___ the Rain"
- 54 milk farm

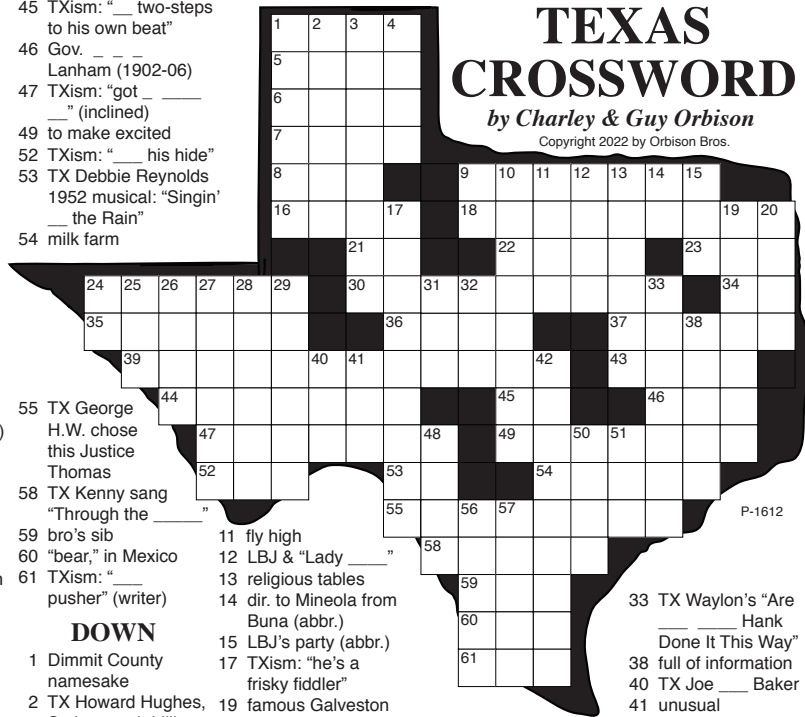
- 55 TX George H.W. chose this Justice Thomas
- 58 TX Kenny sang "Through the ___"
- 59 bro's sib
- 60 "bear," in Mexico
- 61 TXism: "___ pusher" (writer)

DOWN

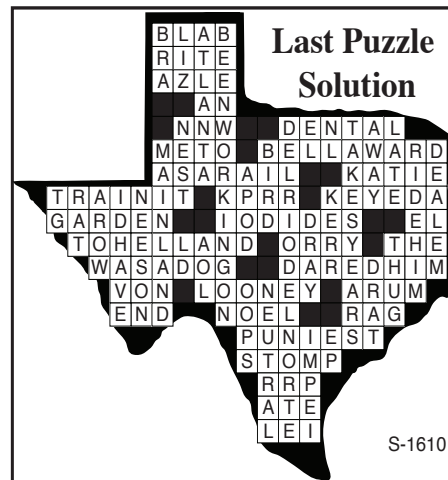
- 1 Dimmit County namesake
- 2 TX Howard Hughes, Sr. invented drilling ___ cone bit
- 3 39th governor, John
- 4 TXism: "if he's ___ he'll bark"
- 9 TX Wills: "Ah ___ take it away Leon"
- 10 TXism: "a hard dog to keep ___ porch"

- 11 fly high
- 12 LBJ & "Lady ___"
- 13 religious tables
- 14 dir. to Mineola from Buna (abbr.)
- 15 LBJ's party (abbr.)
- 17 TXism: "he's a frisky fiddler"
- 19 famous Galveston pirate Jean Mc___, TX
- 24 TX Roddenberry genre: sci-___
- 25 hospital nurses (abbr.)
- 26 "oh, woe ___"
- 27 what the grumpy dog might do to the pesky kid? (2 wds.)

- 28 Big Bend is only spot in U.S. where you can see this warbler
- 29 TXism: "watchful as ___ a tree"
- 31 female hog
- 32 martial art: ___ chi chuan
- 33 TX Waylon's "Are ___ Hank Done It This Way"
- 38 full of information
- 40 TX Joe ___ Baker
- 41 unusual
- 42 Rusk Co. seat
- 48 TX Roy Orbison's "___ the Lonely"
- 50 converts hides into leather
- 51 with "cup," an inhalation spasm
- 56 Greek fable teller
- 57 TXism: "___ a little cane"



Puzzle solution for Crossword Puzzle on page 31.



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REAL OR ARTIFICIAL?

The Christmas tree debate continues

People are passionate about the things they love. Through the years there have been many debates over a wide range of topics, from which cola brand to back to which book/movie character was more deserving of a lead character's heart.

The holiday season features a classic example of taking sides. The debate surrounding artificial Christmas trees and their natural alternatives will pick back up this holiday season. As with any debate, there are two sides to every story. Those on the fence as to whether to go real or fake this year can consider these pros and cons of each.

REAL TREE

Pros: One of the biggest advantages of a real tree is its pleasing aroma. The fresh pine smell of a natural tree can trigger memories of Christmases gone by and make a home feel cozy and holiday-ready. It takes many years for a Christmas tree to grow large enough to be harvested, and as it grows it provides a habitat for animals and benefits the planet by absorbing carbon and providing oxygen, according to Megan Quinn, coordinator of conservation biology at the Nature Conservancy of Canada. When trees are cut down, two or three may be planted in their place. Buying a real tree from a business nearby also supports the local economy.

Cons: Real trees can be messy and require upkeep like daily watering. Cutting down a tree oneself and bringing it home can help guarantee freshness, but there is really no way to know when trees at Christmas tree lots were cut down. This means that needles can begin falling the moment the tree is placed in the living room. Another thing to note is that live trees can't be placed just anywhere. They shouldn't be next to fireplaces or heat sources, where they can dry out prematurely and pose a fire risk. A real tree also might have unwelcome bugs or animals hiding within its branches. According to Penn State Extension, anything from spotted lanternflies to spiders to aphids to bark beetles or lice may be on a real tree.

ARTIFICIAL TREE

Pros: Artificial trees can be convenient because they are easy to assemble, disassemble and store. Plus, you don't have to venture out each year to get one. Unlike real trees, artificial trees do not require watering or vacuuming to manage fallen needles. Since artificial trees can be reused for numerous seasons, they may be more cost-effective than real trees. Artificial trees can last anywhere from six to 10 years, but that life span depends on the quality of the tree and how well it is maintained. Artificial trees also guarantee a uniform, pleasing look year after year.

Cons: Artificial trees are made from polyvinyl chloride and other plastics, and environmentalists attest that those ingredients make them bad for the environment. According to an assessment study of artificial versus natural trees published in 2009 by Ellipso, a Montreal-based sustainable development consulting firm, an artificial tree emits 8.1 kilograms of carbon dioxide per year, compared to 3.1 kilograms of carbon dioxide emitted by a real tree in a given year. In addition, the chemicals used in manufacture may have adverse effects on human health and often are non-recyclable. Artificial trees also take up room in homes year-round since they need to be stored. Plus, they don't emit a pleasing aroma.

The debate over a real or artificial Christmas tree is sure to rage on year after year, so it's up to holiday celebrants to make their pick





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COUNTING DOWN IN TIMES SQUARE

Each New Year's Eve, thousands of revelers gather at the intersection of Seventh Avenue, Broadway and 42nd Street in the heart of New York City's "Time Square" to count down the final moments of the year. Millions more watch the festivities on television. This annual tradition is something people look forward to each December, with many making pilgrimages from far and wide to stand outside for hours just to be at the crossroads of the world. According to the official website of Times Square, people began celebrating New Year's Eve in Times Square in 1904. However, it wasn't until 1907 that the New Year's Eve ball made its first descent from a flagpole atop One Times Square. The first ball was made of iron and wood and featured 100 25-watt light bulbs. Designed and operated by signmaker Jacob Starr, the initial ball weighed 700 pounds and was five feet in diameter. A ball has been lowered every year since 1907, except for in 1942 and 1943 in response to a wartime "dimout" of lights in NYC. Today's Time Square ball is much larger than its ancestor. The modern ball is a geodesic sphere, 12 feet in diameter, weighing 11,875 pounds. It's also covered with 2,688 crystal triangles that have a special sparkling pattern and are bolted to modules containing 32,256 LEDs. The Times Square ball was born out of the tradition of using a ball "dropping" to signal the passage of time. The first ball of this type was used at England's Royal Observatory at Greenwich in 1833, dropping at one o'clock every afternoon so that ship captains could set their chronometers.



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