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THE EDGEWATER SHORELINES

Holiday Safety Tips for Trees, Decorations & Gifts

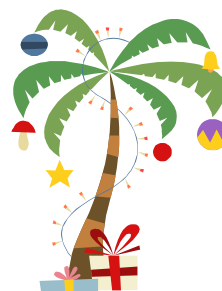
Real and artificial Christmas trees caused 210 fires in the years from 2002-2005 with an average of 24 civilian deaths related to those fires. Direct property damage in excess of \$13 million dollars was attributed to fires involving Christmas trees. Edgewater Fire-Rescue offers the following holiday safety tips:

Trees

- When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label "fire resistant". Although this label does not mean the tree won't catch fire, it does indicate the tree will resist burning and should extinguish quickly.
- When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. A fresh tree is green,

needles are hard to pull from branches and when bent between your fingers, needles do not break. The trunk of a fresh tree is sticky with resin, and when bounced on the ground, the tree should not lose many needles.

- Heated rooms dry live trees out rapidly so be sure to keep the stand filled with water. Place the tree out of the way of traffic and do not block doorways.
- Indoors or outside, use only lights that have been tested for safety by a recognized testing laboratory. Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare



Have a Merry (and safe) Christmas!

- wires, and discard damaged sets.
- Unplug all lights and decorations when you go to bed or leave the house. The lights could short out and start a fire.

(Continued on page 2)

Celebrate New Year's Eve Safely

Americans who drink and drive after holiday parties and festivities make the period between Thanksgiving and New Year's one of the year's most deadly and dangerous seasons due to alcohol-related crashes. The tragedies and costs from drinking and driving impaired do not just end at the potential death, disfigure-

ment, disability and injury caused by impaired drivers. Driving impaired or riding with someone who is impaired is simply not worth the risk. The consequences are serious and real. Not only do you risk killing yourself or someone else, but the trauma and financial costs of a crash or an arrest for driving while impaired can be

very significant and life altering.

Edgewater Fire-Rescue offers the following tips to ensure a safe and fun New Year's Eve celebration for you, your family and friends:

- Plan ahead and always designate a sober driver before the party or cele-

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

Holiday Safety Tips con't	2
Casual Gardening Series/Florida Wildflowers	2
Celebrate New Year's Eve Safely con't	2
Attend America's Boating Course	3
Gifts of Love Makes Christmas Merrier	3
Utility Bill Payment Options	3
Artist of the Month/Clean Culverts/FFA Christmas Tree Sale/Library Board Needs Members/Little League	4
Edgewater Christmas Parade	4

Special points of interest:

- Unplug all holidays lights and decorations when you go to bed or leave the house.
- Don't drive intoxicated on New Year's Eve; have a designated driver.
- Learn about Florida wildflowers on Dec. 16, 10 am, Menard Park, FREE seminar.
- Attend "America's Boating Course" on Jan. 17 & 24, 2009, and get your boating license. Call 424-2487 for info.
- Give to Gifts of Love, call (386) 423-5257.

Holiday Safety Tips for Trees, Decorations & Gifts

(Continued from page 1)

Decorations

- Don't use tinsel which is easy for children to swallow
- Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other evergreens.
- In homes with small children, take special care to avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable, keep trimmings with small removable parts out of reach of children and avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food that may tempt a child to eat them.
- Wear gloves to avoid eye and skin irritation while decorating with spun glass "angel hair". Follow container directions carefully avoiding lung irritation when decorating with artificial snow sprays.
- Some plants, such as mistletoe (and its berries), holly and poinsettia can

be toxic. Keep away from babies, small children and pets.

Toys

- "Think big" when choosing toys for small children – avoid small parts that could be a choking hazard.
- Look for stuffed animals with eyes, noses or other decorations that are sewn on securely .
- Most toys have an age recommendation on the label; suggest that gift givers look for the appropriate age level for your child.

Gifts of safety

- Fire extinguisher – for home, vehicle or boat.
- Bike helmet – not just for bikes but also for skates, skateboards and scooters.
- Flashlight – for home or vehicle.

- Smoke alarm – no home should be without one.
- Keyboard wrist support – to go with computer gifts.
- Earplugs and safety glasses – to go with power tool gifts.
- CPR and first aid classes – the gift that could give the gift of life.



Santa says, "Follow age recommendations on toys for children."

Information Prepared by: Lt. Jill Danigel, Fire Marshal

Phone: 386-424-2445

FREE Casual Gardening Series-The City of Edgewater Leisure Services Dept, in cooperation with the University of Florida Extension Center Master Gardener's Program, present a monthly series of FREE seminars. Casual Gardening will be held on the third Tuesday of each month, 10 am, at Menard Park, 413 S. Riverisde Dr., through May. Come out on Tuesday, December 16, 2008, and learn about Florida Wildflowers. Master Gardeners Mary Silver and Gloria Flauhaut will discuss the benefits and beauty of gardening with native wildflowers. If weather is inclement, the program will be held in the Community Center, 102 N. Riverside Dr., Edgewater. Pre-registration is requested. To register, or for additional information, contact Edgewater Leisure Services at (386) 424-2487 or email cmoeller@cityofedgewater.org.

Celebrate New Year's Eve Safely

(Continued from page 1)

- bration begins.
- Don't even think about getting behind the wheel of your vehicle if you are impaired.
- If you are impaired - call a taxi, get a sober friend or family member to come and get you or just stay where you are and sleep it off until you are sober.
- Take the keys and never let a friend leave your sight if you think they are about to drive while impaired. If you are hosting a New Year's party, remind your guests to plan ahead and designate their sober driver, always offer alcohol-free beverages during the event, and make sure all of your

guests leave with a sober driver.

- Do not fire any weapons into the air as a form of celebration. This is against the law and extremely dangerous.
- Firecrackers, torpedoes, skyrocketes, roman candles, daygo bombs any fireworks containing explosive or flammable compounds are specifically prohibited.

Use only fireworks approved by the Florida Division of State Fire Marshal. Devices approved and listed by the State Fire Marshal:

1. Can emit a shower of sparks upon burning



Celebrate safely!

2. Cannot contain any explosive compounds
3. Cannot detonate or explode
4. Must be hand held or ground based
Cannot propel themselves through the air.

Information Prepared by: Lt. Jill Danigel, Fire Marshal

Phone: 386-424-2445

Resolve to Boat Safely-Attend America's Boating Course

Offered by US Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 48 on two (2) consecutive Saturdays in Jan, America's Boating Course provides instruction on safe boating procedures and successful completion guarantees participants their boating license. In fact, Florida law requires all operators of motorized watercrafts, ages 21 years and younger, to complete and pass a safe boating course.

This two-day class is being offered on Jan. 17 and Jan. 24, 2009, 8:30 am-1 pm, at the Community Center, 102 N. Riverside Dr., Edgewater.

Parents, bring your young boater and participate together! The fee is \$35, per person, and includes study and testing material.

Coast Guard Auxiliary members are men and women who participate in regular water patrols, perform vessel checks, teach safe boating classes, visit marine dealers to distribute boating materials, stand communications watches and perform other duties regarding boating safety.

On any given weekend, members are on the water patrolling (the Intracoastal Waterway and offshore), helping someone in distress, doing on-site vessel examinations and giving directions or just a simple wave and smile.

Pre-registration is required. Please call Harry Munns, USCG Aux., at (386) 428-6532, Christi Moeller, Leisure Services, (386) 424-2485 or email cmoeller@cityofedgewater.org to regis-

ter.

Hosted by Edgewater Leisure Services.



Lee Brock, Shirley Hagerty, Art Poole and Lasca Ramroth, of US Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 48.

Gifts of Love Makes Christmas Merrier

As a food bank, Gifts of Love helps people in need every Tuesday and Thursday, 52 weeks a year. Open from 9:30 am – 2:30 pm, and located at 820 W. Park Ave., the local non-profit specifically serves individuals and families in the southeast Volusia area that includes Edgewater, New Smyrna Beach and Oak Hill.

As the Christmas season draws near, their services include providing presents for families who need a hand. Applicants must meet specific guidelines including residency and income. A representative

of the aid organization said the requests for assistance this year is close to double that of last year.

Individuals, churches and civic groups who want to help have many options. Cash and checks are gladly accepted and can be mailed directly to Gifts of Love. Some contributors are making memorial and honorary donations. This is a great way for people to honor a special occasion or the memory of a loved one.

Non-perishable food and monetary donations can be taken to Gifts of Love, 820

W. Park Ave., Tues and Thurs, 9:30 am-2:30 pm, all year, and donations are tax-deductible.

The New Smyrna Beach Board of Realtors, 725 W. Canal St., New Smyrna Beach, and their affiliated offices are drop-off sites for non-perishable food items, accepted year-round.

Another option for helping at Christmas is by "adopting" a family. This means an individual or group commits to provide the items requested by a particular family, *(Continued on page 4)*

Utility Bill Payment Options

The City of Edgewater offers its Citizens five easy and convenient methods to pay their utility bills.

By mail - You can utilize the supplied envelope every month to return your payment.

In Person - You can come into City Hall located at 104 N. Riverside Drive to make your payment in person.

By phone - You can call Utility Billing at 424-2400, Option 2, to speak with a member of the Finance Department. There is a \$5.00 convenience fee for this service.

Online - At www.cityofedgewater.org/online_svcs/index.php.

By Payment Drop Box - It is now located in the north City Hall parking lot.



Utility customers have a new after-hours drop box at city hall.

DECEMBER ARTIST OF THE MONTH

Painter/Instructor John O'Brien, has been teaching watercolor at the Artists' Workshop since 1989. His students are given a 'grounding' in color, composition and old fashioned drawing as opposed to other "popular teaching methods of throwing paint around and then deciding what it is". O'Brien was an adjunct instructor in design at DBCC and has demonstrated painting techniques and judged art shows throughout Central Florida. While living in Texas, he worked on the design of the Texas Agriculture Pavilion at the Texas State Fair. His acrylic of the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge was selected for the AARP Foundation 2008 Calendar; one of only 14 pieces chosen from nearly 1000 entries. O'Brien started teaching a class in acrylics this year at the Artists' Workshop in New Smyrna Beach. A variety of John O'Brien's watercolor and acrylic paintings will be on display during the month of December in the Art Exhibit Room of the Edgewater Historical Museum, 1108 S. Ridgewood Ave, 8 am-4 pm, Monday-Friday.



Southeast Volusia Little League will begin registration for the spring season in January 2009. There will be additional information in the January newsletter and you can also check the little league website at www.eteamz.com/sevll.

Reminder to Residents to Clean Culverts-2008 was a very busy hurricane season. Tropical Storm Fay showed the need for pro-active maintenance of drainage systems. Many residents have a culvert (pipe) under their driveway. This culvert is part of the City's stormwater system. These culverts can get clogged with grass, dirt and silt and may cause flooding by preventing water flow to nearby drainage ditches. Residents can assist the City, and their neighbors, by removing debris from the culverts when weather conditions are favorable; during dry periods. Routine inspection of the culvert in your yard, and subsequent removal of debris, may help avert flooding at your home and in your neighborhood. For additional information on the City's stormwater system, contact Environmental Services at (386) 424-2476.

FFA Alumni Christmas Tree Sale-NSB High School FFA Alumni will begin their annual Christmas Tree sale on Nov. 28, 2008, at 121 Wallace Road, New Smyrna Beach. All proceeds benefit students of NSB High School. The sale will continue until all the trees are gone. For additional information, contact Robert Roach at 386-402-1120.

Library Board Needs You-The purpose of the **Library Board** is to review, discuss and recommend policies and funding, and encourage gifts to the Library. This Board works actively for improvements to all libraries. If you are interested in volunteering, the Board has two (2) openings. Applications can be obtained from the City's website (www.cityofedgewater.org), City Clerk Bonnie Wenzel (386-424-2400 ext. 1101), or at Edgewater City Hall, 104 N. Riverside Dr. There are other opportunities to serve the community on a city board. Some are the Animal Control board, Citizen Code Enforcement Board, Economic Development Board, Planning & Zoning Board and many others. For a complete list go to the City's website or contact the City Clerk.

Gifts of Love Makes Christmas Merrier

(Continued from page 3)
either by directly purchasing those items or providing gift certificates and allowing the family to buy the items themselves. Contact Gifts of Love for more information on adopting a family.

Gifts of Love also accepts new, wrapped and unwrapped toy donations during their operating hours. They request if the toy is wrapped that it be clearly identified as a boy or girl gift and also the age appropriateness.

The Edgewater Fire/Rescue Association is sponsoring a food and toy drive from Nov. 29 through Dec. 25, in cooperation with Gifts of Love. Residents may take non-perishable food items and new, unwrapped toys to Fire Station 55, 1605 S.

Ridgewood Ave., seven (7) days a week. If no one is available to accept the items, they can be placed in marked barrels outside the truck bay.

If you need additional information about donating or receiving assistance, call Gifts of Love, Tues or Thurs, 9:20 am-2:30 pm, at (386) 423-5257

Gifts of Love accepts donations of food to distribute to families in need in Southeast Volusia County. Donations can be taken to the Gifts of Love Office located at 820 W. Park Ave., directly east of the Elks Lodge, 9:30 am-2:30 pm, Tues and Thurs, or call (386) 423-5257.

Edgewater's Annual Christmas Parade

The City of Edgewater Leisure Services Department will host the 18th Annual Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 13, 2008, beginning at 10 am. The parade will begin on Indian River Boulevard (SR 442) at Air Park Rd. and travel east to Florida Shores Plaza, where it will disperse. Residents line the parade route early in eager anticipation of festive floats and the arrival of Santa Claus. Children know to bring a sack to collect some of the hundreds of pounds of candy that are thrown from parade entries. Leisure Services would like to remind parade participants that all walkers must remain behind the float entries. NO ONE is to walk on either side of a float. If your business or organization would like to participate, contact Leisure Services at (386) 424-2485