

Amargosa Valley Newsletter

"All the news that's fit to print (maybe)"

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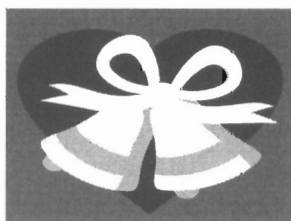
CHRISTMAS IN THE NIGHT TIME SKY

Our annual "Christmas in the Nighttime Sky" will be held on Saturday, December 1, 2007. This will be the fourth year that we have held this event and each year the success has grown. The toys collected from this event go to the children in our Town who would not have a Christmas if not for your support. So please make plans to join us and bring a new unwrapped toy to help a child enjoy Christmas. Santa will be here so the children can get their pictures taken with him beginning at 2:00 P.M... The fireworks show will begin approximately 5:45 P.M. There will be homemade soup, hot chocolate and other concessions for sale beginning at 5:00 P.M. We will end the night with a bonfire, marshmallow roasting and Christmas caroling.

If you are interested in volunteering to help with this event, please contact Shelly at the Town Office 372-5459. As always thank you for your never ending support

WISHING YOU MANY MORE HAPPY YEARS TOGETHER

***Congratulations to Dale and Karene Black
on 27 years of marriage.
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
12-31-2007***



FROM THIS CORNER OF THE WORLD

By: Jan Cameron

As some of you know, this is my favorite time of year. I love the holidays. I decorate every decorate-able space inside my house and do cards to all of those out-of-towners. I am one of those disgusting people who do most of my shopping for the next year in the after-Christmas sales, wrap gifts in October and ship them off on November 1. My sister always says that she knows to start shopping when she gets my box. And I love entertaining—having over people who might not otherwise get a special dinner and other special people.

Those of us who can have the joy of the holidays are really very privileged. There are many who aren't.

This community tries to help out. Churches do food baskets and gift donations. The Senior Center provides small gifts to home-bounds and does a gift exchange. The Horizon Academy organizes a Toys for Tots event (Sat., Dec. 1; see article) and the Town does Christmas in the Nighttime Sky (also Dec. 1; see article). Both events collect presents for children and youth who might not otherwise get any.

Each of these efforts could use your help. The holidays really are about giving. So give, if you can. And if you can't, at least come share in the spirit of these events—and share a smile, a hug, a friendly chat. Share love. Have a very Merry Christmas and a great 2008.

TIPS FOR KEEPING SAFE DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON

From the Amargosa Volunteer Fire Department

Amargosa residents are more safety conscious than city folk, but we go to town to shop for gifts. How can we protect ourselves and our families from accidents and injuries this joyous time of year? By taking a common sense approach, from the driving to home, that will add to your safety.

Driving

Probably the best suggestion about holiday driving is to give yourself extra time. The roads and stores will be crowded with shoppers and the arrival of the "snowbirds". There is road construction in and around Las Vegas that is causing congestion and other unexpected problems. When an emergency vehicle approaches with lights and siren on, safely and carefully pull your vehicle as far right as you can and stop until they have passed. Look for any additional emergency vehicles following the first one before pulling back into your lane of traffic. Once at the store, do not park or wait in the fire lane, which is designated for quick access by emergency personnel to gain entry into the building. While discussing driving, let's not forget that drinking and driving do not mix. If you intend to drink, please have a designated driver to see that you get home safely. Watching out for the other driver is especially true during the holiday-party season, they may not be sober.

Decorative lights and candles

Nothing brings about the festive spirit of the holidays like decorative lighting. The lights should be checked and tested each year for loose connections or cracked insulation due to our dry climate. If you are not sure the lights are safe, replace them with a string that has been approved by a reputable testing laboratory such as Underwriters' Laboratory or Factory Mutual. Most lights can have no more than 3 strings plugged together before overloading the thin gauge electric wire, always read and follow the manufacturer's directions. Outdoor lights should be fastened with plastic hangers not staples or nails. The winds in our valley can rub the insulation bare under the staple or nail, resulting in a short circuit that might cause a fire.

Holiday candles should never be left lit if nobody is in the room, they are notorious for tipping as they burn and can easily ignite surrounding

decorations. Candles and open flames should never be used on trees or other decorative vegetation. Luminaries are a tradition in our valley, but care must be taken in their design. If you use the traditional brown paper bag method you might want to place the candle inside a glass jar and then weight the bag with sand as additional protection against the wind blowing the luminary over and causing a fire. Electric or battery powered luminaries give similar appearances to candles.

Trees and indoor decorations

Cut and live trees require special care when brought into the home. Cut trees should be purchased from a reliable dealer who can tell you where and when they were cut. Beware of trees that have been spray-painted to appear fresher than they really are. Check to see if the needles are pliable and not loose. Before bring a cut tree inside make a new cut across the tree trunk, at least 1/2 inch above the original cut. Keep the tree in a stand that holds at least a 2-day supply of water, and refill it daily. If the tree becomes dry remove it from the building; even well watered live trees dry out in the house and should be removed for planting after the holidays. The stand must prevent the tree from tipping over; small children and pets have knocked a tree over causing fires.

Trees should be located away from heat registers, space heaters or other things which will dry them out very rapidly. Trees have a natural resin that is highly combustible; this is why they are not allowed in public buildings. We saw the fury of the forest fires; imagine how quickly a tree inside a building would burn. Do not place a tree, either live or artificial, near the normal exits of your home. Blocked doors and hallways make escape difficult from even the smallest fire. **If you have a fire get all people out of the home then call 911 from a neighbor's phone, never go back into a burning building.**

3 Other holiday thoughts

Remember to pay attention to children during the holiday season, especially toddlers who put every new thing into their mouths. Parents need to make home decorations as childproof as possible to avoid injuries.

Do not burn wrapping paper or boxes in the fireplace or pellet stove. The chimney is not designed to handle the heat generated from burning paper products and could cause a fire.

Senior citizens may feel the holidays are their loneliest time of the year. Rather than feeling the joy of the season, many feel isolated and maybe even depressed. Brighten someone's day by remembering a neighbor who may not have the same opportunities to celebrate the holidays with their family and friends.

GIRLS NIGHT OUT

Want to learn a new skill, have fun, meet other people, exercise your brain? Maybe you already know the skill. Come out and play pool. Every 4th. Wednesday a fun, dynamic group meet @ the VFW @ 6:00 P.M. to play. It's a \$5.00 fee that's divided between the top 3 players. It's a supportive group with stronger players willing to give you tips on how to play to improve your skills.

ARTS AND CRAFTS

Wednesday from 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. it's arts and crafts @ the Senior Center. You need not be a senior to join this group. Come and work on your own project or learn a new one from others there. There is painting, beading, knitting, crocheting, card making etc. Meet other people and have fun.

PICTURES WITH SANTA

Sponsored by:
Amargosa Volunteer E.M.T.'s

We all know how busy Santa is at this time of year so we have asked that he be in Town on 3 different days this year so that every kid in town has a chance to get their picture taken. The schedule for Santa this year is:

12-01-2007 2:00 P.M. Amargosa Park
12-08-2007 9:00 A.M. Longstreet
12-11-2007 7:00 P.M. Community Center

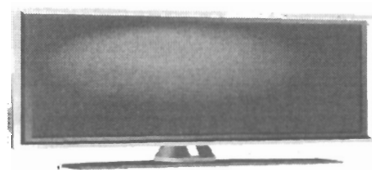
SENIORS CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS

On Wednesday, December 19th, the Amargosa Seniors will celebrate Christmas. The Senior Center will have a special dinner. And the seniors who attend will have a blind gift exchange. If you want to participate, bring a wrapped, unisex gift, costing \$10 or less, to dinner at 4:00 P.M. At about 5:00 P.M., those who are participating will draw numbers to pick gifts, steal a few, and finally open the ones that end up in our possession. Previous years, we have had a lot of fun and have had a lot of laughs. And, if you don't like your gift, you can "regift" it at the Ugly Present Exchange in January!

We also send small gifts home to those who cannot join us for dinner—the home-bounds. If you would like to donate a gift for a home-bound (we have approximately 10 men and 4 women to whom we regularly deliver meals), please bring it to the Senior Center any weekday afternoon before December 19th. Thank you for your help. And thank you for your support throughout the year.

LADIES AUXILIARY CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

The VFW Ladies Auxiliary will hold the drawing for a 20" RCA Flat Screen TV-DVD Combo on Saturday, December 15, 2007. There are several other fabulous prizes so be sure and get your raffle tickets. Tickets are available at the VFW Post, Town Office or any member of the Ladies Auxiliary.



NEWS FROM AMARGOSA VALLEY SCHOOLS...

The Christmas Raffle is to raise funds to purchase books for the RIF distribution. We give each child a free book twice a year, so we need funds to purchase these books. The students will be selling tickets for a decorated Christmas Tree with ornaments that the students made. All the decorating will be made by the students. The community is invited to our annual Holiday Program on the 11th. Santa will make an appearance and pictures will be available.

Amargosa Valley School is ready for December. Please mark your calendars for some Holiday Spirit.

December 1, through December 19, 2007
Christmas Raffle,
Books for Students

December 6, 2007
D.A.R.E. Graduation
5th Grade

December 11, 2007
AVS Holiday Program
Community Center, 6: 30 PM

December 14, 2007
AVS Staff Holiday Party
Community Center, 6:00 PM

December 19, 2007
Drawing for the Christmas Tree

December 21, 2007
Last Day of School
Classroom Parties

BOBCATS & COYOTES

If you encounter a bobcat or coyote please contact the Sheriff's Office at 372-5345. A deputy will be dispatched to the location so that the animal can be removed from your property. It is not always necessary to destroy these animals, they can be trapped and relocated. Always remember, do not approach the animal, make sure children are not near the animal and call for assistance from a deputy 372-5345.

A GREAT IDEA

When you are making out your Christmas card list this year, please include the following:

**A Recovering American Soldier
c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20307-5001**

***NEW SERVICE IN TOWN
BABYSITTING OR HANDYMAN
CONTACT
GINGER LEWIS
372-5135***

***CONGRATULATIONS TO
JAN CAMERON & AARON LYNN ON
THEIR RE-ELECTION TO THE
AMARGOSA TOWN ADVISORY BOARD
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ON-GOING
SUPPORT AND SERVICE TO
AMARGOSA VALLEY***

