



District News

January 2017

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Upcoming Events January

2017
HAPPY NEW YEAR

2nd — Office Closed for Holiday
17th — Regular Board Meeting

Christmas Tree Recycling

It's time to say goodbye to Christmas, but don't toss that live Christmas tree out on the curb just yet. Why not get more use out of it while doing something good for the environment?

Replanting

Tree conservationists may have purchased rooted Christmas trees that can simply be replanted in the yard or donated to an Arbor organization for replanting.

The Arbor Day Foundation lists the four most popular live Christmas Trees as: the Scots Pine, the Douglas fir, the Balsam Fir, and the Fraser Fir.

Recycling

Share the seasonal joy by creating a playhouse in your back yard for the birds. Make sure the tree is devoid of dangerous items such as tinsel and place it outside. For extra stability, insert a piece of plastic pipe within the

ground, and place the trunk inside the pipe. Make sure pipe is wide enough to accommodate the trunk.

Add bird feeders and some strings of popcorn to provide the birds with their own winter paradise. For an extra yummy bird treat spread a few of the small branches with peanut butter or margarine and coat with bird seed. Once winter is over the tree will completely dry out, and you should be able to break it into pieces by hand.

Crafts

Combine pine needles with potpourri to create scented sachets. Use them to freshen your home or give them as gifts. If sewing is not in your skillset, just add pine cones and place the contents into a decorative bowl.

Another alternative is to saw the trunk into small discs and use them to edge the garden, flower beds or walkways. Carpentry and wood enthusiasts may

Become a Rainfall Volunteer Today

Want to help us track rainfall in Trophy Club? Become a Rainfall Volunteer today. The District uses the data to create the weekly Rainfall Around Town reports and Year-to-Year rainfall comparisons.

Each week, the Lawn Whisperer makes watering recommendations for lawns in the area, but the rainfall data collected by our volunteers serves as a watering guide as well, by confirming the amount of rainfall our area actually received.

The volunteer process is simple. Each time it rains, volunteers collect and

submit the total amount of rain received during the previous 24-hour period, i.e. rainfall presented for Monday morning is actually rainfall collected from Sunday morning to Monday morning.

Rainfall data must be timely submitted by 10 a.m. on the following day to be included in the report.

Although some rainfall volunteers report figures from their own weather stations, each volunteer is provided with one (1) free basic rain gauge to get started. To become a rainfall volunteer, contact mwilliams@tcmud.org or call (682) 831-4670 for more information.

Christmas Tree Recycling, continued

be able to use the trunk for whittling, or get creative and make coasters. Just be sure to coat the finished design with polyurethane to keep the sap from escaping.

There are numerous videos on how to cat proof your Christmas tree, but with a little work it is even possible to convert the branches of your old Christmas tree into a cat tree by adding carpet or fabric swatches, rope, and plywood.

Fish Habitat

Pond owners may create hiding spaces for fish by placing pieces of the tree along the bottom of the pond. **To avoid endangering the fish, it is important to make sure the tree has not been chemically treated or sprayed with pesticides.**

Plant Stakes

Tree branches can be stripped of their pine needles and used to create stakes to support indoor

potted plants. This provides a sturdy, cheaper alternative to store-bought stakes.

Never burn tree branches in the fireplace. Also, do not use wood from the tree in the fireplace. The sap within the wood can produce smoke and tar buildup and result in a dangerous chimney fire.

Mulching

Mulching is the most popular way to recycle Christmas trees. If you have a wood chipper, remove the pine needles and grind the tree into mulch. The mulch can then be used to provide protection for shrubs and trees.

Once it decomposes, it will add valuable nutrients to the soil and aid against the growth of weeds. Mulch can also be used to cover garden pathways.

If you do not have a wood chipper, your local trash service may have plans to grind Christmas trees up

into mulch. Remove all ornaments and contact your provider to find out curbside pick-up dates.

This year, Trophy Club residents may drop-off live Christmas trees for disposal at Harmony Park or the Trophy Club Community Pool through January 13. Make sure to remove all decorations and tinsel before disposal.

You can learn more about tree recycling by visiting the National Christmas Tree Association's site:

<http://www.realchristmastrees.org/>



How to Care for Dormant Winter Lawns

Right now your lawn may look dull, brown, and lifeless, but don't fret. It's not dead - just sleeping. Like bears, lawns hibernate or go dormant in the winter to protect themselves from harsh colder temperatures. In the spring, when the weather warms up again, the lawn will return to its natural green hue.

While in its dormant state, the lawn requires less attention, but still needs maintenance.

Watering

Water only when needed unless the lawn has been overseeded (mixed with a cool season grass to

ensure that it stays green during the winter).

Turn off sprinklers until spring returns and conserve water. As long as there is adequate rain at least once every two weeks, you should not have to water at all.

Mowing

Mowing will not be necessary unless the grass has been overseeded, but edging may be needed.

Fertilizing

Save money and time by not fertilizing unless the lawn has

been overseeded. Dormant lawns are unable to ingest the fertilizer.

Weeding

Unfortunately, winter does not signal the end of weeds. In fact, new weeds may appear during the winter that require a change in treatment methods. Consult a lawn care provider or someone familiar with weed prevention to see which products work best for your lawn.

Be sure to pull all new weeds that emerge. Just be careful to avoid excessive treading on the lawn while it's dormant. Heavy treading can create ugly bare spots.

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