



DELLWOOD DIGEST

Christmas Lights

By: George Stiekes

Many look forward to seeing the beautiful Christmas displays during the holiday season beginning with Thanksgiving and ending with the New Year's celebration.

Did you know that Thomas Edison developed the very first strand of electric lights? Prior to that, people used candles to light their Christmas trees and other decorations around the house. There were outdoor decorations at that time without lights.

The very first National Christmas Tree Lighting took place in 1923. President Calvin Coolidge turned on 2,500 electric bulbs in red, white and green as a local choir and quartet from the U.S. Marine Band performed. The tradition has continued throughout history.

There are so many different traditions relating to lights at Christmas. Many Jewish people celebrate Hanukkah commemorating the rededication of the Temple (the Second

Temple). The eight day celebration beginning on December 25 is also known as the Festival of Lights

Christians for centuries have decorated their homes with lights at Christmas to celebrate the birth of Christ and like the Jewish people, to recognize that God's Word is a light unto the path of those who follow His Word. Jesus said, I am the Light of the world, and many Christians have beamed forth their lights as a testimony to their allegiance to Him.

Whatever the reason, the lights certainly brighten the Christmas season. Some communities have a contest with a nice reward for having the best displays on and around their homes. Perhaps this is something we can do in the future.

Dellwood Picnic

Our community Picnic was well attended this year and provided a great opportunity for neighbors to meet neighbors. The meal this year was catered and it was wonderful. There were three guessing contests. The winners are:

The CANDY JAR was won by Linda Jones.

The PENNY JAR was won by Mary Walgrave.

The WATERMELON was won by Judy Ludden.

The best part of the day was the privilege of meeting new neighbors. There are some really great people in our community that want to know and be available to one another.

Most of us would remember the State Farm slogan – “Like A Good Neighbor.” The idea is that there is someone you can count on when needed. It is our desire that everyone in Dellwood is that kind of neighbor.

Neighbors move in and move out on some regular basis. For those who regularly took part in our community activities, they have left us good memories. We miss those who are no longer a part of community family and trust that more who move in are “Like A Good Neighbor.”

Speaking of being Neighborly

There will be times this winter when some will need a neighbor, perhaps 1) to shovel out a driveway, 2) provide transportation to a doctor, or 3) just to be a friend. Watch out for your neighbor during bad weather – heavy snow and electrical blackouts.

One neighborhood in Michigan was without electricity for eleven days following an ice

storm. There were homes who had a generator for their home and a long cord that went to the neighbor’s house across the street. It is a special privilege to live near a neighbor that has a giving spirit. Let us do our best to increase our giving spirit.

In an article titled “Being Neighborly Without Being Nosy,” Rose Alexander stated, “Depending on your personal preferences, being neighborly might mean staying invisible except for a quick wave while getting the mail. Or you might think of someone being a good neighbor when he or she is available to help out with any unexpected need, whether it is to lend an egg or give your child a ride to soccer practice when your car won’t start.”

“ONE ANOTHER” is a phrase used in the Bible with 43 different applications. We are instructed to Love, be compassionate, help, encourage, greet, receive, admonish, forbear (put up with), comfort, exhort, and teach ONE ANOTHER. Negatively, we are not to judge one another or speak evil of one another. Just think what kind of community is possible when everyone in it practices all of these.

Watch out for one another during the winter months. Keep an eye out for anything suspicious (burglars, mail box thieves, etc.). And based on past history, if while driving your car you lose control and knock down a mail box – be honest about it and apologize to your neighbor. A great community becomes a family over a period of time. When that takes place, not only is there a mutual concern for one another but there is also a certain joy and security that everyone experiences. Ask yourself – “Am I a good neighbor?”

Culverts

With winter soon upon us, it is important that we all keep our culverts clear of leaves and other debris in order to maintain proper drainage. Check your ditches and drains to make certain there is good water drainage.

Animal Note

We have a number of animals roaming our community – deer, raccoons, possums, foxes, and coyotes just to name a few. Add to that many turkeys that are often on our lawns or in the middle of the road.

Recently there have been two dogs that roam our community. They chase and scare cats, eat their food and leave their feces on the lawns of other residents and in one case, under the swing where children play. We are not sure if they belong to residents in this neighborhood or belong to a home nearby. We ask that you please keep an eye on your dogs and not let them roam the neighborhood.

Speed

This is an issue that will never go away, not just in our community but everywhere. There will always be those who think they are above the law. If you are going down Greenwood, it is difficult to maintain the speed limit. If you just put your vehicle in neutral without any braking, by the time you got to the bottom of the hill, you could easily be doing 70 mph. You could also kill an animal or worse, a person.

We recognize the difficulty, but please, do your best to honor the speed limit and report those who fly through our subdivision. We know that many of these do not live in our neighborhood. They are not above the law and really need to be warned.

Neighborly

In an article titled “Being Neighborly Without Being Nosy,” Rose Alexander stated, “Depending on your personal preferences, being neighborly might mean staying invisible except for a quick wave while getting the mail. Of you might think of someone being a good neighbor when he or she is available to help out with any unexpected need, whether it is to lend an egg or give your child a ride to soccer practice when your car won’t start.”

A term used often in the Bible can apply to our community as well. There are 43 different “one another” passages used. Love, help, encourage, greet, receive, build up, admonish, tenderhearted, forbearing (putting up with), comfort, exhort, and teach, are just a few. There are several negative ones listed as well. Do not do or speak evil to one another, and judge one another are two of them. When you live in a community like Dellwood, we ought always be looking out for one another. Keep an eye out for anyone that does not belong in our neighborhood (thieves, burglar’s etc.). A real community over a period of time becomes a family. While there are some who will half-way agree with that statement, they still want it on their own terms. Indeed, there will be times when a neighbor needs help when it is inconvenient, but when neighbors work at it, not only is the family aspect increased, but

there is a certain joy and security felt by all the members. Ask yourself, "Am I a good neighbor?"

What's happening with my home value?

After a bit of a roller coaster ride in 2015, home values in Hendersonville have been on a pretty steady upswing in 2016 and 2017. The median home price in Hendersonville is now \$275K. In 2016 home values rose 6.5% nationwide. The Federal Housing Finance Agency reported that home values rose 1.4 % in the 1st quarter alone, a 6% year over year increase from 2016. It looks like we are on track for what turn out to be another 6+% increase this year.

Closer to home, here in H'vl the average price per square foot rose year over year from \$120 to \$132...that's an 8% increase.

So the big question...what will happen in 2018?

Well, the general consensus is that things will slow down a little. Growth for 2018 projected to be 4.1%, down a bit from the 6.9 projected for 2017.

We continue to be in a seller's market, as low inventory persists in our area and many home owners have chosen to remodel rather than sell and move up to another home. With low inventory and rising prices, it's getting harder and harder for first time home buyers to get into that first home. For that reason, home builders are expected to focus on entry-level homes.

All in all a great time to be a home owner in Hooterville!

Merry Christmas Dellwood!

*Sam Battis, Dellwood HOA president,
(and 18 year real estate broker)*

The Dellwood Board wishes you all a very Merry Christmas. In particular, we trust that the old fashioned Christmas spirit will saturate our community and make it the best community in Hendersonville.

George Stiekes