



# VOU News for You

VOUCA Management Newsletter/December 17, 2012

## News You Can Use

### Management Office Closing

The Management Office will be closed on December 24 and 25 in observance of Christmas.

### Meeting Schedule

Upcoming meetings at the Natelli Community Center:

Monday, December 17—Finance, 7 PM

### Holiday Trash Schedule

Christmas trash schedule: Tuesday pickups will be on Wednesday.  
New Years trash schedule: Tuesday pickups will be on Wednesday

### Zumba Schedule Change

Amanda Strand will hold Saturday morning ZUMBA classes on 12/22 and 12/29 at 8:30 to 9:30 AM. In January, Amanda will also be teaching ZUMBA Mondays and/or Wednesdays beginning 1/2. Only 3 spots left!!! To sign up, please have them contact her:  
[amandastrand@verizon.net](mailto:amandastrand@verizon.net), [www.](http://www.)

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## VOU Holiday Fun

On December 12, more than 50 children attended the first ever Crafternoon and had a delightful time sipping cocoa, munching cookies, and exercising their artistic talents. Parents had a chance to meet and chat, as well. We will be trying to do this fun activity monthly, so watch for the schedule and plan to bring along the kids.



The VOU's first annual Christmas Tree Lighting illuminated the night on Saturday, December 15. About 300 VOU residents attended for warm treats and a visit with Santa. The live tree will remain lit on the grounds by the Fat Oxen House (next to the Anthony Natelli Community Center on Harris Street) until after the holidays.



## Questions? Concerns? Contact Us

On-site Office: 9023 Harris St.  
Frederick, MD 21704  
Phone: 301-831-4810  
Fax: 301-831-4811  
Email: [vouadmin@casinc.biz](mailto:vouadmin@casinc.biz)  
Office Hours: 10 AM- 4 PM  
General Manager: Aimee Winegar  
Asst. Manager: Julie Virnelson



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ZUMBAFrederick.net, or (301)471-5313. \$30 for a 6 week session.

### Leaf Removal

Leaf removal is continuing from the townhouse areas and condominium greenspaces. Residents of single family homes are responsible for removing their own leaves. Please do not leave them piled in the gutters, and please do not rake them into the storm drains. Leaves easily clog the drains and can cause flooding. Please package the leaves in the recycling bags for removal with yard waste recycling.

### Community Policies

Updated Community Policies for Resident Review will be posted on the front page of the website within the next few days.



### Whom Do You Call?

Frederick County Sheriff's Office  
Non-Emergency Number: 301-600-2071  
Washington Gas: 800-752-7520  
Allegheny Power: 800-255-3443  
Frederick County Water and Sewer:  
301-600-2187 M-F; 301-600-2194 after  
hours and holidays  
VOU After Hours Emergency:  
888-788-2678

## Fire Safe Home For The Holidays!

The Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service offers these tips to help make your holidays joyful and safe.

### Lights and Candles

- Decorate your tree using only UL (Underwriters' Lab Inc.) approved lights and cords. Inspect lights for exposed or frayed wires, loose connections or broken sockets. Do not overload extension cords. Use no more than three strings of lights on one extension cord, and never run an electrical cord under a carpet. Be sure to secure electrical cords so that children cannot pull them and topple the tree.
- Turn off the tree lights when you go to bed, depart from home or leave the tree in an unattended room.
- Keep burning candles out of the reach of children and pets; keep matches and lighters out of sight and locked away. Make sure they are in stable holders. Do not leave candles unattended - especially around children or pets.
- Do not place candles near draperies or anything that might easily catch fire. Make sure you put out candles when you go to bed or leave the home.
- Never Put Lit Candles on a Tree! Do not go near a holiday tree with an open flame - candles, lighters or matches.

### Cooking

- Never leave cooking food unattended - it is the number one cause of house fires.
- Make sure you wear close-fitting clothing when cooking.
- Put pans on back burners and turn all pot handles toward the back of the stove.
- Never leave a child unattended in the kitchen. Close supervision is essential, whether children are helping an adult cook or simply watching.

### Trees

- When selecting a tree for the Holiday, needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needle should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long, has probably dried out, and is a fire hazard. A safer option is to buy a fire-resistant artificial tree.
- Use a wide-based stand to make sure the tree is secure and will not fall over. Keep your tree in a container full of water, and check it daily.
- Keep the tree away from heat sources such as fireplaces, radiators and heating vents. Decorate your tree with children in mind. Do not put ornaments that are breakable, have small detachable parts, metal hooks or look like food or candy on the lower branches where small children can reach them. Make sure tree lights are hung out of reach of young children. Also, cut back the lower branches to avoid eye injuries to small children.
- Never burn Christmas tree branches, treated wood or wrapping paper in your fireplace. Dispose of your tree promptly after the holidays.

### Other Related Tips

- Have your furnace and chimney professionally inspected and cleaned.
- Keep dryer venting lint free.
- Space heaters need space. Keep materials that burn easily at least three feet away from each heater.
- Working smoke alarms should be installed on every level of your home, especially near sleeping areas. Test alarms once a month and replace the batteries at least twice a year.

*(These tips are the product of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service and are provided to the community as a public service message.)*