

THE VILLAGE



Winter 2016

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Lifestyle

P O Box 4911 • Upper Marlboro, MD 20775

A Wish for the Holidays

The Holiday season is again upon us. As 2016 draws to a close, the Board would like to take this opportunity to thank our valued residents for having called "The Village of Oak Grove" home for another year. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to each of you and everyone have a safe holiday.

Third Annual Holiday, Decoration Celebration!

Hello Village of Oak Grove neighbors. The holiday spirit is with us and time for the Third Annual Holiday, Decoration Celebration! The judging will begin at 7:30pm on Thursday, December 22, 2016. As usual, we look for Christmas color, character and beauty. Because so many homes are nicely decorated, we have added a fourth award. The top four homes will receive gift certificates on Saturday, December 31st. in the amounts of 1st place \$150; 2nd place \$100; 3rd place \$75 and 4th place \$25. Get ready, set, START DECORATING!! ps: in order to participate in this contest, your annual homeowner dues must be in good standing.

Do Not Dump Your Leaves In Common Areas

Please do not rake and dump your leaves in the common area or on neighbors yards. Leaves should raked , packed in bags and placed on the curb for collection on Mondays. Please call the county for more info about collection policies.

ARC New Database of Homes In Oak Grove

Please note that members of the Architectural Review Committee are in the process of compiling and documenting all the homes in our community. This is part of the creation of a new database to assist in the enforcement of the ARC guidelines. A front image of your home will be taken by ARC members in the coming days. All images will be taken from the street facing the property.

Happening in December...

World AIDS Day, Dec. 1. World AIDS Day is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, show their support for people living with HIV, and commemorate those who have died.

National Stress Free Holidays Month. Don't let the hectic demands of the December holiday season get you down. Learn to recognize signs of stress, keep expectations realistic, and practice saying no before you burn out. Also, watch your diet and stick to your exercise schedule to stay healthy and calm.

National Impaired Driving Prevention Month. This holiday season, make sure to plan for a safe way home, especially if your plans involve alcohol. If someone you know is drinking, don't let that person get behind the wheel. Remember, too, that just because you're driving sober, others on the road may not be. Always buckle up, drive with caution, and call 911 to report a suspected drunken driver.

Safe Toys and Gifts Month. Prevent Blindness America has declared December Safe Toys and Gifts Awareness Month, encouraging gift-givers to consider whether the toys they plan on giving suit the age and individual skills and abilities of the child who will receive them—especially for children under age 3.

YOUR MANAGEMENT TEAM

Ahmed Elmanan

Community Manager

CONTACT INFORMATION

Management Office

(877) 649-7642, aelmanan@gmail.com

Prince Georges' county complaints

311 or www.countyclick311.com

Pepco

(877) 737-2662

Tall Grass

301-883-6100

Animal Control

301-883-6100

Abandoned Homes

301-883-6100

Abandoned Vehicles

301-883-6100

Bulk Trash

301-952-7600

Our Website:

www.villageofoakgrove.org



De-stress your holidays with tips from Tidy Tutor

Do holidays mean lots of shopping for guests, rushing home from work to get it all together, and ending up stressed?

According to Kathy Roberts of TidyTutor.com, you can do four things that will significantly de-stress your holiday in the days leading up to the big events.

1 Do it now.

Maybe you can slack off later, but in the days leading up to December 24 and 25, try to do the little things immediately. Little pickups and put away tasks. Start to do it early.

2 Pay attention to laundry and dishes.

Dishes. Keep them done. Always in the dishwashers or

dish drainer before bed. Use one cup and don't grab a new one for the second cup of tea.

Laundry. Load in the washer at night. Morning to the dryer. Night fold and put away. You must put away. If you don't the cat is going to sleep on them, and the family is going to rifle through them.

3 Clear out the house early in the month for cleaning, cooking and company.

Put everything out of your schedule for cleaning and pick-up except the living room and bathroom.

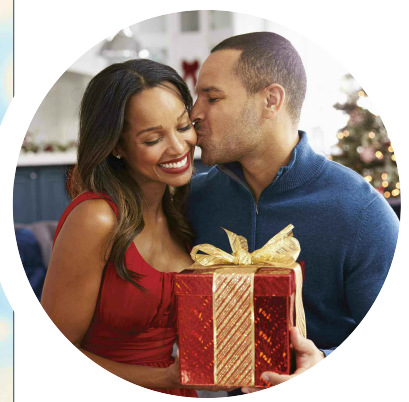
Get boxes and put every knick-knack, end table thing, clutter from the entrance way, bottles and jars from the bathroom into boxes. Mark them so

you know what is there. Hide the boxes until the holiday is over. When the guests have left, give yourself 15 minutes to toss or restore the stuff you removed.

You might try this at the time you put up your tree since you will end up with empty boxes. But in any case, you could use produce boxes from the grocery store for this.

4 Create a present wrapping station early.

Gather all the things you need: Scissors, paper, tags, bags, tape and ribbon. Start a list on paper of each present, who it goes to, what it costs and where you hid it. Have an envelope ready for receipts. Then wrap as you go.



Gifts for the ungiftable

Weird ice. Molds for ice are big. Ice molds come in shapes like round, skull, geometric, slanted, giant, tiny, Star Wars, golf ball, hand grenade, heart, bullet. A variation on the theme is rocks that keep your glass cool. Pair the perfect ice mold with a suitable bottle of refreshment.

Breakfast food. Try Zabars.com for breakfast baskets (and much more, of course). You can get a crate full of bagels, cream cheese, coffee, orange juice, and pastry. Can be pricey, though.

Subscription boxes. You can order subscriptions to snack boxes, cosmetics, projects for kids, coffees, dog treats, dinners to make, strange food, and anything else possible to ship.

Crafty stuff. A 3-D pen that oozes out a plastic that hardens within seconds. Your crafty friend will not just draw but sculpt, too. See it at hammacher.com.

Funny stuff. How about a custom bobble head? Upload your photo at 1minime.com and you can get your friend or loved one's head on a variety of bodies.

Or, go all the way and put your loved one's face on ancient art. Be Napoleon at society6.com.



Baked Cranberry Pear

For this delicious, easy (and healthy!) dessert, you need one small ripe pear, two tablespoons chopped walnuts or slivered almonds, one tablespoon dried cranberries, one teaspoon brown sugar and one-half teaspoon almond extract. Cut the pear in half lengthwise. Remove the core, and scoop out a two-inch hole in the center of each half. Chop the scooped-out flesh, add the remaining ingredients and toss. Spoon the mixture into the pears. Bake 15 minutes at 400° or until the pears are soft. Serves two.

Linda Gassenheimer is author of the cookbook No-Fuss Diabetes Desserts (American Diabetes Association) from which this recipe was taken. DinnerInMinutes.com

Photo credit: Jamie Trueblood



PASSENGERS On a routine journey through space to a new home, two passengers (Chris Pratt and Jennifer Lawrence), sleeping in suspended animation, are awakened 90 years too early when their ship malfunctions. As Jim and Aurora face living the rest of their lives on board, with every luxury they could ever ask for, they begin to fall for each other, unable to deny their intense attraction until they discover the ship is in grave danger. With the lives of 5,000 sleeping passengers at stake, only Jim and Aurora can save them all.



Photo credit: Glen Wilson

OFFICE CHRISTMAS PARTY When the CEO tries to close her hard-partying brother's branch, he and his Chief Technical Officer must rally their co-workers and host an epic office Christmas party in an effort to impress a potential client and close a sale that will save their jobs. **Jennifer Aniston, Jason Bateman, and T.J. Miller** star.

FENCES **Denzel Washington** directs and stars in this story of a one-time promising baseball player, now working as a Pittsburgh garbage collector, and the complicated relationships with his wife, son and friends. **Viola Davis** also stars.

MISS SLOANE An uncompromising, formidable lobbyist (**Jessica Chastain**) takes on the powerful gun lobby in the wake of several mass shootings, but her mission quickly becomes a frustrating ordeal that threatens to derail her career.

NOCTURNAL ANIMALS **Amy Adams** stars as a successful Los Angeles art-gallery owner whose idyllic life is marred by the constant traveling of her handsome second husband

(**Armie Hammer**). While he is away, she is shaken by the arrival of a manuscript written by her first husband (**Jake Gyllenhaal**), who she has not seen in years. The manuscript tells the story of a teacher who finds a trip with his family turning into a nightmare. As Susan reads the book, it forces her to examine her past and confront some dark truths.

GOLD **Matthew McConaughey** stars as Kenny Wells, a failing businessman and modern-day prospector desperate for a lucky break. As a last ditch effort, Wells teams up with an equally luckless geologist, played by **Edgar Ramirez**, to execute a grandiose plan: find gold deep in the uncharted jungle of Indonesia.

WHY HIM? Over the holidays, Ned (**Bryan Cranston**), an overprotective but loving dad and his family visit his daughter at Stanford, where he meets his biggest nightmare: her well-meaning but socially awkward Silicon Valley billionaire boyfriend, Laird (**James Franco**). The straight-laced Ned thinks Laird, who has absolutely no filter, is a wildly inappropriate match for his daughter. The one-sided rivalry-and Ned's panic level-escalate when he finds himself increasingly out of step in the glamorous high-tech hub, and learns that Laird is about to pop the question.

LA LA LAND Tells the story of Mia (**Emma Stone**), an aspiring actress, and Sebastian (**Ryan Gosling**), a dedicated jazz musician, who are struggling to make ends meet in a city known for crushing hopes and breaking hearts. Set in modern day Los Angeles, this original musical about everyday life explores the joy and pain of pursuing your dreams.

COLLATERAL BEAUTY When a successful New York advertising executive (**Will Smith**) suffers a great tragedy he retreats from life. While his concerned friends try desperately to reconnect with him, he seeks answers from the universe by writing letters to Love, Time and Death. But it's not until his notes bring unexpected personal responses that he begins to understand how these constants interlock in a life fully lived, and how even the deepest loss can reveal moments of meaning and beauty. **Helen Mirren, Edward Norton** and **Keira Knightley** costar.

THIS MONTH ON DVD & BLU-RAY

December 6	Jason Bourne
December 6	The Secret Life of Pets
December 13	Florence Foster Jenkins
December 13	Bridget Jones's Baby
December 23	Suicide Squad
December 20	Sully
December 20	The Magnificent Seven

Become the ultimate cookie exchange host

Cookie exchange parties are a holiday tradition that provides a fun-filled reason for friends and family to enjoy each other's company and fill up their holiday cookie trays. This season, bakers and holiday entertainers can visit www.kissescookies.com to find a one-stop shop for receiving and sharing holiday baking and party planning tips that are sure to sweeten any holiday get-together.

For those looking to create the ultimate cookie exchange, the experts at Hershey's Kisses Brand Chocolates offer the following tips to turn any holiday party into a sweet success. The iconic chocolate treat also will serve as the party-planning partner for holiday hosts by sponsoring 1,000 cookie exchange parties nationwide. To apply to host a Hershey's Kisses Chocolates Cookie Exchange and for recipes and additional party tips visit www.kissescookies.com.

Cookie exchange tips:

- When sending invitations out, include a unique cookie recipe for each guest as a suggestion. You can find a variety of creative recipes at www.kissescookies.com.
- Encourage your guests to bring along sealable containers for the cookies they're taking home.

Courtesy of ARA Content.

- To give your party added fun, set out gift tags, gift bags, ribbons and pens so your guests can create gifts for co-workers, neighbors, teachers and friends.



Chocolate Almond Thumbprint Cookies

Ingredients

Cookies:

1 cup softened butter
 2/3 cup sugar
 2 egg yolks
 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
 2 cups flour

1/4 cup Hershey's Cocoa

1/2 teaspoon salt

1 cup finely chopped almonds

Chocolate filling:

42 Hershey's Kisses Brand Milk Chocolates with Almonds

1/2 cup powdered sugar

1 tablespoon Hershey's Cocoa

1 tablespoon softened butter

2 1/2 teaspoons milk

1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract

Heat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit and remove the wrappers from the milk chocolates. Beat together butter, sugar, egg yolks and vanilla extract together until well blended. Stir together flour, cocoa and salt in a separate bowl and mix into the butter mixture. Roll dough into one-inch balls and roll in chopped almonds. Place on an ungreased cookie sheet and press thumb gently into the center of each cookie. Bake 18 to 20 minutes or until set. Remove from cookie sheet and cool completely.

Prepare chocolate filling by combining powdered sugar, cocoa, butter, milk and vanilla extract in a small bowl. Beat mixture until smooth. Spoon or pipe about 1/4 teaspoon of the chocolate filling into each thumbprint on the cooled cookies. Gently press one milk chocolate into the center of each cookie.

December '16

				thursday	friday	saturday
				1 <i>Basketball Day</i>	2 <i>Faux Fur Friday</i>	3 <i>Bartender Appreciation Day</i>
sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	8 <i>Pretend to be a Time Traveler Day</i>	9 <i>Lost & Found Day</i>	10 <i>Gingerbread Decorating Day</i>
4 <i>Cookie Day</i>	5 <i>Bathtub Party Day</i>	6	7 <i>Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day</i>	15 <i>Re-Gifting Day</i>	16 <i>Chocolate Covered Anything Day</i>	17 <i>Wright Brothers Day</i>
11 <i>World Choral Day</i>	12 <i>Poinsettia Day</i>	13	14	22 <i>Forefather's Day</i>	23 <i>Roots Day</i>	24 <i>National Egg Nog Day</i>
18	19	20 <i>Go Caroling Day</i>	21 <i>First Day of Winter</i>	29	30 <i>Bacon Day</i>	31 <i>Please Celebrate Responsibly!</i>
25 <i>Christmas Day</i>	26 <i>Boxing Day</i>	27 <i>National Fruitcake Day</i>	28 <i>Card Playing Day</i>			