

CONTINENTAL RANCH

the windmill

December 2008 Edition

www.crcatucson.com

Mark Your Calendars

Please see the website and marquee for the Board meeting date.

December 1 Activities Committee

10AM @WP

December 2 Landscape Committee

7 PM @WP

December 3 ARC

Noon @WP

December 8 Pool Committee

7 PM @WP

December 8 Facilities Committee

6 PM @ CC

December 9 Covenants Committee

December 10 Parcel Reps

6:45 PM @ CC

December 11 No Strategic Planning

December 17 Deadline for

Adopt -A-Family

December 17 ARC

Noon @WP

December 25

CRCA Office Closed

'Tis the Season... For Holiday Spirit!

To help you prepare for Continental Ranch's Winter Wonderland Holiday Decorating Contest (see page 2), we'd like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of some general rules about decorative displays.

Holiday Decoration Guidelines

As specified in the Design Guidelines, "Holiday Decorations" shall be defined as any symbol identified with a specific nationally recognized holiday that is visible from common areas or a neighboring private property.

This shall include but is not limited to:

- Interior and exterior lighting.
- Ornamental objects.
- Vegetative or ornamental vegetation (i.e. trees, wreaths).
- Decorative window placards or photos.

Holiday decorations may be erected one (1) month prior to the date of the holiday and shall be removed within two (2) weeks after that date.

No decoration of any kind shall be placed on another's property or any common areas without expressed written permission.

This year, holiday décor may be put up on **November 25, 2008** and must come down by **January 8, 2008**. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the CRCA office.

We look forward to a festive display! If you wish to enter the decorating contest, please see page 2 for a registration form.

*Good luck,
and happy holidays!*



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THE WINDMILL: NEWSLETTER POLICIES

The Continental Ranch Windmill is published monthly by the Continental Ranch Community Association (CRCA), and is prepared under the direction of the Activities/ Publication Committee. Articles with bylines and letters to the Editor reflect the views and opinions of their respective authors and do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the Association, the Board of Directors, the Activities/ Publicity Committee, or the management company. We reserve the right to edit articles and letters for brevity and clarity.

Letters to the Editor

Letters must be signed and include a phone number for verification. Names will be withheld upon request. Anonymous letters or articles will not be printed.

Advertising Policy

The acceptance of a business ad in the newsletter does not constitute approval or endorsement by the CRCA. "The Association reserves the right, in its sole and absolute discretion, to refuse to accept any advertising submittal made by a prospective advertiser of the Association's newsletter or other publications." Ad publication is subject to space availability on a first come, first serve policy and could be denied or postponed due to lack of space in a specific issue. All advertising is subject to current Advertising Rates, as adopted by the Board of Directors. All copy for articles, inserts and camera-ready advertising is due at the Association office by the 15th of the month. Distribution will be approximately the first week of the following month. Ads may only be submitted, electronically on a Floppy disc, CD-ROM or 100MB Zip Disk as a TIF, EPS, or PDF files. A printout of how the ad should look must be included.

Advertising Rates

RESIDENT RATES:

Business Card	\$32
¼ Page	\$53
½ Page	\$90
Full Page	\$145
Inserts	\$280/3500

NON-RESIDENT RATES:

Business Card	\$43
¼ Page	\$90
½ Page	\$135
Full Page	\$250
Inserts	\$280/3500

Political Ads must have "Paid advertisement. Not endorsed by the CRCA" in at least 8 point type at the bottom of the ad.

Winter Wonderland Holiday Decorating Contest



We may live in the desert, but this holiday season let's make Continental Ranch a Winter Wonderland!

Do you have the best decorated house during the holidays? If so, this contest is for you! It's that time of year again for you to sort through the attic and garage for all of your favorite holiday decorations. Give our residents a treat this holiday season by turning CRCA into a Winter Wonderland!

Houses will be judged on December 18th and 19th. So, pull out Mr. and Mrs. Clause, Frosty the Snowman, candy canes, icicles, and maybe even the Grinch! Any and all decorations are always appreciated during the holiday season, but if you think your house shows the most holiday spirit, please fill out the form below for your chance to win a monetary gift! Houses will be judged in four different categories: **Best Overall, Best Use of Lights, Best Theme, and Most Creative.** We will also give out several Honorable Mention gifts.

It's a beautiful sight, we're happy tonight, walking in a Winter Wonderland!

HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST REGISTRATION FORM

If you would like to participate, please fill out this registration form and return it to the CRCA office by Monday, December 15th. You may also send an email to continental.ranch@yahoo.com to register your house. Houses that do not fill out a registration form will not be included in the judging.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Office Use Only:

Date: _____ Initials: _____ Entered on Master List: _____

Adopt-a-Family Program

This year, Continental Ranch will be adopting two Marana families for the holidays.

If you would like to help those less fortunate than you this holiday season, please bring your gifts (wrapped or unwrapped) to the CRCA office by December 17th. If you bring your gifts wrapped, please indicate what the gift is and who it is for.

FAMILY # 1

Boy, age 3

Needs: PJs (long sleeves and pants)

Wants: Large wooden puzzles, books

Shoe size: 8, Clothing: 4T

Socks: Small

Boy, age 14

Needs: Jeans (gift card), winter clothing

Wants: Gift card (JC Penny, Target, Wal-Mart, Ross)

Shoe size: 10, Shirts: Men's S or M

Mother

Needs/Wants: Gift cards (Ross, Target, Wal-Mart, Home Depot, Kohl's)

Father

Needs/Wants: Gift cards (Ross, Target, Wal-Mart, Home Depot, Kohl's)



FAMILY #2

Boy, age 3

Needs: Jacket (3T) and shoes (8)

Wants: Mickey Mouse, baseball stuff

Girl, age 4

Needs: Jacket (4T) and shoes (9)

Wants: Princess doll, Minnie Mouse stuff

Girl, age 7

Needs: Pants (7) and shoes (12)

Wants: High School Musical items

Boy, age 8

Needs: Pants (12) and sweater (12)

Wants: Baseball items, sneakers (3½)

Mother

Needs: Jacket (M)

Wants: Watch

Shoe size: 7½, Pants: 7, Shirts: M

Father

Needs: Tennis Shoes (9 ½)

Wants: Wallet

Pants: 36, Shirt: XL

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We would like to thank our advertisers for helping to offset the cost of this publication. Please know that all ads are paid for solely by our advertisers and are not an endorsement by CRCA.

Please drop off your items by December 17, 2008. Contact the CRCA office if you have any questions.

Community Fall Planting

BY DEBORAH MUNOZ-CHACON, SONORAN OASIS LANDSCAPING

Fall is here and cooler weather will be here soon. Most drought-tolerant plants and trees can be planted now. The fall is the best time to plant in the desert other than planting in the spring.

There are many good plants and trees to consider. Here is a short list of some great desert plants and trees that can be planted now.



Texas Mountain Laurel
(*Sophora secundiflora*)

This is a good plant for small areas. This can be a large shrub or a small tree. It grows to 8' x 6'. This is an evergreen plant so it will stay green all winter. It has purple cluster flowers in the spring that smell like grapes.



Santa Rita Prickly Pear Cactus (*Opuntia santa-rita*)

This cactus works well in open areas away from pedestrian traffic. It has purple pads that are a contrast to most green cactus. This cactus has large yellow flowers in the spring.



Grass Tree
(*Dasylirion longissimum*)

This is a nice specimen plant that is in the same family as the Desert Spoon. The spikes are thornless. So, it can be used in areas where Desert Spoon plants are not appropriate. It grows slowly to a size of 5' x 5'.



Mexican Honeysuckle
(*Justicia spicigeria*)

This is a lesser used plant that can be used to add color to an area. This plant grows to approximately 3' x 5' and has bright orange tubular flowers that attract hummingbirds.

These are just a few examples of good plants that enhance a desert or xeriscape landscape. They all work well in common areas and require minimal water. With a few creative plantings you can quickly improve the look of a monument or open area without much cost. Please call us if we can help you with your fall planting. Happy planting!



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The Board Recap from the November Board meeting will be posted on the website. If you have any questions, please contact the CRCA office.

Waste Management Holiday Trash Service

All homeowners can take advantage of a second trash day during the holidays. Because the three upcoming holidays fall on a Thursday, your extra trash days will be as follows:

Thanksgiving Trash Pick-up

Friday, November 28, 2008

Christmas Trash Pick-up

Friday, December 26, 2008

New Years Trash Pick-up

Friday, January 2, 2009

Waste Management Christmas Tree Removal

WM will remove Christmas trees on **Friday, January 2, 2009**. Trees and/or sections of trees must not exceed 4 feet in length. Trees must be set out on the curb in order to be removed.

WM will have no obligation to remove Christmas trees or sections of Christmas trees that exceed four feet in length.

If you have any questions, please contact Waste Management Customer Service, (520)744-2600.



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Holiday Safety Tips

KEEP YOUR DAYS MERRY AND BRIGHT...

As the holiday season rapidly approaches, it's wise to take certain precautions. Here are a few suggestions—

SAFEGUARDING YOUR HOME

1. Turn on lights and a radio or TV so that it appears that someone is home.
2. Don't display gifts where they can be seen from outside.
3. Properly dispose of boxes from audio equipment, TVs, VCRs, etc., by cutting them up and recycling them.
4. Don't advertise to a thief by simply placing the boxes at the curb.
5. If you have a holiday tree, turn off the tree lights when you are away from your home.

6. Don't forget to note the serial numbers of your gifts and store the numbers in a safe place.

VACATION PLANNING

1. Stop all deliveries or arrange for a neighbor or friend to pick up your mail, newspapers, and packages.
2. Have good locks on all doors and windows AND USE THEM!
3. Plug in timers to turn lights and radio on and off at appropriate times.
4. Never leave your house key hidden outside under a doormat, in a flower pot, etc. Someone other than a friend or family member is bound to find it!

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Committee Reports

POOL COMMITTEE

The Windmill Park pool recently received a much-needed face lift. The pool was re-plastered, re-tiled, and had new filters installed. This pool will continue to be heated throughout the winter months. The Community Center pool will most likely be closing the first week of December. As soon as a date is set, we will be sure to have it posted. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Thank you to all of the volunteers who made the Fall Festival a success. We had a great time at Windmill Park on November 8th listening to classic rock hits, playing games, and eating delicious food. Pictures from the event can be found in this month's newsletter.

We recently lost two members from our committee. A huge thank you goes to Barbara Herron and Linda DiPalma for their hard work! Fiona Keller has been chosen as the new chairperson for the Activities Committee.

This month, Continental Ranch will be adopting two Marana families. The deadline to turn your donations in is December 17th. Also, be sure to register your house to be in the Holiday Decorations contest. Members from the committee will be judging the homes on the 18th and 19th of December, and monetary awards will be given for several categories. In January, we will be holding a chili cook-off. See January's newsletter for more details.

We do have openings for new members on the Activities Committee. If you are interested, please contact the CRCA office.



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Fall Festival 2008

WE HOPE TO SEE ALL OF YOU AT FUTURE EVENTS!



(This page, top and middle)

Children and adults alike enjoyed classic rock hits performed by Endgame. Several different groups from Pride All Stars performed for residents and had the crowd going wild!

(Right page, top left)

John Lambert, CRCA Board President, and Barbara Herron, Activities Committee Chairperson, welcomed homeowners to the 5th Annual Continental Ranch Fall Festival. Over 500 residents enjoyed games, face painting, great music and fantastic food. Local vendors had booths to hand out info and prizes.



(Right page, middle and bottom)

Miss Fanny and friends entertained the kids with face painting and balloon critters. Marana Police Department, Northwest Fire Department, and the Marana Equestrian Unit were at the event to educate adults and children and also show off their police cars, fire engine and horses.





(This page, top right and right)

Kids won tickets by playing ring toss, bean bag toss, the fishing game and more and traded in tickets for cool prizes. All the kids loved the giant slide, jumping castle and train ride!

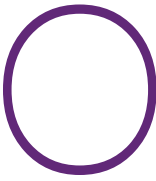


Thank you to the following people and vendors for making this event possible:

5th Ave Productions
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 AKKA Karate
 Anytime Fitness
 Curves
 Dr. Tomkins Family Chiropractic
 Endgame
 Fry's
 George Franzen
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 Indigo Day Spa
 Magpie's Gourmet Pizza
 Marana Police Department
 Miss Fanny and Friends
 Nana's Kitchen
 New York Life
 Northwest Fire Department
 Pride All Stars
 Saguaro Swim School
 Stratford Management
 The Groundskeeper
 Town of Marana
 Tucson Carnival Supply
 Tuscany Med Spa
 Waste Management
 CRCA Activities Committee
and all of our volunteers!

For Senior Citizens and Retirees

THE GLOW OF THE HOLIDAYS

 Our community streets are taking on that “special glow” which only happens during the holiday season as neighbors outdo neighbors with their “glitzy” decorations. Many of our senior group are excited and eager to share in these decorating projects, while the rest of us are more than willing to say “been there, done that” and sit back to enjoy the fruits of others’ labor in the neighborhood!! Whichever approach you personally take, do be sure to drive around Continental Ranch during the next weeks to enjoy the fascinating decorating efforts of our neighbors. Many are planning to collect food for the Marana Food Bank and will have bins out at curbside, so carry along a few nonperishable items to encourage this holiday giving.

We are “winding down” our activities for the 2008 year. We have elected new officers and committee coordinators who will officially assume duties in January, but who are already meeting and planning for activities and special events for the group.

Our president for the past two years has been Joan Travis-Triumph, and because she has done such an outstanding job of leading our group, she was “convinced” to accept for another term! Vice President is Jim Alam, Secretary is Lew MacDonald (also returning for another term), and Treasurer is Walt Ross. Congratulations to each of these members. We look forward to another year of activity and long-lasting friendships.

SCRCR members gathered items and packed boxes for our military to be shipped in time for holiday

sharing. Our thanks to all who contributed items and dollars to this undertaking.

Early in December we will have our “Red and Green” potluck luncheon at the Center, and then on the 11th, we will celebrate with the December birthday people. The last casino outing for this year is on the 12th, and we will leave promptly at 9 a.m.

Our holiday party is scheduled for Saturday, December 13th, and if you have not already purchased your tickets for yourself and your guests, you need to do that immediately! We traditionally have our party at the Elks Club on Oracle, at which time we wear our holiday attire and contribute our gifts for distribution to area children. Remember that evening transportation is being made available for those who do not care to drive after dark.

The last outing for the year will be to Old Tucson Studios on December 18th, and all official gatherings and activities will then cease until we return to the Center on January 8, 2009!

THIS‘N THAT...

Be sure to consider earning that extra tax credit toward your Arizona State tax by donating funds to a school of your choice prior to the upcoming holiday break. Our schools may accept up to \$200 (single) or \$250 (per couple) to be designated for a specific school and/or school program, or left to the school district’s discretion to be used where most needed. In return, you will receive a receipt back from the school that will give you a like-amount credit on your upcoming Arizona State tax

return. If you pay Arizona State taxes, why not take advantage of this program as well as providing a few extra dollars for our school children?

During December, we acknowledge several special events: We remember Pearl Harbor Day on the 7th, and the first day of winter (according to the calendar, anyway!) on the 21st. The Jewish traditions of Hanukkah begin on the 22nd, and of course, Christmas, celebrated throughout the Christian community on December 25th. In the way of cultural activity, we acknowledge Kwanzaa beginning on the 26th, a celebration of values, culture and people. Whatever your religious and cultural beliefs, take time to celebrate the holiday season according to family and personal traditions.

Winterhaven, in the Fort Lowell/Country Club area, annually offers an exciting display of holiday décor available by drive through and walk-through on selected nights, and by coach and wagon reservations on alternate evenings. The wagons aren't the most comfortable, however, so be sure to take a cushion if you choose to tour that way! Watch for local newspaper listings of dates/times and hay wagon/coach reservation phone numbers.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY...

Our holiday wish for you is to have happiness and love in your lives throughout the new year. This wish, coupled with—hopefully--peace throughout the world, are goals worth striving for! If you are traveling, we wish for safe journeys and memorable reunions with family and friends. Our military families, some separated by thousands of miles, need special thoughts and prayers, as well as our unending thanks for giving so generously to keep us free and safe.

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President's Report

BY JOHN LAMBERT

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter, my first as your new HOA president. I want to thank all those who voted in this past election, both those supporting and opposing different candidates, for being a part of the election process. Whatever your choice of candidates, all the candidates had the community's interests at heart.

As your new president, I am committed to the expectations of the homeowners to transform ideas into realities, and am ready to tackle the challenges ahead of us. This board needs to stand for creating a culture of fairness and equity among homeowners. We can only accomplish those goals with your help.

In the coming months, your Board will be asking for your input on a number of issues before this community. The current policy of calling in to the management office to allow guests to park in front of your house appears to have been instituted against the recommendation of the Association's attorney. This volatile issue needs to be addressed by your Board but also by the community as a whole. We will be asking for your input in the future so that we can meet the obligations to the community, as well as fulfilling our fiduciary duties to the Association. There is the question of whether the tennis courts that were removed at the community center and replaced with more parking was done according to the CC&Rs. The Waste Management contract, which so divided the community, is in negotiations at this point, and we hope to be asking for more community input before making a final decision. As we proceed with these challenges for this community, we will bring you more specific information and updates.

As your new president, I would like to address the condition of the community records that our current management company was left by the previous management company. The condition of those records is horrendous. There are incomplete and nonexistent records for a number of business items and actions conducted by this Association. I have instructed Stratford Management to investigate finding and retrieving those records if possible, and pursue whatever action is necessary to obtain those records. While working at the direction of the Board, they also work with the Board and community. Sarah and her staff are working hard for this community and have been very helpful in this transition period. If you have questions or concerns please contact Sarah and her staff—they are here to help.

Let me close by saying that I am committed to transparency and openness in all Association dealings in all matters. All Board study sessions and meetings, as well as all committee meetings, are open to the homeowners, and we welcome your participation.

Have a safe and happy holiday season, and we hope to see you at our future meetings.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH



Interested in forming a Neighborhood Watch in your neighborhood? Come to the Parcel Rep Meeting on Wednesday, December 10th, at 6:45 P.M., at the Community Center. Learn how to help keep our neighborhoods a safe place for all!

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Take Advantage of the Cooler Weather!

For most of us gorgeous weather means, among other things, that it's time to step outside of the air conditioning and evaluate our curb appeal. Now is the perfect time to cast an objective eye around your property and to form a plan for tackling some of those outstanding maintenance chores.

Take a look at your home and yard as if for the first time:

- Is the house body and trim paint faded and in need of some freshening up?
- What is the condition of the garage door?
- If the garage door has been replaced, has it been painted to match the house?
- Is the mailbox and light fixture in good repair?
- Is the landscaping appropriately maintained? Are there weeds or desert broom that need to be removed?
- Is the irrigation system in good repair and all "spaghetti" lines properly buried?

This list is by no means all-inclusive, but it does give you an idea of how and where to begin. And remember—some of these chores may seem relatively inconsequential, but when multiplied by thousands of homes these small efforts have a huge cumulative effect on our neighborhood's appearance and marketability.

continued on page 16

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“Take Advantage” continued from page 14

We also wish to take this opportunity to thank those homeowners who already have accomplished “housekeeping” tasks and made improvements to their property. When we perform inspections of the community, rest assured that your efforts do not go unnoticed or unappreciated!

For those of you contemplating improvements to your property, please be reminded that you must first obtain approval from the Architectural Review Committee (ARC) prior to beginning your project. You can easily obtain an ARC form by calling the CRCA office or going online to CRCATucson.com.

Lastly, we extend to you an invitation for assistance. If you are cited for a violation, or if you are delinquent in your assessments, please call the CRCA office. If you need more time to resolve a noncompliance issue, we will work with you! If you need to set up a payment plan to bring your assessment account current, we will work with you! All we ask is that you communicate with the Association and participate in the resolution. Our goals are to ensure your satisfaction in your membership in Continental Ranch and to preserve—and increase—your property values.

Thank you, and happy holidays from your Association!



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Monday through Saturday
4 PM to 7 PM
Come in and Join Us!

15 % OFF

Total Order
Offer cannot be used
with any other specials

*Does not include alcoholic
beverages*

DECEMBER 2008

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Visit us online at CRCATucson.com for the Board Meeting date and holiday office hours.	1 Activities Committee 10 AM @ WP	2 Landscape Committee 7 PM @ WP	3 TOPS 10 AM @ CC ARC Noon @ WP	4 SCRCR 9 AM @ CC	5	6
7	8 Facilities Committee 6:00 PM @ CC Pool Committee 7 PM @ WP	9 Covenants Committee 7 PM @ CC	10 TOPS 10 AM @ CC Parcel Reps 6:45 PM @ CC	11 SCRCR 9 AM @ CC No Strategic Planning	12	13
14	15	16	17 TOPS 10 AM @ CC ARC Noon @ WP	18 SCRCR 9 AM @ CC	19	20
21 Hanukkah begins at sundown	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Merry Christmas CRCA Office Closed	26	27
28	29	30	31 New Years Eve			



JANUARY 2009

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 New Year's Day CRCA Office Closed	2	3
4	5 Activities Committee 10 AM @ WP	6 Landscape Committee 7 PM @ WP	7 TOPS 10 AM @ CC ARC Noon @ WP	8 Seniors/Retirees 9 AM @ CC	9	10
11	12 Pool Committee 7 PM @ WP	13 Covenants Meeting @ CC	14 TOPS 10 AM @ CC	15 Seniors/Retirees 9 AM @ CC	16	17
18	19 Facilities Committee 6 PM @ WP	20	21 TOPS 10 AM @ CC ARC Noon @ WP Board Study Session	22 Seniors/Retirees 9 AM @ CC	23	24
25	26	27 Board Meeting 7 PM @ CC	28 TOPS 10 AM @ CC	29 Seniors/Retirees 9 AM @ CC	30	



Your Stratford Management Team



Continental Ranch Community Association

9150 N. Coachline Blvd.

Tucson, AZ 85743

Phone (520) 297-7600

Fax (520) 297-7917

In case of emergency, please call (520) 795-6500 and follow the prompts. This number is not for reporting violations or dealing with delinquencies.

Office Hours:

Monday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Tuesday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Wednesday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Thursday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Closed Saturday and Sunday

Closed daily from 12 to 1 for lunch

Visit us on the web:

Website www.CRCATucson.com

Email continental.ranch@yahoo.com



Your Team:

Sarah Lebsack, CAAM, Community Manager

ext. 100

sarah@stratfordmanagement.org
ARC, Pool, Strategic Planning,
Board

Jennifer Swarts, Assistant Manager

ext. 101

jswarts@stratfordmanagement.org
Landscape, Facilities

Gerrie Crawford, Accountant

ext. 102

gcrawford@stratfordmanagement.org
Finance

Tina Noggle, Compliance Assistant

ext. 104

tnoggle@stratfordmanagement.org
Covenants

Lexie Burke, Activities Director

ext. 103

aburke@stratfordmanagement.org
Activities, Publicity

Manager's Corner

Another year has come and gone, and if you are anything like me you are wondering where the time went and how can it possibly be the last month of 2008?

First, I would like to thank the hundreds of homeowners that came to the Fall Festival. This year was the first year that Stratford Management was involved in the Fall Festival, and naturally we were concerned with various details that are involved when planning a large event. However, with the help of the Activities Committee, Management Staff and the Seniors, the event was a success. Community feedback is always welcome, and we appreciate any feedback that you may have to make next year's Fall Festival another success with even more community involvement. Please use the website or email Management with any suggestions or comments.

December tends to bring out the giving spirit in most people, and this year giving might be harder for most people than it was last year. The Association adopts a family or two every December in hopes to make their Holidays brighter with gifts and food to put on the table. The sizes of each family member and what they need are included in this Newsletter (see page 3). We appreciate and understand that times are tough for a lot of people; however, the littlest gift will bring these families a brighter Holiday Season. Your support and generous spirit is greatly appreciated.

I hope you have a wonderful and happy Holiday Season! Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions, comments, or concerns. Thank you!

Sarah Lebsack, CAAM