



Christmas Edition

A message from Mayor Paul Garro

“Dear Grey Forest Residents,

As we gather with family and friends during this season of gift-giving and gratitude, I want to take a moment to reflect on all the blessings that make our community so special. Grey Forest is more than just a small Texas town—it’s a community defined by its charm, natural beauty, and the strong bonds of its residents. Nestled at the threshold of the Texas Hill Country, Grey Forest is a place where neighbors know one another, traditions are cherished, and the unique events in which we participate allow us to truly connect. The strongest connections come from bonds nurtured by shared experiences, mutual care, demonstrative creativity and genuine support. Grey Forest is exceptional not only because of its scenic views and rich history— but mostly because of the people who call it home.

Imagine how our small community of Grey Forest has the opportunity to be illuminating across all of Texas through our per capita density of practicing artists, and community leaders, in making positive decisions that have generational impact on our natural resources, through our mutual respect among an eclectic and diverse community and in cultivating a culture of family. This growing bond is not limited to proximity. It is cultivated through intentionality- attending each other’s milestones, helping in times of need, and celebrating shared values. From these interactions, trust deepens, and what began as neighbors grows into a chosen family. Family, then, becomes not just whom we are born to but also those who walk beside us through life’s journey.

To all the dedicated public servants and staff of Grey Forest, thank you for your unwavering commitment to our community. Whether through protecting our safety, maintaining our city’s operations, protecting our natural resources, or organizing social activities to build fellowship, your work ensures that Grey Forest remains a wonderful place to live. I am thankful for each of you—the dedicated citizens who make Grey Forest vibrant and welcoming. Let us continue to celebrate and protect all that makes Grey Forest special, ensuring its legacy for generations to come.

As your mayor, I am deeply grateful for the privilege of serving you. May this season fill your hearts with joy, your homes with laughter, and your tables with abundance”

Yours in service,

A handwritten signature of Paul Garro in blue ink.





Thank You Jack Nottingham!

A few of you might recognize this kind face. Besides being one of Santa's top helpers who was specially assigned to Grey Forest, this jolly fellow was in fact Jenn's Father, Mr. Jack Nottingham. Many GF children sat on his lap and read off their Christmas lists. We all could feel the Christmas spirit fill the air as he walked in wearing that magical suit. I know he made Santa very proud!

Citizen's Spotlight - Jenn Nottingham!



Jenn Nottingham has served as Administrative Captain of the Grey Forest Volunteer Fire Department for 20 years and as a Grey Forest City Council member for 20 years.

She also helped secure property for the establishment of the Senator Frank L. Madla, Jr. Natural Area Park, where she continues to serve on the Board of Directors.

Jenn is also a member of the Guajolote Ranch Oversight Committee, that is currently fighting development from polluting our water.

Here are some more contributions Jenn has made to the community:

- Participant in the Grey Forest Open Studios for many years
- Helped plant trees at the Community Center Property
- Association of Grey Forest Area Fire Fighters Scholarship Fund Raising for firefighters
- Member of Scenic Loop Boerne Stage Alliance
- Helped to get historical marker placed in the city



Jeff and Jenn's wedding in Grey Forest, 1985

Here is what a GF citizen has to say about Jenn Nottingham...

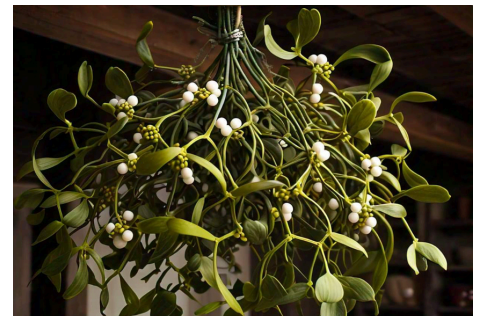
"Jenn Nottingham has been a wonderful friend and neighbor to so many. She never hesitates to lend a helping hand. Her dedication to the preservation of Grey Forest has been never wavering. I personally feel very blessed to know her and call her a friend. Jenn YOUR'RE AMAZING!"
- Annie M.



Nature News

By Myles McEntire

It's the merriest time of year, and what better time to talk about mistletoe? Everyone has heard of it and knows the tradition of kissing under mistletoe, but what is the story behind it? The specific mistletoe species widely known as "Christmas Mistletoe" carries the Greek name "Phoradendron tormentosa", which translates to "thief of the tree". That is because they are actually parasitic plants that grow on trees and sap nutrients from them.



The reason such an ecologically bad sounding plant became a symbol of love is an interesting story. Mistletoe has been an important plant throughout much of human history. The Celts believed it to have healing properties and have the capability of warding off evil. So, they became likely the first humans to decorate their homes with the parasite. Celts also thought mistletoe was a symbol of life and fertility because as the Oak trees lost their leaves in the winter, the mistletoe stayed green. They believed the mistletoe stored the life of the tree during the cold, and returned life to the leaves during spring. Little did they know it was actually draining the Oaks, shortening their lifespans.

The tradition of actually kissing under the mistletoe might have begun with the Romans, during the Saturnalia Festivals. The festival took place during the month of December around Christmas time and was dedicated to the Roman god of agriculture, Saturn. It was during these that mistletoe was hung up, then eventually it was also hung and used in marriage ceremonies, in which the couple would marry and kiss beneath the plant. That led to couples kissing under mistletoe during the Christmas season in the 18th century, thus finally solidifying the tradition we know today. So it's fair to say that over time we have adapted traditions from our past ancestors to create what we know today as the tradition of kissing under mistletoe to bring love, fertility and luck. Oh, and it makes for great holiday decoration. Merry Christmas!

What Does Grey Forest Love About Christmas?

"My favorite part of the holiday season is the diversity of the traditions, all celebrated at the same time. Christmas lights, menorahs, and kinaras all come together to create a magical atmosphere" Cat O.

"The quiet evenings at home enjoying our lighted tree. Remembering past Christmas times when our children were young...when I was young. Thankfulness for what this period of time represents." Brenda R.

"Watching a child's face light up when they receive a gift that they've yearned for, is for me, the magic of Christmas." John F.

"I like the Christmas season because of the cooler weather and I get to wear my comfy clothes?" Wendy L.

"My favorite part is getting to connect loved ones and the time we can set aside to intentionally be with our people" Laura V.

"Singing Christmas carols in German as a family with our congregation and then the soothing fireplace in our 32 year old Hill Country cottage because we are safe and secure in a beautiful historic community."

Lesli L.

"Driving around neighborhoods looking at Christmas Yard decorations. When I was kid we use to go out one night and look at the lights." Myra H.

"I enjoyed the Christmas season, when I was younger, but now that I'm older and realize it's not the receiving, or giving but expressing the love that God showed the world to our youngsters by sending His son to be human, showing His unconditional Love for humanity."

Anonymous

"Well the Grey Forest Secret Santa of course!!!! It's such a fun way to learn something new about your neighbors and make a new connection while doing something kind for others. " Kortnee W.

"Decorating the house while it's cold outside because it creates memories" Charlie F.



Pumpkin Bread

By: Geri Poss's Grandmother

2/3 Cup shortening 3 1/3 cups flour
 2 2/3 cup sugar 1/2 tsp baking powder
 4 eggs 2 tsp baking soda
 2/3 cup water 1 1/2 tsp salt
 1 large can pumpkin 1 tsp cinnamon
 1 cup nuts 1 tsp cloves

Directions:

Cream shortening and sugar. Add eggs, water, and pumpkin. Sift all dry ingredients together and add to batter, then add nuts. Grease and flour 3 one pound coffee cans or 2 one quart log pans. Bake at 350° for 1 hour.

Eggnog

By: Gerri Poss's Grandmother

12 eggs - separated
 1 box powdered sugar
 1/2 cup whiskey
 1 gal milk
 1 1/2 cup whipped cream

Directions:

Beat egg yolks until fluffy
 Pour whiskey into it. (Order is important)
 Add milk and sift in powdered sugar
 Beat whipped cream until fairly stiff, fold into mixture
 whip egg whites until stiff, fold into mixture
 Top with nutmeg if desired



"Both recipes are from my Grandmother, Barbara Shiner Poss. She decorated for parties and catered for weddings. Her eggnog recipe is a family tradition that she made for us every year. After she passed I took over the family tradition." - Geri P.



What do you call a cat on the beach at Christmas time?

Sandy Claws!!

Rug the Cat Says:

Have A Purr-fect Holiday and a Paw-some New Year!
 (GF resident for over 17 years! Meow!)

COCONUT BALLS

By Ginger Burkholder

In a pan on the stovetop, combine the following ingredients and BOIL 10 minutes, stirring often:

1 cup sugar
 1 8oz. package chopped dates (appx. 1 1/2 c.)
 1 egg, beaten
 1/2 cup shortening (butter/other)

ADD:

3 cups Rice Krispies
 1/2 cup chopped nuts (pecans)

COOL slightly.

ROLL into balls and then roll in coconut (optional).

Yields— about 4 dozen



"Originally shared by my children's Illinois grandmother, the recipe has been a family favorite at the holidays for over 50 years. We make it every year" - Ginger B.



3rd Annual Community Led "Secret Santa in the Forest" Gift Exchange

ITS THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN TO SHOW GREAT CHEER! JOIN IN ON THE FUN AND SPREAD CHRISTMAS JOY TO YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

JOIN THE NICE LIST AND SEND IN YOUR NAME AND YOUR FAVORITE COLOR, FOOD, HOBBY AND SWEET TREAT FOR YOUR SECRET SANTA.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE! THE FOREST FAIRY WILL DRAW A NAME FOR EACH PARTICIPANT AND THEIR LIST OF FAVORITES WILL BE SENT TO YOU. GIFTS AT A \$15 VALUE WILL BE DELIVERED THE WEEK OF CHRISTMAS.

Not to Late to Join the Secret Santa in the Forest Gift Exchange Email COGF by Dec 10th



We wish you Happy Holidays and THANK YOU for your Business!

The Management & Employees at Grey Forest Utilities



State grants standing to Grey Forest to contest Guajolote Ranch!

By Steve Lee

The state granted the city of Grey Forest standing to contest a wastewater permit for the controversial Guajolote Ranch project in northwest Bexar County, and set a contested-case hearing for Feb. 18-21. The San Antonio Metropolitan Health District, Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance and landowner Ann Toepperwein previously were granted standing by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to contest the permit. Florida-based Lennar Corp. wants to build 2,900 homes on about 1,100 acres of Guajolote Ranch, west of the intersection of Scenic Loop and Babcock roads, north of Grey Forest, and dump an average of 1 million gallons a day of treated sewage into Helotes Creek. Although Grey Forest previously was denied standing, a preliminary hearing Nov. 21 before the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) reconsidered, and approved standing, based on the potential effects of the project on groundwater quality and recreational spaces. And it set a timetable for an expected months-long contested-case process on the wastewater permit for Municipal Operations LLC, Lennar's proposed wastewater operator for Guajolote Ranch. Helotes Creek directly recharges the Trinity Glen Rose Aquifer, the primary water source in the immediate area, and flows across the contributing zone and enters the recharge zone of the Edwards Aquifer, the principal source of drinking water for about 2 million people across the region. "I'm so excited to announce that we do have standing in this case, and it was a concerted effort - all citizens, friends of the city of Grey Forest and those who care about our natural environment and the water system," said Grey Forest Mayor Paul Garro, who testified during the preliminary hearing. "So, congratulations to everyone. We will move forward and go fight the next battle." A teleconference of the preliminary hearing drew more than 80 logins, mostly from concerned residents throughout northwest Bexar County. A group gathered at Grey Forest city hall for a hearing watch event, where Garro and Grey Forest Utilities CEO Erik Remmert testified virtually. OAH expects to send its proposed ruling to TCEQ by the end of May for a final decision.



Area residents gather for a hearing watch event at city hall, including (front row, left to right), City Councilman Michael Phillips, Randy Neumann and Mayor Paul Garro. Standing (left to right) are Michael Wm. Schick, Susan Beavin, Jennifer Nottingham, Judy Hall, Erin McGinnis, Annie McEntire and Steve Lee.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Volunteer for Grey Forest Community Board

On behalf of the City of Grey Forest, we invite you to consider serving on the Grey Forest Community Board. Interested applicants are encouraged to contact the City Secretary directly with a letter of interest and/or any questions regarding the expectations for board members at

citysecretary@greyforest-tx.gov.

Please note that the Grey Forest Community Board will not meet during November and December 2024 due to the current lack of a quorum. However, the city will continue to support all rentals and the scheduled Halloween Hayride and Christmas Social. The city is actively seeking new board members.

Thank you!

Madla Park

by Storms Duthie

Hours: Sunrise to Sunset

Bring drinking water

Pets must be on leashes at all times for your pets safety as well as yours.

Stay on trails at all times.



CoGF remains in Stage Two Water Restrictions

From Grey Forest Utilities: We are at 512'. We remain in Stage 2 drought levels (500' - 520'). Please continue to observe all Stage 2 restrictions and take steps to conserve this critical resource for the community. Thank you for your help in managing this critical resource for the community.



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

**IF YOU HAVE AN IDEA OR TOPIC FOR FUTURE ISSUES
PLEASE EMAIL US AT
ASSTCITYSECRETARY@GREYFOREST-TX.GOV**



We are saddened to hear of the recent passing of **Louis Hecker**, Mayor of Grey Forest from 1984 - 1987

“FOR THE FRIDGE” EVENT REMINDERS



Police
THE STATE OF TEXAS
GREY FOREST

Holiday Toy Drive
Benefiting
St. P.J.'s
www.stpjhome.org

Grey Forest Police Department
With the
*Christmas
Toy Drive*
MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR
TOYS WILL BE COLLECTED AND
DONATED BY DECEMBER THE 15TH
JUST DROP OFF A NEW AND
UNWRAPPED TOY AT THE
FOLLOWING LOCATIONS

GREY FOREST UTILITIES
City of GREY FOREST Texas
Cedar Springs
HTeaO
Meadows

For more information Contact:
City of Grey Forest Police Department - (210) 685-3251 Ext #3
Grey Forest Utilities - (210) 685-5979



Grey Forest
Christmas Celebration
15 dec | 5:00 Pm

Our Community Board will provide the meat dish, and guests are encouraged (but not required) to bring a side dish.



**Candy
Cane Toss**

Station 182 will start at Terra Mont and Proceed to the Arbolada Apartments. Station 181 will start at Grey Forest and proceed to Midsomer Place.

**December
16th
5:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.**

Please be sure to follow our Facebook page “Bexar County ESD NO.8 Fire Dept”
For continuous updates!

Santa Gift Delivery

Santa will also be making his rounds to deliver gifts with the help of the fire department. All gifts must be brought to the address below **NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 20th**. Please ensure that gifts are WRAPPED and clearly labeled with the recipient’s NAME, ADDRESS, and PHONE NUMBER. Santa and all his helpers are excited to see everyone again this year!

DROP OFF LOCATION

 Bexar County ESD No 8
Fire Department
20825 Babcock Rd
San Antonio, TX 78255

Please understand we are still responding to emergencies during this time

**Gift Delivery
Date
December 21st**



**SOS It's
Lunch
Time!**

Grey Forest Seniors

You're Invited to Gather for Food & Fellowship:

- Monday, December 9, 2024

Grey Forest Community Center!

Contact asstcitysecretary@greyforest-tx.gov if you would prefer to be removed from the COGF Newsletter distributed every other month.