

December  
2007

# Santa Claus is Coming to Town!



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Join us at the Londonderry Clubhouse for pictures with  
Santa!

Sunday, December 16th

2:00 - 6:00

Moonwalk

Arts & Crafts

Hot Chocolate

Cookies

Create a Christmas Card for a Soldier

Gift for the Kids from Santa

Volunteers are needed for this event. We'll need help with set up beginning at 12:30.  
We'll need people to supervise the moonwalk between 2:00 & 6:00 (in 30 minute  
shifts). We'll also need help with clean up at 6:00.

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**Neighborhood Teen Job Seekers**  
**Babysitting (b); Pet sitting (p);**  
**Yard work (y)**

Name	Phone #	Services
Caleb	832-331-8051	b, p
Katie	281-413-3232	b, p

If you're a teen and you'd like to list your information in this newsletter, please send it to [lhoanewsletter@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lhoanewsletter@sbcglobal.net). There is no charge for Londonderry residents.

**Metzler Elementary Collecting Beanie Babies to Send to Iraq!**

Did you say Beanie Babies? No kidding! A really good excuse to get rid of those things — you don't even have to buy new ones, just collect those that you already have around your house and ask your friends to do the same! Why Beanie Babies? They are really easy for the soldiers to carry with them and give to local kids who love them. They are better than small plastic toys that break easily. There is not a more effective ambassador for our country than a soldier helping the local folks. This is done far more often than the press shows, and quite possibly the most important thing a Soldier will ever do!

Bring your Beanie Babies to Metzler Elementary or drop them by the clubhouse during our monthly board meeting and we'll make sure they are delivered to Metzler.

**Important Numbers for Londonderry Residents**

**Harris County Constable-Emergency Dispatch**  
 281-376-3472

**Fire & Ambulance**  
 Call 911

**Poison Control**  
 1-800-764-7661

**Animal Control**  
 281-999-3191

**Londonderry Clubhouse**  
 281-255-2016

**Londonderry Pool**  
 281-255-8025

**To report a street lamp out**

**Toddler Christmas Party**

Friday, December 14th  
 10:30 am - 12:30 pm  
 Londonderry Clubhouse

Let's celebrate the season with snacks, crafts & playtime for the children!

Please bring a wrapped book for the kid's gift exchange. Please limit to \$10 per book & bring one wrapped book for each child who attends.


Interested in advertising in the Londonderry newsletter? Whether you are involved in a home-based business or go in to an office each day, you can advertise your product or service to the over 400 homeowners of Londonderry subdivision. It's easy to do.....just submit your information to [lhoanewsletter@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lhoanewsletter@sbcglobal.net) by the 15th of the month and your ad will appear in the following month's newsletter. Prices are as follows:

	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months
1/8 page	\$10	\$25	\$50
1/4 page	\$15	\$40	\$80
1/2 page	\$25	\$70	\$140
Full page	\$40	\$100	\$200

**Next LHOA Meeting**

Tuesday, December 11th  
 7:30 pm

Londonderry Clubhouse  
 Homeowners are encouraged to attend!



## Find Perfect Last-Minute Gifts

Cindy Post Senning, the great-granddaughter of etiquette guru Emily Post, seems to have it all together.

She knows what wedding gifts to get. She knows how to make a great

But just like many of us, Senning can be found in the mall Dec. 24 fran-

Senning is a self-proclaimed last-minute shopper. And she's OK with that.

"It's worked for me for a lot of years," Senning said. "I kind of like that. I like that crunch. I'm a person that works better under a deadline."

Senning said she's tried to shop earlier, but every time she sees something a couple months before the holidays that would be perfect for someone on her list, she moves on. She knows she'll find something

But when she has to shop the day before Christmas, she suddenly becomes a very efficient shopper with a very distinct goal.

However, Senning warns that in order to become a truly talented last-minute shopper, one must plan ahead and have a general idea of what to get the people on your list.

### Don't Wander

Susan Hook, senior director of public relations at RedEnvelope, also said the key to a successful holiday is being organized.

"If you are stuck doing last-minute shopping, at least take time to get yourself organized," Hook said. "There is nothing more stressful or counterproductive than aimlessly wandering around a crowded mall or surfing the Internet without a clue of what you are looking for."

First, you must set your budget. If a gift costs too much, you may come to resent it.

Senning said the next step is to find something that suits the person. But that may be hard to do.

Cynthia Townley Ewer, editor of the Organizedhome.com network and author of the book "Houseworks: Cut the Clutter, Speed Your Cleaning and Calm the Chaos," advises people to think about the interests, hobbies and favorite activities of the gift recipients.

### What A Kid Wants

When shopping for children, Ewer said to ask for gift suggestions from an acquaintance of the same age group.

"You'll impress a niece or grandchild if you ask others their age for good gift ideas, even if you've never heard of Hot Topic or the iTunes music store," Ewer said.

Ewer's No. 1 tip on gift-giving for kids this holiday season is to avoid the "Grandma, you *really* shouldn't have" sweater with the childish snowman scene, which is sure to evoke teasing from peers.

Some of the easiest places to find last-minute gifts are big retailers that have long hours or are open all day and night. The discount chains also may try to help people out by cutting back prices on certain toys and games.

### Gifting At Work

Although children may be difficult to shop for, it's the older folks you work with who are more difficult, especially if you're shopping under a deadline. With co-workers, you must be sure to get something appropriate, yet thoughtful.

However, Senning said she generally advises people to not give gifts to co-workers, unless the person is also a friend outside the office. In that case, don't give the gift while at work.

She said the best gift-giving to do interoffice is through games, such as white elephant exchanges.

If you do feel like giving co-workers gifts, Senning advises avoiding regifting, the process of taking a gift you received previously and passing it on. She also said she wouldn't give co-workers alcohol. But if you know some drinks coffee, get her a specialty brew.

She also suggested stationary and fun things for the desk.

"Because you know less about interests or preferences -- and to avoid offense -- aim for consumable gifts: something that can be consumed, used up or experienced," Ewer said.

### Limit Your Options

Ewer suggested doing all your shopping in one place.

"It's not about the gifts, it's about the search," Ewer said. "Try a 'theme' for gift-giving to consolidate purchases and save time and shipping charges."

Ewer suggested using online shopping as a theme or even buying everyone subscriptions to magazines.

No matter when you decide to do your holiday shopping, remember: It's the thought that counts. Have fun, whether you're last-minute shopping or you started in March.

Hook advises making your shopping an adventure.

"Make it fun," Hook said. "If you have to brave the mall on Dec. 23, bring a friend and a sense of humor. Finish the day with a holiday cocktail as you each vow to being shopping in June next year."

Senning said her most important strategy is remaining calm.

"My advice just generally is to really try to be sane," Senning said. "This whole idea of giving and receiving gifts should be special and not something where we're trying to meet superimposed standards. Enjoy the time and enjoy giving the gift."

*Article written by contributing writer, Krista Nightengale. Article excerpted from [www.click2houston.com](http://www.click2houston.com).*



## Financial Focus: To Fight Rising Prices, Invest for Income and Growth

Even if you don't typically follow economic news all that closely, the fact that oil prices are now hovering near the \$100-per-barrel mark has probably caught your attention. If not, it should because stratospheric oil prices will almost certainly affect you as a consumer - and it may also cause you to review your investment strategies.

Of course, if you drive, you're aware of oil economics every time you fill up at the pump. But even if you don't own a car, you'll find that oil - or at least petrochemical products made from crude oil - is leaving a big footprint in your life. From computers to clothing, pens to paint brushes and shampoo to shower curtains, you use petrochemical products made from petroleum all the time, and every day. So, given the stratospheric prices of crude oil, don't be surprised to see the prices of many of these products start to climb.

You might be less concerned about the potential inflationary pressures caused by rising oil prices if your income were rising significantly. But that may not be the case; over the past several years, wage growth has been relatively low. Factoring in inflation, weekly wages were just 2.2 percent higher in September 2007 than in March 2001, according to research compiled by the Center for American Progress.

So, here's the situation in a nutshell: While prices may be going up, your wages may be stagnating. That's not a formula for achieving your long-term goals, such as a comfortable retirement. To address this problem, then, you'll need to look at another component of your financial picture - your investments. Consider these suggestions:


\* Invest for rising income. Fixed-income vehicles, such as bonds and Certificates of Deposit (CDs), may well have a place in your portfolio, but they might not keep you ahead of inflation. That's why you may want to consider investing in dividend-producing stocks. Some of these stocks have actually increased their dividends for more than 25 straight years. So, if you're seeking ways to stay ahead of inflation, here's one place to look. (Keep in mind, though, that even stocks with long histories of paying dividends are not obligated to do so in the future, and they may cut dividends, or not pay them at all, in any given year.)

\* Invest for growth. To stay ahead of inflation for the future, you'll want investments that provide the opportunity for long-term appreciation. That means you should have a certain percentage of your portfolio devoted to growth stocks. It's true that these stocks can be volatile; their prices will go up and down, and it's possible you could lose some or your entire principal. But you can reduce this risk, and increase the chances of staying ahead of inflation, by purchasing an array of quality growth stocks - those issued by companies with solid management, competitive products and strong balance sheets.

No one can really predict how high oil prices will rise, how long they will stay elevated and how much they will affect overall inflation. But you shouldn't sit around and wait for these answers. Instead, work with your financial advisor to find income and growth opportunities.

Provided by Edward Jones, office of Kevin Martin, Financial Advisor at 24910 Kuykendahl Suite D Tomball, Tx. 77375 Phone: 281-357-0838

**SEASON'S GREETINGS**



We have enjoyed helping Spring residents achieve their financial goals over the past year. It is a pleasure to be a member of this community!

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Please join us for a holiday open house to meet and greet friends and neighbors.

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**Date:** December 18, 2007  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
**Place:** Edward Jones Investments

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**Kevin Martin**  
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[www.edwardjones.com](http://www.edwardjones.com) Member SIPC



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### Multi-Family Garage Sale

25134 Aughton Dr.

Thursday & Friday, Dec. 6 & 7

7:30 am - 1:30 pm

There will be lots of stuff to choose from including  
new & used toys and Christmas decor



### *“Tis the Christmas Shopping Season”*

*Need Great Gift Ideas?  
and convenient neighborhood shopping?  
My Mary Kay “Holiday Store”  
is all you need!*

*Gifts and stocking stuffers for teachers, co-workers, friends &  
family everyone on your shopping list.*

*Gifts start at \$10.00*

**Attention Men:** *I make beautiful custom designed pam-  
pering gift baskets for the “Special Woman” in your life.*

### **Free gift wrap and delivery**

*Layaway available  
Shop in person or online  
Judy Abbs  
281-351-6187  
[www.mymk.com/JABBS](http://www.mymk.com/JABBS)*

### Life of the Party

*Not a domestic diva? Entertaining need not be a recipe for exhaustion.  
You can entertain without feeling the strain.*

Enjoy your own party? After you’ve slaved for weeks over the planning, decorations, and cooking, the idea may sound ridiculous. But you know what? Entertaining doesn’t have to be that way. Oh, I’ve been there. Early in our marriage, there were plenty of times when I made myself, my family, and everyone within a five-mile radius miserable getting ready for dinner parties and holiday meals.

Over the years I learned that everyone (including me) appreciates gatherings a lot more when I relax and remember that the goal is to enjoy the special occasion and bless others through our hospitality — not to end up in a home for the terminally overwhelmed.

I now have entertaining down to a fine science. I’ve simplified table setting, decorating, and kitchen clean-up, and for a number of reasons (the health of our guests in particular), I delegate cooking responsibilities to my husband, Bill, whenever possible. He’s a better cook than I am, and this way I don’t have to worry about Tom Turkey turning into Turkey Jerky.

Entertaining need not be a recipe for exhaustion. Use the following ideas to make your holiday gathering a wonderful affair to remember for everyone, including you!

- Serve yourself some grace. If you’re not a gourmet cook, don’t try to wrap your turkey in puff pastry like I once did, unless you want to end up eating underdone poultry in a crisp black dress. And it’s not a sin to buy items that the bakery or deli can make better than you can.
- Avoid smoking your food rather than baking it. Cleaning your oven a night or two before your event is one job you can accomplish while you sleep. Simply spray your oven with oven cleaner before you go to bed, and let the cleaner do its job. You can also put automatic dishwasher soap or baking soda on the bottom of your oven and cover it with wet paper towels. Wipe clean the next day.
- Stock bathrooms with soap, hand towels, and toilet paper before guests arrive. Parties tend to tax plumbing, so it’s considerate to keep a plunger in a discreet but accessible location.
- Place floor mats inside and outside your doorway if you’re expecting bad weather. Provide a container for holding umbrellas.
- Keep an empty flower vase standing by. If a guest brings fresh flowers as a hostess gift, you won’t have to run around searching for a vase.
- Make arrangements for your pets. Some guests are allergic.
- If children are coming, make sure some foods are kid-friendly.
- Be aware of guests’ special dietary needs. Offer at least one meatless dish hearty enough to serve as a main course for vegetarians.

Article written by Kathy Peel and excerpted from HomeLife magazine, November 2007 edition.

**The HOA Board of 2007**

President: Guy Chason  
(281) 351-9544  
Vice President: Ticia Stolt  
(281) 255-2016  
Secretary: Robin Haney  
(281) 255-2009  
Treasurer: Heather Walker  
(713) 384-5984  
Parliamentarian: Wayne Rutledge  
(281) 255-4554  
Sergeant-At-Arms: Brian  
Zultowski (832) 419-8386  
Newsletter Editor: Brandi Morgan  
(281) 923-4252

**2007 Londonderry  
Committees**

Adult's Activities: *Open position*  
Architectural: Joe Perez  
(281) 516-7729  
Ball Field: Darrell Schulze  
(281) 351-2008  
Children's Activities: *Open  
position*  
Clubhouse: Lori Heidenreich  
(281) 255-2016  
Deed Restrictions: Susan  
Wheeler (281) 255-2016  
Fishing Pond: Roy Alford  
(281) 357-4367  
Improvements: *Open position*  
Pool Liaison: (281) 255-2016  
Swim Team Liaison: Vanessa  
Gnatzig (281) 255-3187  
Website: Brian Conrad  
(281) 255-2016  
Welcome: Bob and Jimmie  
Carlton (281) 351-4358

If you are interested in any  
of the above positions or  
committees, please  
contact one of the board  
members listed above or  
call 281-255-2016.

Visit the LHOA website at  
[www.londonderry-hoa.org](http://www.londonderry-hoa.org).

# Londonderry Homeowner's Association

November Board Meeting was cancelled. The next LHOA Board Meeting is  
scheduled for Tuesday, December 11th.

## Cut It Out

Clipping coupons is good exercise for your wallet and your  
parenting muscle.

Tempted to toss the coupon section of your  
Sunday paper? You could be throwing away a  
chance to slash your grocery bill.

"We're a family of six, and I generally save  
about 30 to 50 percent on our groceries with  
coupons each week," says Michelle Jones, foun-  
der of BetterBudgeting.com.

A long-time coupon clipper, Jones says it's  
worth the time it takes to sort through and or-  
ganize coupons. "Think of them as cash, and  
just try to use them whenever you can," she  
says.

### Get organized

"The best way to keep your coupons organized  
is to use an inexpensive coupon book organ-  
izer," says Rhonda Cliett, former home finance  
editor of BellaOnline (bellaonline.com).  
"Simply file your coupons in the appropriate  
tabs, and you'll be ready to go shopping."

Let your kids help you gather and use coupons.  
It will teach them savvy shopping skills they can  
carry with them the rest of their lives.

Cliett recommends clipping only the coupons  
you intend to use. "Immediately prior to shop-  
ping, go through your coupon book and remove  
expired coupons." (Ask your kids to help you.)  
She also suggests using a spiral notebook to  
help you determine if you're getting the best  
price, even with a coupon. Simply record prices  
at various stores of your most commonly pur-  
chased items.

### Additional in-store savings

Shop at stores that will double and triple cou-  
pons to slash even more off your grocery bill.  
Many stores offer membership rewards pro-  
grams that give additional savings on purchases.  
By combining in-store promotions with cou-  
pons, you may get an even better deal. How-  
ever, Cliett encourages shoppers who use these  
programs to make sure they really are getting a

good deal. "Not all advertised sales are good  
deals," she warns.

Jones also cautions about using coupons wisely.  
"Common mistakes shoppers make are buying  
things they don't need and stockpiling groceries in  
order to use up their coupons. Just buy what you  
need," she advises.

### Internet deals

Newspapers aren't the only place to look for cou-  
pons. Visit the Web sites of your favorite brands  
to search for coupons and to sign up for special  
offers. Don't have a lot of time to visit individual  
Web sites? Some sites do the work for you.

Restaurants, entertainment venues, and retailers  
— online and off — offer coupons to draw in  
customers. Encourage your kids to make a game  
of finding these coupons as well as those for den-  
tal services, automotive repair, and cleaning ser-  
vices.

### Crack These Savings Banks

To get your hands on lots of money, you  
don't need the secret combination to a  
bank vault, just a computer to access  
these lucrative Web sites:

**Boodle.com**

**CoolSavings.com**

**CouponCat.net**

**CouponMom.com**

**SmartSource.com**

**Valpak.com**



Article written by Francine L. Huff and excerpted from HomeLife  
Magazine, November 2007 edition.