



# Churchill Area Neighbors

Nov-Dec 2008

NEWSLETTER

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## **Special Note:**

**The Nov and Dec CAN meetings have been canceled due to the holidays. We'll see you in January!**



## **Holiday Fire Safety**

*By Suzanne Buck, Churchill Area Neighbors Newsletter Editor*

CAN welcomed District Fire Chief Don Vaught, of Eugene Fire and EMS, to our October meeting. Attendees learned much from Chief Vaught who has been with the Fire Department more than 25 years. Here are some basic tips to help keep everyone safe during the fall and winter holidays:

- **Use the safest holiday lights available to decorate your home.** Many stores now sell LED lights which function at much cooler temperatures than the old bulb lights, producing very little heat and requiring much less electricity.
- **Any lit candles should NOT be left unattended.** When lit, all combustibles should be moved clear of a candle to prevent the accidental ignition of a larger fire.
- **If you have baseboard heating:** before turning on your heat for the first time, remove anything that is in contact with the heaters. For optimal safety and heating, nothing should be covering, leaning against or in contact with the baseboard heaters.
- **If you have a wood stove:** remember to dispose of the stove ashes into a metal bucket, located away from your house, and soak them down with water to ensure that they cannot re-ignite. Hot ashes can rekindle after 1—2 days, and if left in a combustible container in a poor location, can easily ignite a fire which could spread and consume your entire home. Always have your stove cleaned annually to prevent the build up of creosote which can catch fire.
- **Have at least one smoke detector near the sleeping areas and at least one smoke detector per each level of your home.**
- **Verify that your smoke detector is functioning properly!** A working smoke detector reduces the likelihood of death from a fire by 50%.
- **Practice EDITH** (Exit Drills In The Home) drills with your family in case of emergency. Teach your children that in case of fire, it is ok to knock out screens if they are on the first floor so they can get out safely. Discuss the multiple ways you and your family can escape your house given a variety of fire scenarios. Determine a family gathering point outside of your home in case of emergency evacuation.

*For more information, please visit the Eugene Fire and EMS home page on the City of Eugene's website ([www.eugene-or.gov](http://www.eugene-or.gov)).*

## **Upcoming Events**

### **CAN Meetings**

Nov and Dec meetings  
cancelled for the holidays

January 28, 2009  
General CAN meeting

February 25, 2009  
CAN elections!!

### **West Eugene Collaborative**

Alan Buck, Chairman of the Churchill Area Neighbors, was added as a member of the West Eugene Collaborative (WEC) in September of 2008. The WEC's mission statement is to, "Develop an integrated land use and transportation solution supported by stakeholders that will facilitate movement of people and commerce from/through/to west Eugene and west of Eugene while enhancing community, business and the environment."

If you'd like Alan to visit your HOA and discuss the current options to improve traffic movement along West 11th Avenue, please contact him via email at: [alan@churchillareaneighbors.org](mailto:alan@churchillareaneighbors.org).

### **Birth Announcement**

The female Piebald deer, introduced to everyone in the August CAN newsletter, has given birth! Baby appears healthy and is pie-Bald, just like Mom. The happy family continues to reside in the Churchill Neighborhood.



## **Meet A Neighbor: The Halloween and Christmas Lights Family on Brittany Street**

*By Suzanne Buck, Churchill Area Neighbors Newsletter Editor*

If you have young children, or are still a kid at heart, you've likely made the pilgrimage to the "House with all the Holiday Decorations" located across from McCornack Elementary School on Brittany Street within the Churchill Neighborhood. Every Halloween more than 200 children and parents who share the holiday spirit, visit this house to admire the decorations.

This year, the Reske family, Tom, Dawn and daughter Alayna, assembled their spooky Halloween décor two weeks prior to the little ghosts and goblins visiting their house to obtain some yummy Halloween candy. After the trick-or-treaters ceased coming late in the evening, they quietly dismantled their lights and decorations and put them away.

They will next begin to decorate before the turkey is even done cooking on Thanksgiving, so they can have enough time to put up all of their Christmas decorations! Often listed in the Register-Guard's list of homes to visit with holiday lights, the Reske's love to share their holiday spirit for Christmas with everyone!

Sad to say it, but in years gone past, and even this year at Halloween, the Reske's had to deal with vandalism of their holiday displays. Past experience is why this year's Halloween display was only up for 2 weeks and not 3-less time for vandals to strike. Unfortunately, they did have their beautiful air-filled, horse drawn hearse display stolen right out of their front yard in the middle of the night. Although we were all flabbergasted at this act of meaningless pilfering, as noted by the signs the family posted for the criminals to see, they persisted in keeping their spirits (and decorations) up through Halloween.

The Reske's simply cannot stop cold turkey putting up their decorations because of criminals in the area; their decorations are a tradition they've carried on for over 20 years which started even before their daughter was born. Each year the family purchases a few more pieces which comprise the ever growing, beautiful collection that they now own. Every time they see someone slow down to look at their decorated house, or pose for a photo in on their front lawn when it is decorated for a holiday, they are thrilled. It's then that they have succeeded in spreading the holiday spirit!

Watch for the decorations change as the seasons change. Although best known for Halloween and Christmas the Reske's also decorate for Easter and also the 4th of July as well. And if you do see them outside, don't hesitate to stop by, introduce yourself, and say thank you for bringing such wonderful holiday spirit to the Churchill Area Neighborhood.

## A CAN Business: The Artistic Gardener

By Suzanne Buck, CAN Newsletter Editor and  
Kenan Rowlett, owner of The Artistic Gardener

**A little about Kenan.** Although I grew up in Florida, like any true Eugenician, I grew up with a love of running and athletics. I dreamed of a sub-four mile and a chance of running in the Olympics. My fame, however, came as the Florida state mile champion, SEC cross country championship and a 4<sup>th</sup> place finish in the NCAA East Regional cross country championships. I captained the University of Tennessee cross country team all four years there. Yes, I ran faster and achieved more off the track than on.

**How did you get into gardening?** When I was a kid, I remember breaking a limb off a rubber tree by my house and sticking it in the ground; six months a rubber tree towered above the roof line of the house! I thought that was so cool that I did the same with a schefflera branch. I was also intrigued by the mosses, bromeliads and orchids which grew in my neighbor's live oak tree and I loved how they came alive after rain.

After taking a break from scholastics, I went back to school to focus on becoming a horticulturist and landscape designer. I worked in a nursery and started a nursery and a small landscape design company in 1977 to support myself through school.

**How did your business, The Artistic Gardener, come to be?** After a disabling car accident in 1975, I began practicing yoga and, later, taught for 20 years. During that time I continued growing plants for a hobby which later turned into a career. In 1995 I quit teaching yoga and started a nursery. Eventually, the nursery required more and more of my time, so I devoted all of my attention to growing. My family and I are now in our 13<sup>th</sup> year at the nursery and are shifting the focus from bamboo to unique perennials, exotic plants, hardy tropicals and natives.

### Meeting Our Neighbors

By Suzanne Buck, Newsletter Editor

As a member of the CAN organization for the past 3 years, I continue to learn more and more about our neighborhood. Although the article about our "Holiday House Decorations" neighbors was easy to come up with, the article above wouldn't have come about had I not been contacted directly by Kenan Rowlett, a small business owner who not only resides in the Churchill Neighborhood but also runs his business, The Artistic Gardener out of his home. Above is an article about him and his gardening business. Until he contact me I knew nothing of his business or the fact that it is located less than 1 mile from my own home! I hope you enjoy the article which details his interest in gardening and his business, The Artistic Gardener.

If you, or anyone you know lives in the Churchill Neighborhood and runs their own business, please feel free to drop me a note at [newsletter@churchillareaneighbors.org](mailto:newsletter@churchillareaneighbors.org), so that in the future newsletters more articles about members of our Neighborhood can be written.

My wife, Kathy, helps in the nursery on evenings and weekends. We do all of the work in the nursery ourselves, and there are times when the sacrifice is huge, but we wouldn't trade it for anything in the world (except for winning the lottery and a beach house in Costa Rica). We love having people visit our serene gardens, so come by, sit by the pond, and watch birds bathe in the pool above the waterfall. This time of year many birds are passing through, so new ones arrive daily. On stormy days the timber bamboo dances and sways, so we enjoy the voices of the wind

**Tell us more about your business.** My family and I live in a beautiful bamboo forest with a pond, waterfall and stream all of which my son, Asa, and I built. When we bought our house in 1988 the property was all lawn and dying fruit trees. Over the last 20 years we have transformed it all into gardens. A stand of timber bamboo 40' tall forms a circle inspired by a landscape architect friend of ours. There are several garden rooms and that is the Circle. The pond is another room, and then there is the Cove. There are many hideouts in the garden for our jungle cat, Sox. People get the feeling of being in a real bamboo forest here because of the privacy, water and bamboo. Ellen Schlesinger, author of 'Guide to Nearby Nurseries' describes our back yard as an opening in a tropical jungle.

We love having people visit our serene gardens, so come by, sit by the pond, and watch birds bathe in the pool above the waterfall. This time of year many birds are passing through, so new ones arrive daily. On stormy days the timber bamboo dances and sways, so we enjoy the voices of the wind.

**How can we contact you?** Located at 3244 West 16th Ave (between Buck St. and Brittany St.), The Artistic Gardener is open by appointment, so give us a call at 345-4388, [www.artisticgardener.net](http://www.artisticgardener.net). In the Spring we will be open all day on Friday and Sunday, starting the last week in March.



Kenan Rowlett, CAN resident and owner of  
The Artistic Gardener, [ww.artisticgardener.net](http://www.artisticgardener.net)



# Churchill Area Neighbors

## Next General Meeting

Wednesday: **January 28, 2009**, 7:00-8:30 pm  
Churchill Estates, 1919 Bailey Hill Road

**Nov and Dec meetings  
have been canceled.**

**See you Jan 28, 2009!  
Happy Holidays!**

Visit the Churchill Area Neighbors web site for more information at: [www.churchillareaneighbors.org](http://www.churchillareaneighbors.org)

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This is the official newsletter of the Churchill Area Neighbors. Newsletters are published and mailed courtesy of the City of Eugene. Newsletters are produced by neighborhood volunteers and are free to residents and businesses of the neighborhood. Space is available for letters to the editor and editorial comments from neighbors. All signed letters will be published as space permits. Editorials express the author's views, not the position of the Neighborhood Association; the City's elected officials, or City staff.