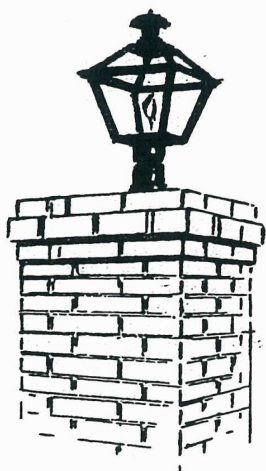


November 2020

taracivicasassociation.org



TARA CIVIC ASSOCIATION

TARA TALK

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## ENTRANCE SIGNS

They are complete! They are majestic and stately and will look even more magnificent once that annuals have matured. The lantern on top of the South entrance was damaged during hurricane Delta and will be repaired in order to straighten it up. It looks beautiful at night with the lights illuminating the name we call home.



## It's the Time of Year Burglaries Increase

The National Highway and Transportation Safety Administration warns that valuable items left in vehicles and vehicle parts are targets for thieves. Parts that may be targeted include radios, wheel covers, doors, engines, transmissions, air bags and radios, as well as items such as GPS units, cellphones, iPads, laptops and purses.

Most vehicle break-ins are crimes of opportunity and often occur when valuables, like purses or cellphones, are left inside cars. It is recommended to always lock your car and bring all valuables with you when exiting your vehicle. The NHTSA reminds vehicle owners to use common sense when parking and exiting your vehicle.

\*Take your keys. Don't leave them in your vehicle.

\*Close all windows and lock all doors.

\*Never leave valuables in your vehicle. Anything stored inside your vehicle should be out of sight or in the trunk.

\*Never leave credit cards/debit cards, cash or your wallet or purse inside of your vehicle overnight.

\*Park in well-lit areas or preferably inside a garage, if possible. Park in visible areas where your vehicle is not hidden by foliage or larger vehicles. Install lights with motion sensors near where you park your vehicle.

\*Get in the routine of double-checking that your vehicle is locked and secure each night around 9 p.m. This is known as the 9 p.m. routine.

Don't forget to keep your shed and outbuildings locked too. Lawn equipment is always in high demand because it is easy to pawn.

# The Holidays and Covid

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With the holiday season fast approaching and coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) surging in most parts of the country, millions of Americans will break with tradition this year to celebrate in ways that will help to keep us all safe and healthy. Granted, this may present some difficult emotional and logistical challenges, but the American can-do spirit will rise to meet those challenges.

Celebrating holidays alone or with your immediate household members can sound rather dreary. After all, who wants to roast and carve a turkey for just a few people? But, if you look at it another way, the pandemic does offer opportunities to make this holiday a season to remember in new and different ways. Here are a couple of ideas that you may want to consider: **Send Gifts.** Although COVID-19 has changed our lives in many ways, sending cards or gifts remains a relatively easy way to let loved ones know that you're thinking of them. Who wouldn't want to receive some home-baked goodies, a basket of fresh fruit, or a festive wreath? If you enjoy knitting, candle making, or other ways of crafting gifts for the holidays, now's the time to start planning for Thanksgiving through the New Year.

**Make Videos.** When visiting family, there is often music involved—with guitar, piano, and maybe some singing. But, this year, be content with video recording a few songs and sending them to others by text or email. Come to think of it, the kids and the grandkids might enjoy these songs just as much—or even more—if they can watch them at a time and place that works best for them. (On the other hand, some of them might roll their eyes and decide not to open that video file!) If you don't play a guitar or like to sing, you can still make your own holiday-themed videos. Maybe share a dance routine, a demonstration of athletic skill, or even some stand-up comedy. The key is to have fun and let your imagination run free.

**Share a Meal Remotely.** Most of our end-of-the-year holidays involve the family sitting around a table overflowing with delicious food. With all of the video conferencing platforms now available, it is easy to set aside a block of time to share a meal and good conversation remotely with friends and family members, whether they live nearby or across the country. Rather than one cook slaving over a hot stove or a certain person monopolizing the dinner table conversation, everyone gets a chance to cook and share their stories via their smartphone, tablet, or laptop. You can compare your culinary creations, swap recipes, and try to remember to leave room for dessert. If you have a tradition of playing games or giving thanks for your many blessings, you can still do many of these activities remotely.

**Take an After-Dinner Walk.** Due to the physical demands and psychological impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, it's been difficult for many of us to stay physically active. The key is making exercise a daily priority, and the holidays are no different. After your holiday meal, go on a virtual group walk through your respective neighborhoods to work off the food. Thanks to your smartphone's camera, you can share your time outdoors and all the interesting sights along the way. (Yes, the new playground in the local park looks *fantastic*, and the neighbors really *did* just paint their house purple!)

**Stay Safe.** If you plan to go ahead and join a holiday gathering in person, it's important to remain vigilant, even when interacting with dear friends and loved ones. The greatest risk for spread of COVID-19 right now is these family gatherings. Remember there are risks associated with travel and with interacting with people who've not been tested for the coronavirus prior to the event, especially if they reside in a COVID hot spot—which is almost everywhere these days. Try to keep any family gatherings brief and relatively small, about five people or less. If the weather permits, hold the get-together outdoors. To protect yourself and your loved ones, both now and over the holidays, please follow these **3 W's**:

- **Wear a mask** when you are out in public and when you are indoors with people who are not part of your immediate household. The only exception is while eating or drinking!
- **Watch your distance**, staying at least 6 feet away from people who are not part of your immediate household.
- **Wash your hands** thoroughly and frequently.

Making all these adjustments is a lot to consider when you're trying to have a good time and there are children and older adults in the mix.

While this holiday season is likely to be memorable in ways that we never could have imagined, thanks to the rapid advances being made by medical research, we ultimately will get the COVID-19 pandemic under control so we can once again give everyone we love a big hug in person. Until then, please stay safe. Wishing each of you a wonderful and healthful holiday season, starting with a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas!

Source NIH

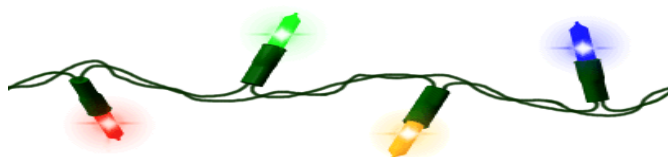
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## Christmas Light Decorating Contest

The Garden Club will be hosting the Annual Tara Christmas Lighting Contest on

**Tuesday, December 15th at 6:30 pm.**

Categories: Best Door, Best Children's, Best Religious, Best Lighting, Most Original, and Judges Choice



# In the Neighborhood

## WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS

We have quite a few new residents to acknowledge due to a long break of visitation caused by the Covid 19. Welcome to all new residents! We are glad you chose Tara Subdivision!

Brad & Constance Boyd	1443 Crescent
Lane & Natalie Davis	1040 Shades
Jason & Stephanie Gremillion	9049 Trinity
Scott Harang	8763 Trinity
Joshua & Kristen Hibbard	1238 Tara Blvd
Patrick & Sarah Hunt	1343 Crescent
Nazrul & Saijia Howlader	8946 Cottage
Nathan & Rachel Irby	1471 Ashland
Bobby & Justina Jacks	1926 Beechgrove
Sean & Patricia Kirkland	1722 Beechgrove
James Lee	8925 Bayside
Paul & Natalie Lee	1124 Ashland
Glen & Sonia Mitoke	1808 Roseneath
Mallory Richard	1168 Aurora
Wesley & Sara Root	8856 Cottage
John & Courtney Robert	1523 Oakley
Willie & Stephanie Saltz	9157 Whitehall
John & Martha Stinson	1132 Oakley
Ben & Jessica Tran	1707 Roseneath
Curry Vernet	8838 Cottage
Arvind Viswanathan/McKenna Brewer	1133 Oakley
Blake & Miah Wright	1628 Oakley

ALL WILL CONCEDE THAT IN ORDER TO  
HAVE GOOD NEIGHBORS, WE MUST ALSO BE  
GOOD NEIGHBORS. THAT APPLIES IN EVERY  
FIELD OF HUMAN ENDEAVOR.

- HARRY S. TRUMAN -

LIBQUOTES.COM

## MAGIC, HOPE, and TOGETHERNESS

On Christmas Eve at 6pm we are asking everyone to come outside and ring a bell for 2 minutes to spread Christmas spirit and to help Santa fly that sleigh.



After a tough year it would be an amazing memory for the kids and community. Let's end 2020 with a bit of magic, hope and togetherness.

## TRIMMING OF THE CREPE MYRTLES

THANKS to those who helped trim the trees on Saturday, October 17th.

Jim Bob Ourso  
Wayne Martin  
Suzanne Fiske  
Jim Porter  
Tami Rodney  
Richela Roy

Tom Fiske  
Cathy St. Romain  
Jo Duet  
Meg Songy  
Travis

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR LA MARATHON

Volunteers are needed to work the aid station at the corner of Lasalle and Roseneath on Sunday, January 21, 2021 to pass out water, powerade and gel packs to runners from all around the country. Come help cheer them on and meet neighbors.

If interested please email [taracivicassn@gmail.com](mailto:taracivicassn@gmail.com)  
Or you can sign up for aid station 15 (TARA) at  
<https://www.thelouisianamarathon.com/Race/Volunteer/LA/BatonRouge/TheLouisianaMarathon>



# How to keep pests out of the house



Last year when the cold weather was upon us there were numerous NextDoor posts about neighbors battling pests in the attic. Each autumn, when the air turns brisk and the leaves begin to drop, it seems every beast in the wild kingdom wants to crash your pad. Once inside, these wily rodents make themselves right at home, chewing trim, gnawing electric wires, shredding insulation, even feasting on aluminum siding. And while they're tearing up your property—and potentially exposing your family to hantavirus, bubonic plague, salmonellosis, and rat-bite fever—they lustily copulate and bring forth more toothy progeny. Six mice breed into 60 in 90 days. Female rats can produce as many as 12 pups every 23 days. Squirrels pump out as many as six infants a year. And they do it so stealthily you may not know you have a problem until it's too late.

**Battling the Big Three:** There are many clever and diabolical ways to capture or dispatch mice, rats, and squirrels, the Big Three among household invaders. But all options fall into one of two basic categories: traps or poisons. Poisons take care of the problem quietly, with minimal effort. The animal simply ingests the bait, then goes off to die "peacefully," either through internal hemorrhaging or by starvation (some poisons block the animal's ability to absorb nutrition). The downside: There's no predicting whether the doomed animal will die outside or expire inside your walls.

Traps, on the other hand, work instantly and leave no doubt as to the outcome. In the case of mice, you can choose between traps that kill and those that capture them live. Rats get no such break; all their traps are of the lethal variety. Squirrels are typically trapped live, which is more humane as long as the traps are monitored. Once a squirrel is caught, what you can do with it depends on state and local regulations.

**An Ounce of Prevention:** A better—and far cheaper—way to deal with uninvited guests is to keep them from getting in at all. It's a little like burglar-proofing: If you make it tough enough to break in, they'll give up and go elsewhere. The pest-control folks call this "exclusion," a fancy name for plugging entry holes. It's tedious work—mice can wriggle through an opening just ¼ inch across—but if done correctly, you reap lots of benefits: no traps or poisons to handle, and no decomposing carcasses (or, worse, angry live critters) to get rid of. Plus, you can do much of the work yourself using items commonly found in the hardware store.

Critters usually get past the gates you aren't guarding very carefully: the garage, the basement, the roof, anywhere they find a crevice big enough to slip through. To make sure you aren't vulnerable this fall, ask a local firm to examine and troubleshoot your house. "Most companies will be happy to send someone out to inspect and make recommendations," says Greg Baumann, technical director of the National Pest Management Association. Then you have the option of hiring the pest control firm or a contractor to plug the holes, or doing it yourself. Whatever you do, Baumann says, don't defeat your preventive work by inadvertently rolling out the welcome mat. "It doesn't make sense to pay someone to do exclusion work and then leave the garage door wide open until bedtime. By then, they're already inside."

*This Old House*

Follow these 8 steps to keep rodents out of your home: 1: Fill holes and cracks 2: Don't feed them 3: Remove their habitat 4: Trim trees, shrubs and limbs back 4' from home 5: Set traps inside 6: Use baits and poisons outside 7: Check your neighborhood 8: Call the pros

## SMELLS OF THE SEASONS

**Start simple...**light it up, or spray it around, or attach it to your AC filter. You get the idea, right? Perhaps one of the easiest ways to recreate the best seasonal scents is to buy an air freshener or candle. Think they probably don't make the scent you're looking for? Think again! From "Flannel" to "Leaves to Balsam Trees," you'll be surprised at all the options available.

**Heat it Up!** Ever heard of stove top potpourri? This one is an oldie, but a goldie. Definitely try it! Once you get a whiff, you'll be making it on the regular. Simply add in herbs, spices, extracts and fruit peels that you have on hand to a pot of water, bring it to a boil and then let it simmer as long as you'd like (all you have to do is add more water periodically). The best part? It's an all-natural way of making your home smell oh-so-delicious!

**Set it Out** If sprays, flames and hot pots aren't your cup of spice tea, try the set-it-and-forget-it route. Purchase some delicious-smelling potpourri and simply set it out throughout your home. To add a little holiday decorative flair, consider purchasing one of the customizable cinnamon brooms often found in your local grocery or craft store.

**Whip it Up** Perhaps the best tip of all is to show off your baking skills in the kitchen. What's better than the smell of treats like cranberry bread or apple pie baking in the oven? Sure, the smell won't last forever, but that's okay; neither will the baked goods. That just means you'll have to make some more! ENJOY!



# How To Make Your House Smell Like

# Fall

INSTRUPIX.COM

4-6 cinnamon sticks



1 tsp vanilla



orange rind



3-5 bay leaves

2 tbsp whole cloves



fill a pot with water and simmer!

# How To Make Your House Smell Like

# CHRISTMAS

INSTRUPIX.COM

3-5 cinnamon sticks



1 orange (sliced)



1-2 sprigs rosemary



1 cup fresh cranberries



1 tbsp cloves



2 tsp nutmeg

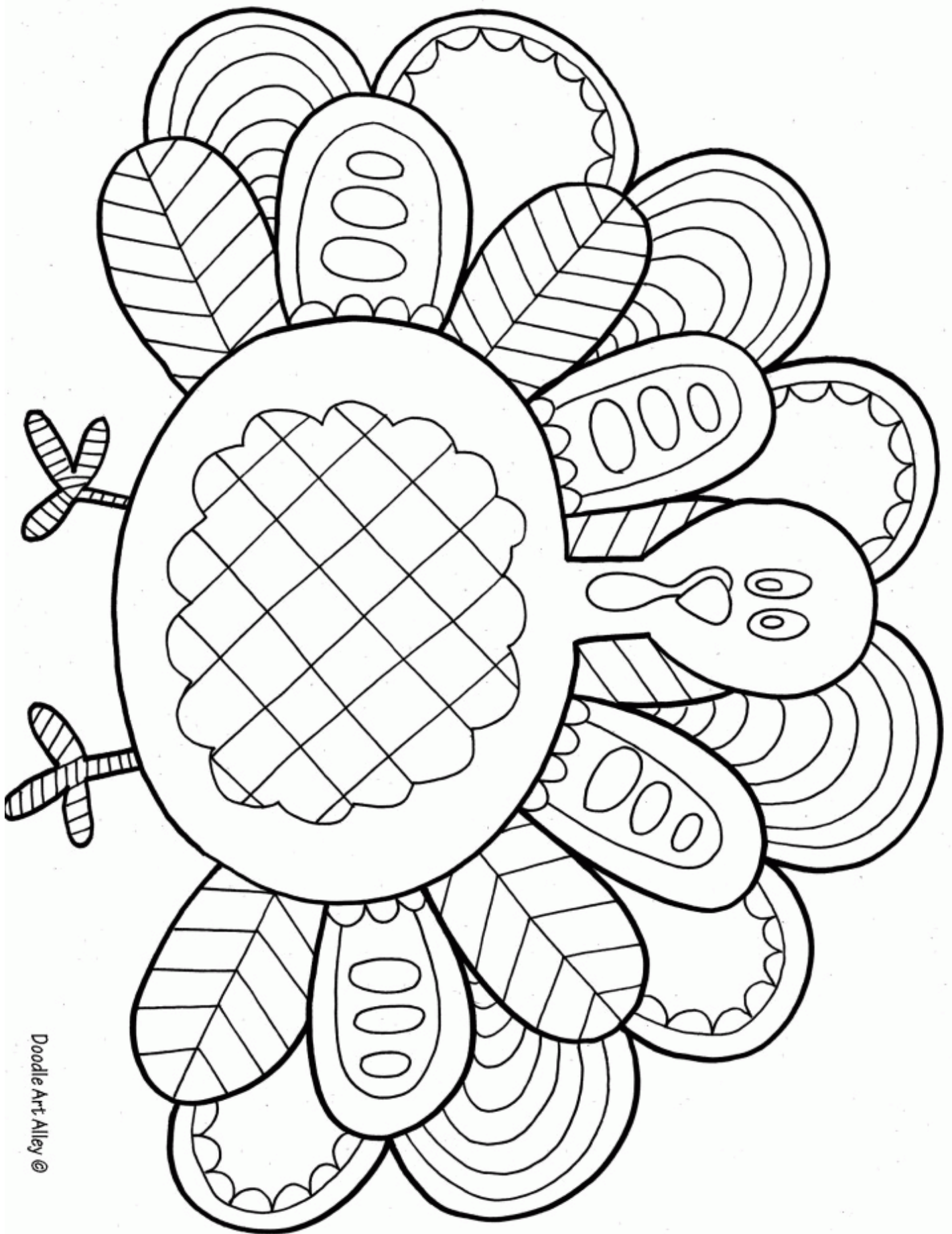


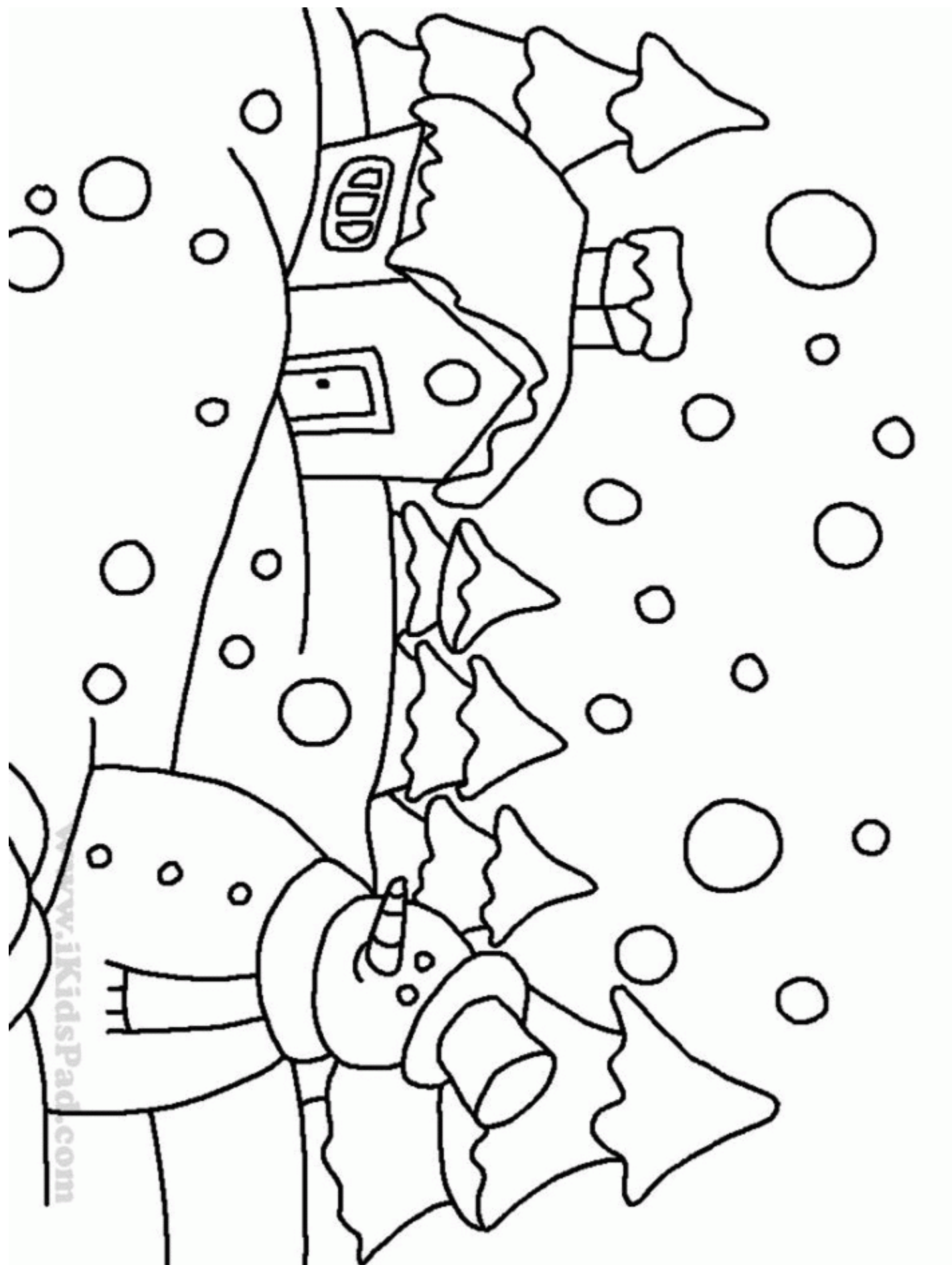
fill a pot with water and simmer!

## Excellent Gift Idea For The Holidays

If you're looking for a homemade gift idea, consider making gift jars or clear bags with a cute instructional label filled with the ingredients you would need for the season. For instance, toss in an orange, a cup of fresh cranberries, cinnamon sticks, and whole cloves into a mason jar finished with a pretty Christmas label and ribbon for your friends and family during the Holidays.







TARA CIVIC ASSOCIATION  
1554 TARA BLVD.  
BATON ROUGE LA 70806

## French Onion Soup

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### Ingredients

3 pounds onions, diced  
1 1/2 tablespoons butter  
3 cups beef broth  
3 cups chicken Broth  
Salt and pepper  
French bread slices broiled until golden brown  
Mozzarella cheese, slices

### How to Make It

Sauté onions in butter. Add beef and chicken broths and salt and pepper to taste. Simmer for several hours. Then pour soup into individual oven proof bowls. Top each bowl with French bread croutons, then mozzarella cheese. Bake at 350 degrees for about 25 minutes.

Note: You can also use one pot to prepare. I use an enameled cast iron dutch oven

## Reminders

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### TARA SUBDIVISION IS A DEED RESTRICTED SUBDIVISION.

There is a form available for use by residents who are planning to make **revisions, modifications or additions** to their property. If you are planning such a project, you **MUST submit** a completed copy of the property owner's **application** for building or remodeling available at <http://www.taracivicassociation.org/before-you-build>.

Fill out and mail to the Architectural Control Committee (address on form). The committee will review the plans and will notify you of their approval or disapproval within thirty (30) days.

### SECURITY ISSUES

**Emergencies call 911**

**Non-Emergencies call**

**City Police 389-2000**

#### ***See Something Say Something***

*If you see suspicious activity, report it. Use your cell phone to snap a picture.*

*If you are going out of town, fill out the form on the website so our officers can keep an eye out.*