



Oct/Nov/Dec 2010



Santa Visits Oakridge  
Dec. 11 at 11 a.m.

Punch, cookies and a gift!

\*See office for all party sign ups,  
and details.\*



Franklin  
Communities



Oakridge Estates

75 Briarwood Trail • Monroe, MI 48161 • (734) 242-7872



Home Sweet Home!

Home is where the heart is and we want to offer a heartfelt welcome to our community. Please welcome our new neighbors The Heiss family, William and Shena Fox, Justin Scott, Heather Charette and Dennis Vance and family, The Betz family, Tabitha Garcia, Christina Spence and family, Martimiano Larioza and Alan Vega, Carol Walker, Candy and Daniel Wray, and Tina Bomia and Eric.

Joanne Bagley is offering a discount coupon at Ultra Performance at 1307 N. Telegraph Road. Call (734) 241-8099, (734) 457-0068. Mention this coupon **and** present it on your visit for \$5 off any chemical service or \$3 off a cut or \$2 off waxing!

\*By appointment only; must present coupon; expires Oct. 31, 2010.\*

Community Reminders

- Please be courteous and do not cut through neighbors yards; use the sidewalk.
- Trash day is Thursday. Your garbage must be kept in a garbage can with a secured lid not visible from the road. Contact the office to learn how to get a Bulk item sticker. Please do not set out garbage before late Wednesday night or early Thursday morning. Yard waste must be in an approved paper yard waste bag or cans clearly marked yard waste.
- Pets must be leashed at all times. Feces must be picked up daily. When walking your pet in common areas or near neighboring yards, please carry a bag for quick pickup, do not leave your pet's mess behind.



Oakridge Estates Staff  
Manager ..... Mary McKenzie  
Assistant Manager ..... Kim Letasse  
Maintenance ..... Johnny Depew  
Office Assistant ..... Kristen Davis

Important Numbers

Office ..... (734) 242-7872  
Franklin Homes Sales ... (734) 243-2002  
Emergency Number ..... (800) 708-0420

Office Closed

Nov. 25 and 26 ..... Thanksgiving  
Dec. 24 Half Day ..... Christmas Eve  
Dec. 31 Half Day ..... New Years Eve

Oakridge Halloween Party

Games, snacks, and hayride!  
Oct. 15, 6 p.m.

See office for all party details and sign ups.





### Local Activities

- Snowshoe in one of our beautiful and spacious parks.
- Browse the shops of Monroe Factory Shops.
- Get in the Christmas spirit—visit Matthes Evergreen Farm.
- Complete your holiday decorating ideas at Silver Bells in historic Dundee.
- Spend the afternoon perusing the 225,000 square feet at Cabella's, "The World's Foremost Outfitter."
- Go bowling at Nortel Lanes or Monroe Sports Center.
- See a movie at Phoenix Theatres.
- Enjoy a concert or play at River Raisin Centre for the Arts or La-Z-Boy Center-Meyer Theater.
- Check out a favorite book or video from the Monroe Library System.



### You, Too, Can Become an Author

Lots of people aspire to write their own book, but unfortunately the legwork of actually getting it published has deterred many brilliant writers from ever putting pen to paper. Fortunately in today's society, the powers of digital technology and self-publishing services take the red tape out of getting a book on the shelf. You don't have to be a celebrity with a scandalous story to tell or even have an English degree to see your manuscript in print. Ordinary people are discovering the options to affordably publish books for their personal libraries or to sell on their own.

Lots of options are available to get your project started. Tools range from total self-publishing services that allow you complete control over all aspects of your book to independent book

publishers that offer support in certain areas along the way. No matter what option you choose, you now have the power and resources to publish a professionally designed book on your own. Print-on-demand resources make printing in small quantities—even one at a time—possible.

To learn what services are best for you, check out sites such as *iUniverse.com*, *AuthorHouse.com* or *Lulu.com*, or search online for the keywords "self-publishing" or "independent publishing."



### Three Cheers for a Great Toast

Many situations in life call for a formal celebration. While it's fun being part of a celebratory group, it's not always fun being responsible for one part of the party: the official toast. This practice requires at least one brave soul to stand before a crowd and offer a few words. While some excel at such social situations, others may shudder at the idea, getting tongue-tied and flustered. If you ever find yourself in need of such a speech, the following guidelines will help

you deliver a perfectly articulated toast every time.

First, acknowledge everyone in attendance to draw your audience in. Make them feel included, and thank them for coming. Then, offer a sincere thanks to the people responsible for pulling the event together.

After that, think about the reason you're celebrating. Is there a well-known quote or joke that instantly comes to mind? If so, both are easy transitions to the next part of the toast: honoring the person or reason for the event. This can be short and sweet or as lengthy as you wish, so long as the message is honest and comes from the heart.

A few more tips: Speak clearly and deliberately, maintain eye contact and smile. Remember, it's not really what you say but the fact that you're saying anything in the first place that matters.

### The Many Ways to Earn Miles

Wouldn't it be nice if you could earn frequent flier miles while sitting at your computer? You can. Of all the ways to earn frequent flier miles, [www.E-Miles.com](http://www.E-Miles.com) goes a long way to help consumers reach their destinations. Signing up with E-miles is free, and it takes only a few clicks of the mouse to earn frequent flier points with airlines such as Delta and US Airways. In fact, you earn 100 miles just by enrolling. All E-miles asks in return is that you answer marketing questions from companies relevant to your interests. If that isn't easy enough to accumulate flier miles, consider these options:

*Showtime.* Membership to the movie outfit Netflix has flier-mile perks. That includes the airlines American and Delta, which will reward you with 1,500 miles for being a Netflix member.

*The eyes have it.* In the market for Lasik vision correction? You could earn 25,000 miles through Delta by having the procedure at a participating LasikPlus center.

*Sleep on it.* Some hotels, such as Radisson and Hilton, offer miles when you book rooms. You can earn points while you sleep.



### Pumpkin Pie Muffins

#### Ingredients:

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup whole wheat pastry flour
- 1 1/4 cups granulated sugar
- 1 1/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/2 cup raisins
- 2 large eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 cup canned pumpkin puree
- 1/3 cup canola oil
- 1/3 cup water
- 2 tablespoons pumpkin seeds, raw and hulled

#### Directions:

Preheat oven to 350° F. Spray cups of a 12-cup muffin pan with nonstick spray. Sift flours, sugar, baking soda, cinnamon, salt, nutmeg and cloves into a large bowl. Stir in raisins. Beat eggs, pumpkin puree, oil and water together in another bowl. Add pumpkin mixture to flour mixture and stir until just blended.

Spoon batter into muffin cups, filling each about two-thirds full. Sprinkle with pumpkin seeds. Bake until a toothpick inserted into a muffin comes out clean, about 20 minutes. Cool in pan on a rack for 10 minutes; remove muffins from pan and serve warm, or cool completely on rack.

*For more healthy ideas, visit [Wiley.com](http://Wiley.com) to learn more about the book "Weight Watchers Eat! Move! Play!"*

### Wit & Wisdom

"We must not make a scarecrow of the law,  
Setting it up to fear the birds of prey,  
And let it keep one shape  
till custom make it  
Their perch, and not their terror."  
—William Shakespeare

"That proves you are unusual,'  
returned the Scarecrow;  
'and I am convinced  
the only people worthy of  
consideration in this world  
are the unusual ones.  
For the common folks are like  
the leaves of a tree,  
and live and die unnoticed."  
—L. Frank Baum

"I feel a little like the scarecrow  
in the 'Wizard of Oz' who suddenly  
discovers he had a brain  
all along. He just didn't have  
a piece of paper to prove it."  
—Barbara Bush

"To see him striding along  
the profile of a hill on a windy day,  
with his clothes bagging and  
fluttering about him, one might  
have mistaken him for the  
genius of famine descending  
upon the earth, or some  
scarecrow eloped  
from a cornfield."  
—Washington Irving

"Logical consequences  
are the scarecrows of fools and the  
beacons of wise men."  
—Thomas Henry Huxley

"Better to smile on all  
that smile, and show there is a  
comfortable kind of old scarecrow."  
—William Butler Yeats

## Helpful Community Reminders & Tips



### ~Garbage~

Compost ends Thursday, Nov. 18. Waste Management will be collecting Christmas trees two weeks following the holiday.

### ~Prepare for the Cold Months~

Check your heat tape. Properly insulate your home. Secure your skirting, this will protect your water lines plus keep the critters out and prevent damage. When temperatures drop, it is a good idea to open your cabinets under your sinks to share the heat inside your home. Never leave your faucets dripping.

### ~Resident Referrals~

Send friends, family, coworkers or someone you just met to Franklin Homes and when they purchase we will give you \$500! It's that easy!

\*Restrictions apply; see office for details.\*

### ~Resident Issues~

We know that when living in close proximity to other neighbors sometimes issues can arise. Management first promotes neighborly relations. If issues persist, management MUST receive a detailed description of the problem in writing in order to help assist with the problem. At Oakridge, we have an open-door policy and management is here help; please always feel free to stop by or call.

## *Franklin Communities Helping our Residents*



*Are you in over your head? Let us help you!  
Contact the Franklin Communities main office for a confidential meeting.  
Offering different programs to fit your needs.*

*800.826.4659*