

DECEMBER 2024

”The News”

December: The most wonderful
time of the year

THE FINAL NEWSLETTER OF 2024



CASA of West CenLA

**420 McMahon Street
DeRidder, LA 70634
337-463-4667**

**113 S. 3rd Street
Leesville, LA 71446
337-239-1970**

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Words from the Director

As we head into the month of December it is a prime time for us all to be kind to one another. We should all seek out ways to encourage those around us. It is easy to find ways to identify and exploit the things that we consider to be faults or weaknesses in others. I would challenge each of us to use our energy and our words to highlight the strengths that we recognize in others daily. If you were asked to write down or think about 5 to 10 negative words/statements that have been directed at you during your lifetime, how difficult do you think that would be for you? If you were asked to write down or think of 5 to 10 positive words/statements that have been directed at you in your lifetime, do you feel it would be easier to recall the negative or the positive words/statements? I would guess that most people would have more difficulty remembering what was said to encourage them as opposed to the negative things said to them in their past.

So, for a moment let us imagine a world where children are safe - not hungry, they have a home, a community that loves them, they are educated, and are in a family that loves and guides them. As we all know life comes with a considerable amount of challenges from start to finish. We as a community have a very important job. We are to help the children as they rise toward adulthood. The words we say are powerful and they can build as well as tear down. Our actions will leave an imprint on their hearts and in their minds, with the potential to impact future generations.

So, together let us seize every opportunity to be known as those who build in our communities. Let us build strong families, be the standard on our jobs, respected in our community and a positive example for all whom we encounter.

The CASA team would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. We should all live our lives in a manner that improves our community and our world.

Tommy

Holiday Cheer

S J I X G M Q Q H T N E M E T I C X E I
U Y N S W L R E L A X A T I O N S X A M
M P J G P R E S E N T S K I R N O A D O
P T N A L I B U J N T A X E O S L U B W
G H F S R E L K R A P S F W E D A R A P
R G E L K I U R Z Y S R B N B E L L S A
A D A Z K U M M C N E A C O O K I E S H
C K S S P Y H D O S L E S C A P E B M S
E I T J L A P I H L T M E R R I M E N T
F I A I L O T I F H J Y Z C G F J S L S
U C M M P A N D G C G U E U J O Y F U L
L A F P R G R I H N S L U F G A M L W Y
F D Q O R U E E I L E N E K Z V X W Q T
P I C Z R L E R T B U S O E T U G O Q I
J E N L S R E J R H T F L W J V O N L N
D D O Z F H E A Y I G O E H F W L D X U
N N W U T K T C V I N U C T M L G E I J
D G L A E I V I A Q U N A H A B A R J R
T P G E O T T I W E W X Q L S R H K Q U
X I U N W Y Y B L T P G U S X G G Z E E

Words run all ways including diagonal and backwards

Merriment

Snowflake

Jubilant

Excitement

Cookies

Peace

Sparklers

Wonder

Laughter

Refreshing

Cheerful

Festivity

Bells

Snowball

Grateful

Presents

Family

Celebration

Decorations

Parade

Unity

Relaxation

Sleigh

Gathering

Escape

Joyful

Graceful

Feast

HOLIDAY FUN

MADE WITH LOVE

HOT COCOA STATION

BAKE COOKIES

MAKE ORNAMENTS

SEND CHRISTMAS CARDS

DRIVE-THRU LIGHT SHOW

BUY / MAKE GIFTS

READ CHRISTMAS BOOKS

WRITE A LETTER TO SANTA

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS

HOLIDAY MOVIE & TREATS

MAKE A GINGERBREAD HOUSE

MAKE PAPER SNOWFLAKES

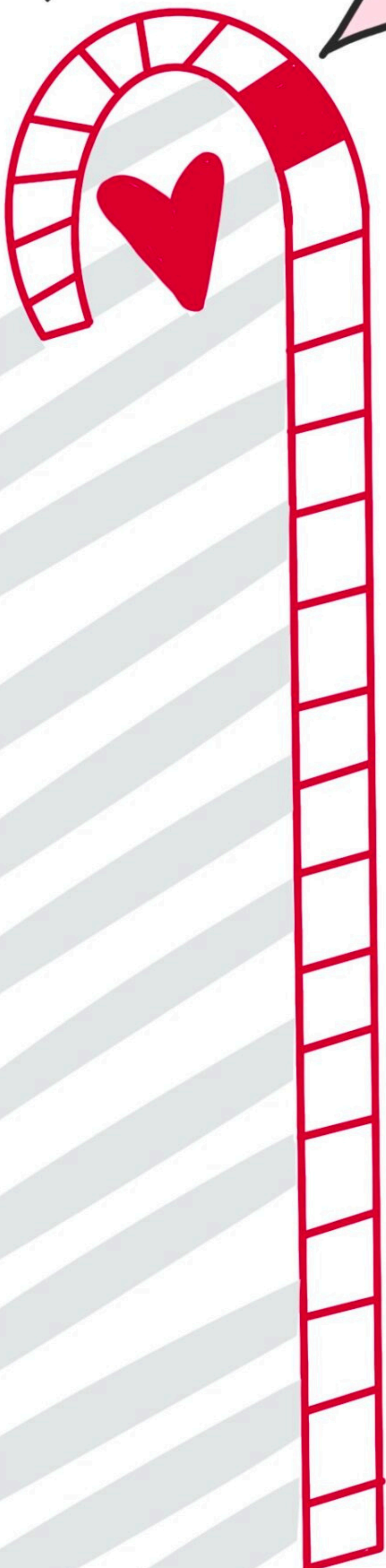
NEIGHBORHOOD NIGHT LIGHT WALK

DRIVE @ CANDY CANE LANE

WRAP GIFTS

CHRISTMAS APPETIZERS

DECORATE SUGAR COOKIES



Happenings in Our Communities

december 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6 Jingle & Mingle Leesville	7 Jingle & Mingle Christmas Parade Leesville Miracle on Washington Christmas Parade DeRidder
8 Jingle & Mingle Leesville Christmas Parade Simpson	9 Holiday Express Leesville	10 Williamson Branch Christmas Concert DeRidder	11	12 Prayers for Unity Leesville	13 Living Nativity Merryville	14 Reindeer Run Leesville Christmas Parade Leesville Beauregard Jazz Concert DeRidder Christmas Parade Pitkin
15	16	17 Vernon Parish Chamber Orchestra DeRidder	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				





Next Scheduled Advocate Training Sessions

**Tuesday, January 14, 2024
5:30pm-8:45pm**

**Tuesday, January 21, 2024
5:30pm-8:45pm**

**Tuesday, January 28, 2024
5:30pm-8:45pm**

**Tuesday February 4, 2024
5:30pm-8:45pm**

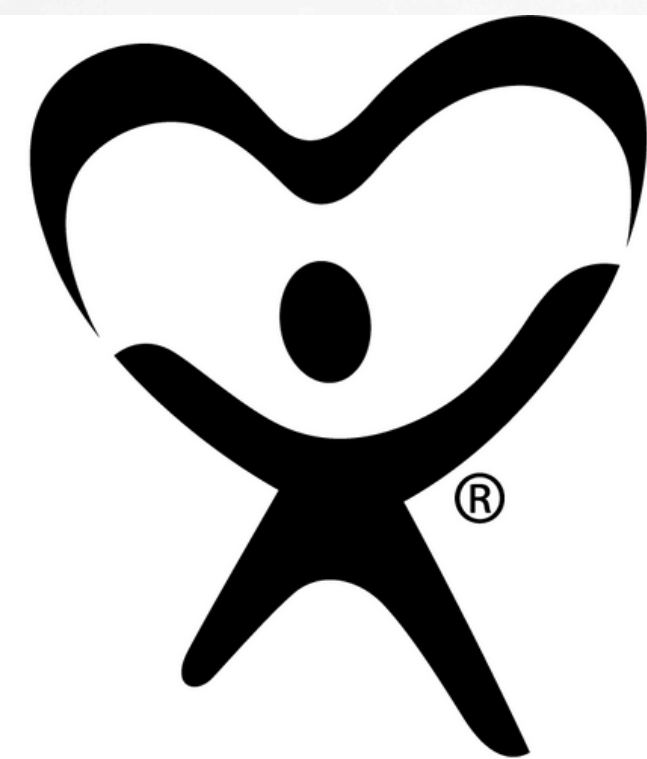
**Tuesday, February 11, 2024
5:30pm-8:45pm**

**Tuesday, February 18, 2024
5:30pm-8:45pm**

CASA pre-service training is a program that equips volunteers with the knowledge and skills to advocate for children who have been abused or neglected. The training covers a variety of topics, including:

- **The child protection system**
- **The role of a CASA volunteer**
- **Trauma and resilience**
- **Cultural competence**
- **Substance abuse and its impact on a parent's ability to care for a child**
- **Recognizing child abuse and neglect**
- **Mandatory reporting laws**
- **Risk factors for child abuse and neglect**

**For more information, please
contact us at
337.462.4667 or 337.239.1970**



CASA

**Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN**

CASA OF WEST CENLA

Holiday Safety

Decorate Safely

Decorating is one of the best ways to get in a holiday mood, but emergency departments see thousands of injuries involving holiday decorating every season.

When decorating follow these tips from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission:

- Keep potentially poisonous plants – mistletoe, holly berries, Jerusalem cherry and amaryllis – away from children and pets
- If using an artificial tree, check that it is labeled “fire resistant”
- If using a live tree, cut off about 2 inches of the trunk to expose fresh wood for better water absorption, remember to water it, and remove it from your home when it is dry
- Place your tree at least 3 feet away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources, making certain not to block doorways
- Avoid placing breakable ornaments or ones with small, detachable parts on lower tree branches where small children can reach them
- Only use indoor lights indoors and outdoor lights outdoors, and choose the right ladder for the task when hanging lights
- Replace light sets that have broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections
- Follow the package directions on the number of light sets that can be plugged into one socket
- Never nail, tack or stress wiring when hanging lights, and keep plugs off the ground away from puddles and snow
- Turn off all lights and decorations when you go to bed or leave the house.



Watch Out for Fire-Starters

Candles and Fireplaces

Use of candles and fireplaces, combined with an increase in the amount of combustible, seasonal decorations in many homes during the holidays, means more risk for fire. The National Fire Protection Association reports on average candles cause 46% of fires annually in December.

- Place candles where they cannot be knocked down or blown over, and out of reach of children
- Keep matches and lighters up high and out of reach of children in a locked cabinet
- Use flameless rather than lighted candles near flammable objects
- Don't burn trees, wreaths or wrapping paper in the fireplace
- Use a screen on the fireplace at all times when a fire is burning
- Never leave candles or fireplaces burning unattended or when you are asleep
- Check and clean the chimney and fireplace area at least once a year

Turkey Fryers

Be alert to the dangers if you're thinking of celebrating the holidays by frying a turkey. The Consumer Product Safety Commission reports there have been hundreds turkey-fryer related fires, burns or other injuries, and millions of dollars in property loss from these incidents.

NSC discourages the use of turkey fryers at home and urges those who prefer fried turkey to seek out professional establishments or consider using an oil-less turkey fryer. If you must fry your own turkey, follow all U.S. Fire Administration turkey fryer guidelines.



ADVOCATE SPOTLIGHT



Vernon
Peggy

Beauregard
Adrianna



We look forward to
seeing you in 2025!



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