



A Publication of
Solano Park, UC
Davis

THE PARK MESSENGER

December 2016

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Solano Park Office Hours:

Monday—Friday
9:00am—12:00pm
1:00pm—4:00pm

Special points of interest:

- The Solano Park Office will be closed from Monday, December 19, 2016 through Friday, January 6, 2017.

New RA Programs Submitted by Corey Coates, RA

The last few months RA community programs have seen very low turnout. Programs that seem to be annual programs or that focus on a meal or dessert have much higher turnout. With this in mind, we are going to try and have three main programs every month. Hopefully, having programs the same time and day every month will increase turnout to events. The three main programs each month will be designed around a BBQ Potluck, Dessert Night, and Breakfast.

- BBQ Potluck will be the 1st Sunday of the month
- Dessert Night will be the 3rd Wednesday of the month,
- Breakfast will be the 4th Saturday of the month.

By providing recurring programs we want to increase turnout without the programs becoming boring. Each program's food menu can change depending on the month. For example, Dessert Night this month will be focused on decorating cookies with a holiday theme. The BBQ Potluck or Breakfast programs will vary in cuisine theme. In addition to providing food, RAs may organize non-food related activities at these events. The activities may include arts and crafts, the bouncy house, board games and more!

RAs will not be limited to just having these three programs. If an RA or residents feel like an event would be fun, they could add it to the program schedule. RA David has a group of residents that like to play poker, so he will continue to have a poker tournament every month. We will still have our annual events like the Fall Harvest Festival, Easter Egg Hunt, Christmas Potluck with Santa, Waterslide Fun, etc., but want a few monthly recurring programs.

We really want you to enjoy the programs, and hope that these programs will cultivate a close, friendly community. If you feel like you have a good idea for an event and want to see it added to our list of programs, then please email one of the RAs.

Happy Holidays!



SHARING FOOD + TELLING STORIES

Hack Your Life, Do It Yourself!

Submitted by David Gomes, RA

Here in Solano Park, many of us are families coming from all over the world that have a wide variety of interests to investigate, needs to fill, and skills to share. Our lives get really busy with studies, friends and families; it is often challenging to accomplish our personal projects. So let's all join together and find other residents who share those same personal interests! Stop waiting for someone to propose what you would like.

The idea is to create and manage the clubs we are interested in, by ourselves, with the help of the Student Housing Department via the RAs (to book the Community Center or help with resources and network), and to enjoy all the benefits of group work. Here are ideas of clubs, but feel free to propose your own.

- **Solano Adventure Club:** Want to go climbing, skiing, camping, canoeing, etc. but cannot find enough time to organize as many field trips as you would like? Let's organize it together! Members will take turns to organize and propose some weekend outdoor activities. It will enable us to enjoy more whereas spending less time in organization, we will negotiate the price of material renting and instructors hiring, we will share housing to divide the price of lodging (did you check the difference between a 3-4 people Air BnB and 8-10 people ones?).
- **Popcorn Club:** Once a month a member will share a movie from his native country (at least sub-titled in English) with others. It will be displayed in the Community Center, starting at 9pm, with a stack of popcorn and sparkling drinks.
- **Serial Players Club:** we will gather ones a month to play a board game together. Every member can bring a game to share.
- **California Gran Turismo Club:** As many of us many not be born and raised in California, we are eager to discover this great state. Let's share the trip organization tasks, take down the prices, and enjoy more, thanks to our collective work!
- **Cheap 'n Good Food Company:** Why don't we try to save money and buy better food by buying routine items all together? We could be able to buy whole beef or lamb, cardboard boxes of pasta, flour, or oil, and why not cereals or fresh fruit and veggies?

Bring your own ideas to complete this list and come to the BBQ on Sunday December 8th to meet with the other motivated residents! Please contact David for any questions : David.Gomes.prof@gmail.com or 530-979-4092.



LIFE HACKS

The Davis Arts Center and Holiday Sale

Submitted by Audrey Bergmann, RA

Davis Arts Center offers more than 300 classes each season in visual arts, dance, drama, writing and other disciplines for children, teens, and adults, along with collaborative family-oriented programs like Discovery Art, a summer-long interactive exhibit exploring science and nature and science through art, and Junk2Genius, a team sculpting competition celebrating recycling and creative reuse. They also host a variety of performance events throughout the year, including the annual Classical Guitar Concert Series.

The Tsao Gallery showcases works by local and regional artists as well as by school and community groups, and the annual Holiday Sale featuring over 70 colorful artisan vendors has been a community tradition since 1992.

Through all of these avenues they reach more than 25,000 community members annually, bringing together individuals and families, amateurs and artists, and people of all ages and backgrounds to share in making and celebrating art.

The Davis Arts Center Annual Holiday Sale, a family and community tradition, is their biggest fundraiser of the year. Held the first weekend in December, the sale features over 60 artisan vendors selling functional and fine art goods, including ceramics, textiles, soaps, jewelry, clothing, home décor, candies and foods. Children do their own shopping at the Children's Secret Store, where volunteers help them buy and wrap gifts for family and friends – or they can make their own gifts in the pottery-painting studio.

Holiday Sale Schedule

Friday, December 2, 2016, 12 pm – 7 pm

Saturday, December 3, 2016, 10 am – 6 pm

Sunday, December 4, 2016, 10 am – 5 pm

Information about attending and volunteering at the holiday sale can be found at

<http://www.davisartscenter.org/events/annual-holiday-sale/>



Monthly Maintenance Tips

By Solano Park Maintenance

If you live in an upstairs apartment, please be aware that the water from your bathtub can drip into the downstairs apartment if water escapes the bathtub. To prevent this from happening, be sure to close your shower curtain when showering and prevent water from escaping the bathtub.

Now that winter is fast approaching us, remember to keep a clear space around your wall heater and keep everything off of the top of it.

Also, to help reduce the potential of mold and mildew, try to run the bathroom fan after showering or bathing for a while to exhaust as much steam or moisture out of the bathroom. Also, leave the bathroom door open as much as possible. Remember, air exchange is the key.

On some occasions, it can get quite cold in Davis during the break between fall and winter quarters. Coincidentally, this is also the time that many of you will leave for the holidays. There are numerous problems that can develop in a vacant apartment due to the cold. Among them are:

- Doors swelling and warping
- Floor tiles coming loose
- Paint peeling
- Frozen water pipes bursting, causing flooding
- House plants that cannot tolerate the cold dying
- Sensitive electronic equipment developing problems



Therefore, if you are planning to leave more than one day during the winter holiday break period, we ask that you take the following steps to avoid any problems that the cold might create:

- Close and lock all windows and the glass patio door and close all window coverings.
- Leave all doors inside your apartment open allowing heat to migrate throughout your apartment.
- Leave your wall furnace on at the lowest possible temperature setting.

Adding a New Baby to Your Lease

By Solano Park Staff

Leaseholders, as a reminder, please add your newborn infants to your lease. Always remember to keep your lease current. Anytime you have a change in occupancy, you must submit an Online Occupant Change Request on the Student Housing Tile found on my.ucdavis.edu.



Community Programs

THE RA'S MONTHLY BBQ

As this event seems to be widely appreciated, we make it monthly! Every first Sunday of each month, the RAs will bring food to grill on the BBQ and you are expected to join with side dish or dessert, potluck-style. For December, we will have a BBQ burger bar (vegan burger will be available too) at the Solano Park Community Center, starting at 4pm, on Sunday December 4. Please contact David for any questions at 530- 979-4092.



When: Sunday, December 4 at 4pm
Where: Solano Park Community Center

HACK YOUR LIFE

During and after the BBQ we will begin to build our clubs' organization by gathering the contact information of who is interested in what, by meeting with each other, and by adding more details about what to expect. It will be an opportunity to answer all the question you may have about this new initiative. Please contact David for any questions at 530-979-4092.



When: Sunday, December 4 at 4pm
Where: Solano Park Community Center

POKER TOURNAMENT

Let's have our monthly tournament on Thursday, December 8, starting at 9pm at the Solano Park Community Center, and crown our last king or queen of 2016! As previously, we will propose other board games for those who would be interested in. Come and join to win our amazing rewards prizes! Please contact David for any questions at 530-979-4092.



When: Thursday, December 8 from 9:30pm to 11:30pm
Where: Solano Park Community Center

PICTURES WITH SANTA AT ANNUAL POTLUCK

This celebration of holiday cheer is fun for all who've been good all year! Santa will be stopping by Solano Park on his way to the North Pole so parents be sure to bring your kids and take your own keepsake pictures while enjoying the community potluck feast. Please bring your favorite dish to share with your neighbors as we toast the holiday season. For more details please contact Audrey Bergmann, RA for Solano Park at aabergmann@ucdavis.edu.



When: Tuesday, December 13 at 5:30pm
Where: Solano Park Community Center

DECEMBER DESSERT CONTEST AND COOKIE DECORATING

For December's dessert night, we will be having a night of cookie decorating and delicious treats. Decorate some sugar cookies with us, and resident bakers can bring a dessert to share. There will be a prize for the best home-made dessert. If you have any questions, please contact Audrey Bergmann, RA for Solano Park at aabergmann@ucdavis.edu.



When: Wednesday, December 21 at 7:30pm
Where: Solano Park Community Center

NEW YEARS EVE BREAKFAST

For those residents still here in Solano, we will have a nice breakfast before the celebrations of the new year begin. We will have an egg dish and fruit. If you have any questions, please contact Corey Coates, RA for Solano Park at ccoates@ucdavis.edu.



When: Saturday, December 31 at 8:30am
Where: Solano Park Community Center

Holidays and Anniversaries

December 6—Saint Nicholas' Day [Christian]

St. Nicholas, noted for his charity, arrives on horseback, bringing nuts and apples. He is the patron saint of Turkey and was a generous bishop in 4th century Turkey, known as the protector of children. He is celebrated by giving of oneself without seeking or expecting repayment. He was one of the most venerated saints of both eastern and western Christian churches. This day is also celebrated by Dutch, German and Eastern European communities. Santa Claus and the presentation of gifts are said to derive from Saint Nicholas.

December 8 – Death/ Parinirvana of Buddha [India]

Born Siddhartha Gautama, Buddha (The Enlightened One) was born into a royal family in India around 563 BCE. His teachings are the basis for Buddhism, a major world religion & philosophy. His father, King Suddhodana, of the warrior caste, raised him in great luxury, but at the age of 29 Siddhartha renounced the world to become a wandering ascetic and search for a

solution to the problems of death and human suffering. After six years of spiritual discipline, he achieved supreme enlightenment and spent the rest of his life teaching his doctrines and establishing a community of monks, the sangha, to continue his work. He “died” (attained parinirvana) at 80. The Buddha is not worshipped as a god, but held up as an example of a compassionate way of being that all people can achieve through study and the practice of meditation. Note: The actual dates of Buddha’s life are questionable, and the date of this observance may vary between cultures, countries, and sects.

December 10—Human Rights Day [USA, U.N.]

Anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Declaration sets forth basic rights and fundamental freedoms to which all men and women are entitled.

December 16—Las Posadas [Mexico]

A nine-day celebration

throughout Mexico, commencing 16 December. Processions of “pilgrims” knock at doors asking for posada (shelter), commemorating the search for Joseph and Mary for a shelter in which the infant Jesus might be born. Invited inside, fun and merrymaking ensue with blindfolded guests trying to break a piñata suspended from the ceiling.

December 26—Boxing Day [Canada, Bahamas, Jamaica, United Kingdom, Australia]

Boxing Day was originally a day when boxes of gifts were given to those entitled to gratitude’s, such as employees.

December 31—Hogmanay [Scotland]

Scottish celebration of New Year’s Eve. Comes from the French phrase “to the mistletoe, the New Year.” Scots bang pots and pans at midnight and bring bread, salt and coal to their hosts symbolizing life, hospitality and warmth.



Calendar of Events

December 2016

All residents are welcome to attend all programs. All events held in the Community Center unless otherwise noted.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 <u>RA Monthly BBQ</u> SPCC @ 4pm <u>Hack Your Life</u> SPCC @ 4pm	5	6	7	8 <u>Poker Tournament</u> SPCC @ 9pm	9	10
11	12	13 <u>Pictures With Santa @ Annual Potluck</u> SPCC @ 5:30pm	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 <u>Dessert Contest & Cookie Decorating</u> SPCC @ 7:30pm	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 <u>New Years Eve Breakfast</u> SPCC @ 8:30am	31



The Park at UC Davis

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Your doorway to campus life & academic achievement

We're on the Web!

http://www.housing.ucdavis.edu/housing/apartments_orchard_solano.asp

The **Park Messenger** is published by Student Housing, at the University of California, Davis. Our goal is to communicate with Park residents, campus departments and the community of Davis. We encourage reader suggestions, criticisms and articles. Let us hear from you.

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The Park Messenger online:

http://www.housing.ucdavis.edu/current/park_messenger.asp

Did you know?

Eligibility Requirements: Student Housing requires all students to meet our eligibility requirements to continue living in Solano Park Apartments. Students must have full-time registered status during fall, winter and spring quarters/semesters. Full-time status is defined at 12 units for quarter students and 10 units for semester students. Students who do not meet the requirement are required to register for additional classes or submit a notice to move out. Please be aware of these requirements when you register for winter and spring quarters in the coming months. Please contact the Solano Park Office at 530-752-3958 if you have any questions.

Traveling: If you plan to travel during the holiday period, please

leave a travel form with the Solano Park Office.

Vacating: Planning to vacate after finals? Remember a 42-day notice is required.

Large Item Dumping: Unwanted personal items such as couches, dressers, desks, and other furnishings left behind detract from the visual appearance of our complexes. In addition, our dumpster areas that have unwanted items, often blocks access for trash pick-up. Student Housing then has to pay for staff time, dump fees, and gas to remove these unwanted items. As a result, if any personal items are left at the dumpsters upon vacate, you will be billed for the full cost of removal/dumping.

Packages: Please don't ask the Solano Park Office to accept your incoming packages. We don't have space and security for them. Perhaps a neighbor could be designated to accept a package for you, or you might indicate your balcony for drop-offs.

Cable TV: Cable is provided via closed circuit therefore, other cable services cannot be added or requested in Solano Park.

Mailboxes: Mailboxes are to be used only to receive mail for the tenant and other occupants listed on the current lease agreement.

Lights Out: If you ever notice that your front door light is out, please put in a maintenance repair request on the My UC Davis page.