

News & Notes

December 23, 2014



Santa was busy this weekend, learning what children want for Christmas! Here, he interviews a youngster at the Boulevard Oaks Civic Association's annual caroling party. More photos, page 12.

Village News Office Closed

Village News will close at 2 p.m. on Dec. 24 and be closed all day Dec. 25-26 so that our staff can have an extended Christmas holiday. We will reopen at 8 a.m. on Dec. 29.



The pre-k class at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School went Christmas caroling at the Incarnate Word Convent. They brought much cheer and happiness to the retired nuns as they sang *Jingle Bells* and *We Wish you a Merry Christmas*. After singing, the nuns enjoyed homemade cookies that the children brought them. Sr. Virginia O'Donnell is shown with pre-k students.



Young author Andersson Dyke.

Young Author Donates Proceeds to Charity

Just in time for holiday giving, Andersson Dyke, a 13-year old Boulevard Oaks student, recently released her first novel, *Missy*.

The standing-room-only book release event was held at Brazos Bookstore, where Andersson sold and signed hundreds of copies of her book, and read to her delighted fans a passage from the novel.

Making the event even more special – and shining a light on this young author's charitable heart – was Andersson's touching decision to donate 100% of the proceeds from sales of *Missy* to the Osteogenesis Imperfecta Foundation.

Andersson has battled Osteogenesis Imperfecta, also known as brittle bone disease, all of her life; Andersson's bones are extremely fragile and prone to break easily.

Andersson has never let this challenge get in her way. Demonstrating an amazing level of dedication to her craft for such a young writer, Andersson worked consistently over a three-year period to complete and independently publish her debut work.

Missy is the sweet and life-affirming story of an Illinois family – who may remind you much of your own

See Author page 16

Locally-Owned and Invested in Our Communities for Over a Quarter Century

December 23, 2014 Vol. 29, No. 29



Serving West University, Southampton, Southgate, Southside Place, River Oaks, The Upper Kirby District, The Medical Center, Braeswood Place, Boulevard Oaks, Linkwood, Woodside, Old Braeswood, Morningside Place and Sunset Terrace

Subscribe to Our E-Edition at www.village-southwest-news.com

West U. Council Met Friday, Hired Dr. Richard Murray to Create a Draft Survey

By Ben Ballantyne
West University City Council had a special meeting on Friday at 1 p.m. to discuss "matters related to best method of public communications regarding the Long Range Facilities Master Plan."

Two methods the city discussed were a possible survey and also sending out an

informational packet to educate residents on the issue.

Mayor Bob Fry said there was lots of wrong information out there and that the city needed to get the facts out.

Dr. Richard Murray, the Director of the Survey Research Institute at the University of Houston, consulted with the council members

helping them vet the process and methods needed to get an accurate response back from the citizens of West U.

"From my standpoint the real reason for this meeting is to hear from Dr. Murray and see if he thought it was feasible to do a survey given the complexity of these issues... I want to hear what he has to say," said Fry.

Delayed by the stormy weather, Dr. Murray arrived late and in the interim Mayor Fry allowed what normally isn't in special meetings: comments from the public.

Susan Ohsfeldt spoke on her research on the city's legal opinion. The current legal opinion is that the church can build what they want as

See Council page 16

Lanier Pups are on Santa's NICE List!

Lanier Middle School students demonstrated that it's better to give than to receive this week with two holiday donation drives.

Assistant Principal Jay Gorner, (right in photo) assisted by Counselor LaDora Matthews (center standing), coordinated a Toys for Tots Drive on campus. Firefighters from local Fire Station #16 at Richmond and Dunlavy streets will pick up the toys for distribution. Some of the 8th grade student leadership team helped collect toys in their homerooms and gather them in the school lobby.

The Lanier Athletic Department also hosted a coat drive for Star of Hope Mission. Coach Kevin Bush and Jay Gorner coordinated the drive which accumulated dozens of coats for those in need in the Houston community.

