**Welcome!**

If you recently moved into SUV, Welcome! We’re glad you are here! Don’t forget to return your completed apartment condition report to the office if you have not already done so. The **SUV Voice** is a monthly newsletter provided electronically to SUV residents to keep you informed on happenings, updates and events around the community and also Iowa State. Be sure to read it each month so you don’t miss important information!!! Should you have any questions, make sure that you contact your Community Adviser or the SUV office. We are happy to help!

**Like Us On Facebook!**

Want to stay up to date about what is happening in the SUV community and within the Department of Residence? Become a fan of our Facebook Page! Look for ISU- SUV.

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If you are making plans to leave your apartment for all or part of the winter break, here are some things to remember to help avoid problems while you are away:

- Do not set your thermostat lower than 65 degrees! Cold weather can lead to costly damages if pipes freeze or appliances fail.
- Double-check all windows and entrances to make certain they are closed tightly and securely locked.
- Open the cupboard doors under the kitchen sink to allow air to circulate around the water pipes.
- Check the battery in your smoke detector, and make sure the detector is working. If you need a new battery, contact your community advisor immediately.
- If you are here during break and see any suspicious individuals or activity, report it to ISU police at 911.

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**Icy sidewalks?**

Reminder to shovel your own area and the sidewalks leading to your building. If the sidewalk isn’t shoveled or is very icy, contact Facilities, Planning and Management (FP&M) office and NOT the Department of Residence maintenance department. You can contact the FP&M office @ 515-294-5100
Ramadan

Ramadan is the most sacred holiday of the Muslim year and is mandated by the Qur’an (2:183). It occurs in the ninth month of the Islamic calendar and is the holy month of fasting. Fasting is considered to be the third pillar or religious obligation of Islam. Ramadan is a time of worship, reading the Qur’an, charitable acts, and the purification of the individual behavior. This is also the time in which the Qur’an was revealed to Mohammed as guidance for the people. Ramadan begins when a trusted witness testifies that the new moon has been sighted. Ramadan ends with Eid-al-Fitr or the Festival of Fast-Breaking which is a joyous celebration marked by a special gift of charity.

Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa is an African-American cultural festival beginning on December 26 and ending January 1. The festival was created in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Ron Karenga. Dr. Karenga's goal was to establish a holiday that would facilitate African American goals of building a strong family, learning about African American history, and developing unity. While developing the new holiday, Dr. Karenga studied many African festivals and found many of them to be harvest related. Because of this, he named the celebration Kwanzaa from the Kiswahili word meaning “first fruits”. Before the Kwanzaa celebration begins, a straw mat (Mkeka) is placed on a table. A Kinara (seven-candle candle holder) and Muhumaa (the seven candles) are placed on the Mkeka along with Muhindi (ears of corn) and the Kikombe Cha Umoja (unity cup). The black candle for Kwanzaa represents the African American people, the red candles represent their struggles, and the green ones represent their vision for the future.

Christmas

Christmas is observed annually on December 25th although the exact date of Christ’s birth is not known. In the United States and other counties, many churches and homes display a crèche, or nativity scene. Mary gave birth to Jesus that is why the greeting “Merry Christmas” is said. Many Christians attend a midnight Mass or other Christmas Eve services at churches. Children write letters to Santa Claus and tell him what they'd like to receive for Christmas. With help from elves, Santa delivers gifts to children on Christmas Eve. Santa carries the gifts down the chimney at each home and places them under the Christmas tree. Santa Claus is known by other names in different parts of the world. For example, in Germany, he is known as Kris Kringle, while the French call him Pere Noel.

RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT  BRITTANY PERKINS

I'm from Ankeny Iowa, which is about 30 minutes south of here. I'm technically a super senior :) I am majoring in Finance with a minor in Political Science. I am the Recycling Chair and Sustainability Coordinator here at SUV and I work at Hickory Park. I also enjoy running with my two dogs when we get some free time. I've been at SUV for about 3 years now. I chose SUV because I wanted to live on campus and keep my puppies.

To nominate someone from the community for future issues, email your nominations to mdowning@iastate.edu.