



Photos by Dick Ruddy

Your

Homeowners News

Season's Greetings

The Meadows on Rio Grande



IT'S BEEN A GOOD YEAR

May Your Holidays be Happy

On behalf of the Meadows' Board of Directors and those of us who put together this newsletter, best wishes for a truly joyous and peaceful holiday season. We thank you for your ongoing support of our homeowners association, which has made it possible for all of us to enjoy a beautiful community with well-maintained landscaping along the entrances to our neighborhood, and properly cared-for common-area walls.

We also send thanks to those of you who contacted our Architectural Review Committee before making changes to the exterior of your homes. The system we have in place to approve plans and/or resolve issues has worked well: Our property values remain stable, and our neighborhood continues to look terrific.

Thanks again for your support — and here's to a great New Year!



"Snowflakes are one of nature's most fragile things, but just look at what they can do when they stick together."

LUMINARIAS

Light Up the Neighborhood

Each year, the Meadows on Rio Grande joins the Thomas Village neighborhood in lining our walkways, rooftops and walls with luminarias on Christmas Eve. The effect is the beauty of low, ethereal light, perfect for a walk through the neighborhood.

Luminarias first appeared around the 16th century as a Spanish tradition of lighting bonfires along the roads and churchyards to guide people to Midnight Mass on the final night of the celebration of Las Posadas. Las Posadas (a Spanish term meaning "lodging" or "inn") is a traditional, festive celebration introduced to Mexico by European missionaries; it is the reenactment of the story of Mary and Joseph's search for lodging in Bethlehem.

In Albuquerque, we call the paper bag lanterns "luminarias" (Spanish for "bonfires"), while northern New Mexicans use the term "farolitos," which means "little lanterns." Whatever you choose to call them, these warm and festive lights are set out as a tradition of welcome by people of all faiths for aesthetic as well as religious reasons.

It's easy to make your own luminarias by folding over the tops of small brown paper lunch bags, adding enough sand to hold the bag down, and placing a votive candle inside. You can also purchase them ready-made from the Boy Scouts, 242-0049, for \$10/dozen.