



PRESS

The Official Newsletter of the
Plum Creek Homeowner Association

January 2010
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Lights Contest Winners



Congratulations to Plum Creek for their great holiday and Christmas spirit! Here are the winners for our Lights Contest:

NOVELTY

- 1st Place: 6106 Hartson
- 2nd Place: 6063 Steiner
- 3rd Place: 238 Wetzel

TRADITIONAL

- 1st Place: 1227 Fairway
- 2nd Place: 261 Strawn
- 3rd Place: 216 Hutton

RELIGIOUS

- 1st Place: 1285 Fairway

Landscape Chair's Favorite: 113 Horton

We had some wonderful homes this year! The folks on Skinner teamed up to decorate as a block with their street trimmed in red lights! We even had a Recycled Trash Can Christmas Tree on Sampson...very green indeed! Best lit streets included all or parts of McNaughton, Fairway, Skinner, Hartson, Mather, and Fergus. About 45 homes made the short list, and it was narrowed to just 8 winners.

Congrats to all the winners! It was some stiff competition and please keep up the good work for next year!



Thanks For Your Service, Dave Brown!

The Plum Creek HOA would like to thank Dave Brown for his many years of service to our neighborhood. Dave, you have been with Plum Creek since the beginning, and we truly appreciate your hard work and commitment. As our property manager for the last 10 years, you have helped shape Plum Creek into the neighborhood we enjoy today. Plum Creek thanks you. We wish you all the best in your next adventure! Thanks again, Dave!

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**DON'T WANT TO
WAIT FOR THE MAIL?**

View the current issue of the Plum Creek Press on the 1st day of each month at www.PEELinc.com

Please Trim Those Trees! *Winter is the Perfect Time!*

Due to safety concerns, the HOA is evaluating street and yard trees that encroach on the sidewalk. Since these trees belong to the homeowner, we want to provide residents with the opportunity to prune their own trees. The HOA requests that you prune your trees up 7 feet and/or away from the sidewalk to prevent injury.

We have a short window to prune in winter, but this time of year is best for pruning!

When raising your tree's canopy, follow proper pruning techniques, including cleaning tools between trees and wound spraying any cuts on all OAK trees to prevent Oak Wilt.

For information and diagrams about pruning, visit www.treesaregood.com, www.ci.austin.tx.us/growgreen/pruning.htm, or www.plumcreektxhoa.com.

For information about contacting local certified arborists or for questions or concerns about pruning, feel free to contact the Landscape Committee at landscape@plumcreektxhoa.com

So, get out there with your clippers this winter and let's clear those sidewalks!

Pruning Your Tree

Remove branches shown with dotted lines:

• Remove limbs that extend beyond the natural outline of the crown.

• Remove dead, broken or crossing limbs.

• Remove limbs that turn inward towards the trunk.

• Don't leave branch stubs.

• Remove root suckers and watersprouts.

• Remove competing main stems to develop a single trunk.

• Remove sharp, V-shaped branch attachments.

• Shorten low branches to develop trunk thickness.

• Always make pruning cuts on the outside of the branch collar.

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Social Groups

SIP & SEW GROUP MEETS JANUARY 11TH

We have had a grand beginning with our Plum Creek group sipping and sewing. Many talents surfaced, and the room was filled each month with needlepoint, crocheting, sewing, knitting, rug hooking, and punch needle.

Dawn Hummer, a teacher from the Old Oak Ranch Fiber Art Center in Wimberley provided a kit and instructions for those individuals wanting to learn the art of punch needle at the November meeting.

The December meeting will be held, as usual, on the second Tuesday of the month on December 14th from 6:30 to 9:00pm! We will celebrate the coming of the holidays but will continue to Sip and Sew on the projects needing to be finished.

In the New Year, we continue to look forward to the friendships and good times we experienced in 2010 with the next meeting on February 8th!

Questions? Please contact Pam Chapman at 512.656.6050, Sandra Sigler at 512.405.0187, or Iris Sandle at 512.405.0054



PLUM CREEK BUNCO NIGHT ON JANUARY 18TH

Bunco is going strong! So, come on out and roll the dice, ladies! The cost is \$5, and a light meal/appetizers and dessert are provided. Mark your calendars for the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30PM and come to the Plum Creek Community Center with your 5 buckaroos! If interested in playing, please RSVP via email to Zoe Smith at zls823@gmail.com

PAGE TURNERS BOOK CLUB IN KYLE

The Page Turners meet once a month at the Kyle Library, usually the 3rd Thursday at 6:30PM. December's book was *The Professor* by Charlotte Bronte. Interested or have questions? Contact Briseida at btorres@cityofkyle.com or 512.268.7411

Classified Ads

Personal classifieds (one time sell items, such as a used bike...) run at no charge to Plum Creek residents, limit 30 words, please e-mail announcements@plumcreektxhoa.com.

Business classifieds (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$50, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office @ 512-989-8905 or advertising@PEELinc.com.



Seasons Greetings

*from your family physicians
in Plum Creek*

*Dr. Erik Arhelger, Dr. Tim Kay (Santa)
Heddie, Kellie, Vanessa,
Veronica & Victoria*

177 Kirkham Circle in Plum Creek

512.405.0077

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MEDICAL ASSOCIATES

AT THE FENCE

NEW CO-CHAIR/CHAIRPERSON-ELECT FOR LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE

Suzanne Parr has graciously agreed to act as Co-Chair/Chairperson-Elect for the Landscape Committee. Alongside Chair Christina Baese, Suzanne will learn the ropes over the next months as co-pilot, so please give her a great and warm welcome! Thank you for your service, Suzanne!

NEW CO-CHAIRS FOR DOG PARK COMMITTEE

Alongside Inez Scott, Cynthia and Gary Kennedy have become Co-Chairs for the Dog Park Committee. They have been working hard on the Pet Fair and getting estimates for the Dog Park fencing. Please give them a warm welcome! Thank you for your service, Gary and Cynthia!

SANTA VISITED PLUM CREEK

HO HO HO! Santa visited Plum Creek early in December, and Recreation Chair Brandee Otto took over 700 pictures of Plum Creekers with the Man in Red! Canned and packaged food was donated by residents during the event, which was taken to the Hays County Food Bank. Can't wait to see Santa again next December!

Teen Job Seeker Classifieds

NEED A DOG WALKER?

From Stephen, Age 10 - Stephen is your guy! I do any dogs as long as they're not bigger than me! And it helps if they're cute! HA! I am 10 years old and in 4th grade. I'm a hard worker, and I'm great with dogs. I just love the little guys...or girls. I'm available from 3:00 to 6:30. 4 days for \$5+\$1 for lake walks. 512.517.9723

NEED A BABYSITTER?

From Makenzie, Age 14 - Hi, I am Makenzie, and I am available for babysitting while you do shopping, date night, school break help, etc. I am turning 14 in January, and am Red Cross CPR trained. MANY references are available for ages 3 months to 12 years. Please call or text me at 512.618.8972 for availability and rates (sibling/large family discounts and another sitter available for large groups).

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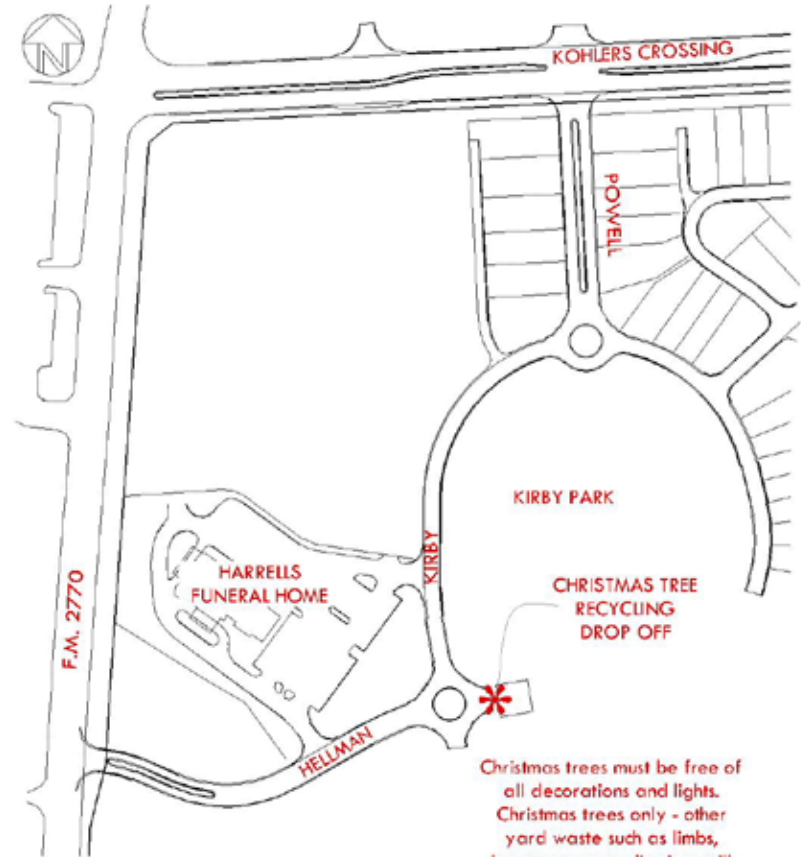
Christmas Tree Recycling at Kirby Park

Plum Creek residents have another great option for extending the life and usefulness of their natural Christmas trees. Until Wednesday, January 12th, you can drop your Christmas tree at Kirby Park. The tree drop-off is located at Kirby Park at Hellman and Kirby, just behind Harrell Funeral Home. Check out the map to the right!

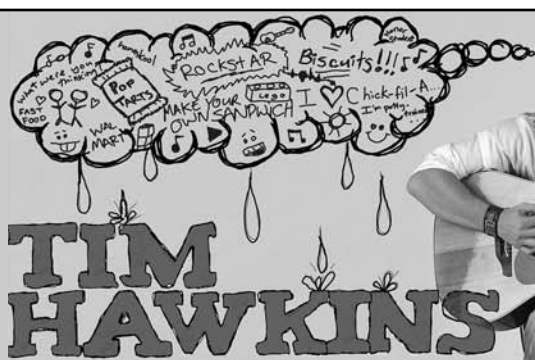
Thanks to Benchmark Development, Plum Creek's developers, the trees will be chipped free of charge to the HOA, and the mulch will be used in Kirby Park.

Please remember to remove all hooks, tinsel, and decorations from your trees before disposing of them, and only drop Christmas trees, not trees used in landscaping or any landscape debris. Lastly, please do not drop trees after dark or outside the posted dates or designated area. Thanks so much!

(See Map in Color Online at www.peelinc.com)



Christmas trees must be free of all decorations and lights. Christmas trees only - other yard waste such as limbs, leaves or grass clippings will not be accepted



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MRS. CLEAN PROFESSIONAL SERVICE


- Let me do the work while you take a break. I am a Plum Creek resident and mother of two teenagers. I am available to clean your home for the holidays as well as after if needed. I do beautiful work and my rates are reasonable. Call Peggy @ 512-650-4944 or my cell 214-675-6614. Cannot clean homes with cats.

Have a Dirt Circle Under Your Tree?

By: Christina Baese, PC Landscape Committee

In some of our gardens, our trees have grown so big and full that our grass has thinned or just disappeared completely. If that's the case in your garden, here are a few ideas:

1. Just mulch it. Mulch introduces organic material into the soil, providing valuable nutrients to your tree's roots. It helps stabilize soil temperature during summer and winter, too. Spread it about two to four inches deep and don't let it touch the actual trunk.
2. Let there be light! Thin the canopy of your tree and let the sun shine! Grass and many plants need plenty of sun to survive and thrive, so some selective pruning of your tree limbs may be a simple solution to thicken your grass.
3. Get planting. One can always create a flowerbed or plant groundcover. Several groundcovers can be planted in shade, such as pigeonberry, purple heart, or monkey grass. Cedar Sage, heartleaf skullcap, or columbine (reseeds when happy) are some great shady perennials, and American beautyberry is a lovely, shade tolerant shrub. When planting anything under a tree, be very careful with the roots, as not to stress the tree or expose it to disease. If possible, consider using seeds.
4. Rocks rock. River rocks and other natural stones can create a lovely, non-traditional garden.
5. When all else fails, Google it! There are many creative solutions on the web about how to deal with bare spots under trees. So, hit that keyboard.



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Happening in Kyle in January 2011

By: Sean Claes

POLAR BEAR SPLASH

The Kyle PARD is once again hosting the annual Polar Bear Splash at the Kyle Pool (at Gregg-Clarke Park) on January 1, 2011, at 1:00pm. Yes, I realize we're in Central Texas, and we don't have to cut a hole in a lake covered in ice. Yes, your northern friends will laugh at you for calling what you're doing a Polar Bear swim, but it's still pretty cold once you hit the water. In fact, the water was 46 degrees last year when 40 people (including my wife and I) jumped in. It's free to anyone brave enough to jump in, and if you'd like to join the Polar Bear Club, it'll cost \$20. (You get a 2011 t-shirt, half-price coupon for 2011 pool season pass, and other things). For information and how to sign up, visit <http://cityofkyle.com/parks/polarbearsplash.php>

ADULT KICKBALL LEAGUE ENTERTAINS

Have you had a chance to see the Kyle Parks and Recreation's Adult Kickball League? There are women's teams playing Thursdays, and co-ed teams playing Fridays. Games start at 6:30p each Thursday and Friday in January. All leads up to the day-long tournament to win the trophy and distinction as top of the Winter 2011 season. (Then, it starts all over in March). There are several Plum Creek residents who play on teams... and the team names are almost as interesting as the games themselves. On Thursday's, you may see "Team Dirty" play "I Kik'd A Girl & I Lik'd It," and Friday's you may see the "Holy Rollers" play the "Outlawz" or "Pray Ball" play the "Kyle Kickers." If you'd like to see a particular game, check out <http://www.leaguelineup.com/welcome.asp?url=kylekickball> for the schedule. If you just want to come out and watch, just head to Gregg-Clarke Park and park at the kickball field (One is next to the Post Office on Rebel Road, and the other is behind the playground at the park). It's fun y'all.

NASCAR NEAR KYLE!

In November, Thunderhill Raceway signed a sanctioning agreement with NASCAR to become part of the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series. This non-racing fan doesn't really know what that means, but... hey.. it's NASCAR! Near Kyle!

Thunderhill Raceway is a 3/8-mile, D-shaped asphalt oval track that's located at 24801 IH-35, on the access road near Yarrington Road (Exit #210). Information on Thunderhill Raceway may be found on the track website at www.thunderhillraceway.com.

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS ONLINE

Did you know that you can attend the City Council meetings in your underwear? Now... don't show up to City Hall this way, you may be arrested... but if you'd like to watch the City Council meetings, you may do so from the comfort of your computer. Just follow this link and you're there. <http://cityofkyle.com/PublicMtgVideo.php>

Pet of the Month: *Bella LaRue*

Hello everyone! My name is Bella LaRue, and I am almost two years old. I am a pure-blooded, long-haired, apple head Chihuahua. When I was six months old, I was given to my parents by someone who could not take care of me anymore. The happiest day of my life was coming home to mommy, daddy and Biscuit's house. Biscuit may not be a puppy like me, but she is the best hamster-sister in the world. I love my yard, and all my neighbors in Plum Creek. I lead a very pampered life because my parents, Walker and Kristian, give me everything my little puppy heart desires. Also, they make sure I am up-to-date on all the latest Paris fashions. Guess this is why I won first place in last year's Plum Creek best Halloween costume contest. My favorite thing to do is to show-off all the tricks I learned from my mommy because I am always with her. I am her little shadow! I love my parents so much that I am the best guard dog, and I do not let anything escape my eyes. I may be petite and regal, but I am one tough princess.



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