



# PRESS

The Official Newsletter of the  
Plum Creek Homeowner Association

August 2011  
Volume 2, Issue 8

October 8<sup>th</sup>



Come out for the Seed & Stomp, Pet Fair, BBQ & Chili Cook Offs, and more!

Once again, we're merging several events into a great day of family fun now called the Hootenanny on the Hill! Mark your calendars for October 8th and start preparing your recipes, grooming your dogs, carving your pumpkins, and saving old clothes for making scarecrows. The event runs from 10AM to 2PM.

First, the Landscape Committee will host the 6th Annual Wildflower Seed & Stomp at Fairway Fields, across from Fergus Park. We'll seed wildflowers, make scarecrows as part of the annual Scarecrow Contest, snap photos by hay bale critters, and enjoy hay rides! Plus, this year, we're adding a Pumpkin Decorating Contest!! Email Christina Baese at [announcements@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:announcements@plumcreektxhoa.com) with any questions.

In Fairway Fields, next to the Seed & Stomp, enjoy the Annual Plum Creek Pet Fair. Festivities will include the Muffin Eating Contest, Silent Auction, Cake (Pet Treat) Walk, Costume Contest, and Pup Trot. Local pet vendors will be in attendance to provide information for residents. All proceeds will benefit the beautification phase of the Dog Park. For more information, you may contact Gary and Cindy Kennedy at [dogpark@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:dogpark@plumcreektxhoa.com).

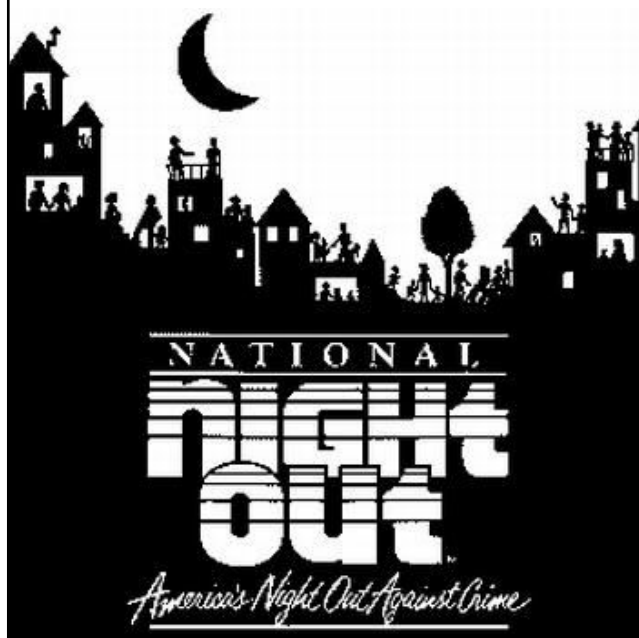
Just across the way, the Recreation Committee will host the 5th Annual BBQ and Chili Cook-Off at the Plum Creek Community Center and Fergus Soccer Fields. The BBQ competition is IBCA Sanctioned with categories for chicken, brisket, pork spare ribs, and an open category. The chili portion of the cook-off is CASI Sanctioned. Other categories include beans, potato salad, and desserts! Entry fees range from \$10 to \$20. Forms are due by October 1st. Check-in occurs on Friday, October 7th at 6PM. Email Brandee Otto at [recreation@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:recreation@plumcreektxhoa.com) with any questions.

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## Save the Date: National Night Out is October 4th

National Night Out (NNO) is the time to get out and get to know your neighbors. It's America's Night Out Against Crime! NNO helps promote police-community partnerships, crime prevention, and neighborhood camaraderie. Block captains, are you ready? Party Planners needed! Save the Date: Tuesday Evening, October 4th, 2011.

For more info, contact Wyana Eddleman at [safety@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:safety@plumcreektxhoa.com) or 512-913-8264.



## Committee Contacts

### PLUM CREEK HOA MANAGER

Kristi Morrison ..... [plumcreekmanager@goodwintx.com](mailto:plumcreekmanager@goodwintx.com)

### PLUM CREEK PRESS AND WEEKLY ENEWS

Christina Baese ..... [announcements@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:announcements@plumcreektxhoa.com)

### COMMUNITY CENTER RESERVATION QUESTIONS

Brandee Otto ..... [reservations@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:reservations@plumcreektxhoa.com)

### DOG PARK COMMITTEE

Inez Scott/Gary Kennedy .... [dogpark@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:dogpark@plumcreektxhoa.com)

### LAKE COMMITTEE

Robert Russell/Sam Guerrero .... [lake@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:lake@plumcreektxhoa.com)

### LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE

Christina Baese ..... [landscape@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:landscape@plumcreektxhoa.com)

### POOL COMMITTEE

Scott Brown ..... [pool@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:pool@plumcreektxhoa.com)

### RECREATION COMMITTEE

Brandee Otto ..... [recreation@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:recreation@plumcreektxhoa.com)

### SAFETY & MONITORING COMMITTEE

Wyana Eddleman ..... [safety@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:safety@plumcreektxhoa.com)

### SOCIAL GROUPS

..... [socialgroups@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:socialgroups@plumcreektxhoa.com)

### WELCOME COMMITTEE

Dennis & Mariel Perkins ... [welcome@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:welcome@plumcreektxhoa.com)

HOA OFFICE PHONE ..... 512.262.1140

## Newsletter Info

### PUBLISHER

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on the 1st day of each month at [www.PEELinc.com](http://www.PEELinc.com)

### Hootenanny...- (Continued from Cover Page)

This year, several new events are planned, including a 5K/1K/Pup Trot, a Pumpkin Decorating Contest, a Washers Tournament, and a Horseshoe Tournament. In addition to the events mentioned above, some old favorites of a petting zoo, pony rides, trackless train, and more will return, as well.

If you are interested in selling pet related products, please contact Gary and Cindy at [dogpark@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:dogpark@plumcreektxhoa.com). For selling all other products, email Christina Baese at [announcements@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:announcements@plumcreektxhoa.com). If interested in sponsorships, email Brandee Otto at [recreation@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:recreation@plumcreektxhoa.com)

More information will be provided, as available, via the Plum Creek PC Press and eNews. Also, check out the new website at [www.hootenannyonthehill.com](http://www.hootenannyonthehill.com) for additional information and entry forms. As always, volunteers are needed and appreciated at all HOA events! Come out for the fun!

*Do You Have Reason  
to Celebrate?*

We want to hear from you! Email [announcements@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:announcements@plumcreektxhoa.com) to let the community know!

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## 2011 Front Porch Days 5K Results

There were 91 finishers with 39 gentlemen and 52 ladies. Here are the results:

### Overall Female:

Bridget Delarosa-Lopez, 21:05.00

### Overall Male:

Andrew McHenry, 17:47.00

### Top Finishers by Age:

1-19 Female: Belle Cavazos, 25:09.00  
1-19 Male: Caden Anderson, 21:09.00  
20-29 Female: Ingrid London, 25:34:00  
20-29 Male: Nick Askey, 21:18.00  
30-39 Female: Jessie Ralston, 23:11.00  
30-39 Male: Andrew Martin, 21:54.00  
40-49 Female: Edith Davis, 23:34:00  
40-49 Male: Keith Eddleman, 21:39.00  
50-59 Female: Bernadette Beck, 25:15:00  
50-59 Male: Roger Duffee, 20:28.00

60-69 Male: Jack Wilkinson, 27:08.00  
70+ Male: Luke Oliver, 31:54.00

### Overall Top Male Runners:

Andrew McHenry, 17:47.00, 5:43  
Roger Duffee, 20:28.00, 6:35  
Caden Anderson, 21:09.00, 6:48  
Nick Askey, 21:18.00, 6:51  
Keith Eddleman, 21:39.00, 6:58

### Overall Top Female Runners:

Bridget Delarosa-Lopez, 21:05.00, 6:47  
Jessie Ralston, 23:11.00, 7:28  
Edith Davis, 23:34.00, 7:35  
Belle Cavazos, 25:09.00, 8:06  
Brianna Kaminski, 25:14.00, 8:07

## Sign Up for the eNews

Did you know Plum Creek has a weekly email newsletter? It's called the eNews! It's filled with important information, including weekly and upcoming events, neighborhood watch info, lost/found pets, and more. The eNews is typically sent once per week on Thursday or Friday.

To sign up, visit [plumcreektxhoa.com](http://plumcreektxhoa.com). Request a login, if new to the site. Otherwise, login and click on Plum Creek eNews in the menu on the left. Check the box next to Plum Creek eNews and click Save Changes at the bottom. If you have any problems or don't receive it the Thursday or Friday after you register, email Christina at [announcements@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:announcements@plumcreektxhoa.com) for assistance. Thanks again!

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## Negley News for August

We hope you have had a safe and super summer. It's hard to believe it is already time to prepare for back to school. We have many exciting things planned in August to gear up for the new school year. Good news for all returning students, we now have an online registration system which will allow you to complete all of the beginning of the school paperwork online. The online registration began July 1st. Campus Computer Labs will be open to the public beginning August 1st during regular campus hours. For more information visit the [www.hayscisd.net](http://www.hayscisd.net). If you are new to Hays

CISD, you may register your student at their home campus anytime during regular office hours, which are posted on the front doors of Negley.

- 8/11 New student school tour: This is an event sponsored by PTA for any Kindergartener or new students to Negley to go on a tour of the school. All who wish to participate meet at Negley in the front foyer at 6:30 PM.
- 8/17 Negley Annual Parade: This year we will be posting a parade route to ensure we don't miss anyone. The route will be posted on the front windows at Negley on Monday, August 15th. Come out and see Navi the Gator and NES teachers.

- 8/17 Class List Posted: Class list will be posted on the front windows at Negley by 5:00 8/18 Hays CISD Elementary Back to School Night and Negley Set Sail in the Park: This is the night to meet your teacher, bring your school supplies, and come to the park for food and fun. School doors will open @ 6:30 PM.

- 8/22 First Day of School: The Negley day starts at 7:35 AM with our daily announcements. If you are still in the halls at this time, we ask that you please stop and show respect to the flag, as we play the National Anthem and recite the pledges to the United States of America and Texas flags. The tardy bell rings at 7:40 AM. This is the time all students should be in class, seated and ready for the day to begin. We know how hard it is to send your child off to school for the first time or the 5th time, you are not alone! The PTA sponsors a BOO HOO breakfast at 7:30 AM. Come to the cafeteria for a shoulder to lean on, meet new friends, and have a light breakfast with fellow Navigator parents.

Please note, dates and times may change. Please check our website [www.hayscisd.net/Negley.cfm](http://www.hayscisd.net/Negley.cfm), call the school @ (512) 268-8501, or see the school marquee for updated information. See you soon Navigators



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SCHOOL

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## 2011 Front Porch Days Pie Contest Winners

We had just 8 pies this year, but they sure were yummy! Look for recipes from some of our bakers over the next few months!

### Appearance:

- 1st – Lemonade Creamsicle Pie, Michelle Ducote
  - 2nd – Key Lime Swirl, Michelle Ducote
- 3rd – Caramel Pecan Cheesecake Pie, Michelle Ducote

### Taste:

- 1st – Lemonade Creamsicle Pie, Michelle Ducote
- 2nd – Peanut Butter Chocolate Pie, Diane DeLaVega
- 3rd – Caramel Pecan Cheesecake Pie, Michelle Ducote

### Originality:

- 1st – Lemonade Creamsicle Pie, Michelle Ducote
  - 2nd – Key Lime Swirl, Michelle Ducote
- 3rd – Peanut Butter Chocolate Pie, Diane DeLaVega

Other pie submissions included Peppermint Chocolate, Coconut Key Lime, and Easy Chocolate Peppermint by Diane DeLaVega and Lemon Coconut Pie by Sean and Marlee Claes! Thanks to everyone who participated and keep baking those pies! YUM

## Front Porch Days Golf Tournament Winners

This year, 16 teams participated in the golf tournament, and it was a close one!

1st Place:

**Three Putt , 49.6**

2nd Place:

**Three Putt McGillicutty, 49.7**

3rd Place:

**Caddy Hack, 50.3**

Dead Last:

**Duffers**

**Closest to the Pin**

Male: Justin Malone

Female: Marian Stevens

**Longest Drive**

Male: Aaron McPherson

Female: Meagan Gray



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# PLUM CREEK PRESS

## AT THE FENCE

### HOA Office Moved

The on-site HOA office will be moved by August to 4100 Everett, Suite 150. The office will be next door to Plum Fit in the Uptown District across from the Plum Creek Golf Club.

### Toddler Time on August 23rd

Toddler Time returns on August 23rd with a SWIM DAY! We'll provide some snacks and juice boxes. Just bring your kiddos, your puddle jumpers, a towel, and some pool toys! Meet at 10:30AM at Haupt Pool, the bucket pool next to the Community Center at 450 Haupt. See you then!

### New Playscape at Kirby Park!

In early July, the installation of a new playscape began at Kirby Park. If you get the chance, go visit!

### Lost/Found Sign Reminder

As a reminder, please do not post Lost/Found signs on the poles in Plum Creek. Anything posted on poles or other objects will be removed. If you need to notify residents of a situation, please email [announcements@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:announcements@plumcreektxhoa.com), and a note will be sent to other residents via the eNews.

### Barking Dogs

Once again, the HOA Office has been receiving numerous complaints of barking dogs at all hours of the day and night. So, if you have a barking pooch, please keep your neighbors in mind.

### Starlight Symphony Orchestra Needs Musicians

Starlight Symphony Orchestra is recruiting for their 2011-2012 season. If you or anyone you know plays or has played a musical instrument, WE NEED YOU! Our talent ranges from amateur to semi-professional, so yes...you can dust off those cases and give us a call. Call Brandy Cox 512-574-5717 or email [starlightrecruit@yahoo.com](mailto:starlightrecruit@yahoo.com) (Attn: Michelle Winn or Brandy Cox) for more info regarding auditions, rehearsals, etc.

### Resident Michelle Winn Earns Excellence Award,

### Negley is No Place for Hate

Congratulations to Negley Elementary School for qualifying as a No Place for Hate campus, as determined by the Anti Defamation League. The ADL promotes respect and diversity in schools and strives to eliminate bullying and bias through its programs. In addition, Michelle Winn, Negley Elementary's school counselor of five years (since it opened in 2006) received the ADL's Educator in Excellence Award for the Southwest Region. She is one our own Plum Creek Residents and helped to establish Negley as a No Place for Hate campus with curriculum, education, and support. She received the Education in Excellence Award on June 13th in Austin. Negley is "No Place for Hate".

### Fourth of July Parade was a Blast!

The 4th of July Parade and Picnic was a great success! Special thanks to Kyle Fire Department for leading our parade! At the picnic, Plum Creek ate 300 hamburgers, 300 hot dogs, 300 bags of chips, and more! Special thanks to Dennis & Mariel Perkins for providing flags by our mailboxes. All in all, it was a truly patriotic day! Thanks for coming out!

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## Garden Tour Recap

The Landscape Committee would like to thank everyone who attended the 3rd Plum Creek Garden Tour. Special thanks to all of the hosts and homes on the tour, including Gary and Cindy Kennedy, Debi Vaughan, Gina Kunda, Valerie Marburger, Brad and Mary Emery, Bennie Jasso, and Leeann and Jim Behl. All of the yards were magnificent and unique. No two gardens looked alike. It just proves how much you can accomplish gardening and the many different ways!

For our 3rd Garden Tour, we had about 80 folks participate! In addition, these participants received free canvas grocery bags with Grow Green Guides and lots of freebies, including about 200 starter plants (bachelor buttons, butterfly weed, and tomatoes), 170 bags of seeds (organic carrots and zinnias), lovely mirrored garden decorations, Scentsy samples, and some yummy goodies and lemonade! Plus, we raffled several garden essentials! The Landscape Committee truly hopes the attendees enjoyed themselves, and if you were unable to attend this time, there's always next year! We can't wait! Happy Gardening!

[www.adopttexas.org](http://www.adopttexas.org)



Keyon'te is 15 years old and will absolutely melt your heart with his sweet smile! He has a friendly and engaging personality. He loves playing soccer and also enjoys riding bikes, going fishing, skateboarding and playing video games. Keyon'te enjoys listening to Christian music. He is a smart young man and makes all A's in school. Keyon'te responds well to structure and needs a family that can give him a lot of attention.



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## LEMONADE CREAMSICLE PIE

*(aka Lemon Swirl Cream Cheese Pie)*

Submitted by: Michelle Ducote

### Ingredients

#### Homemade Lemon Curd

- 1 tsp fresh lemon zest
- 1/2 cup strained fresh lemon juice
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 3 large eggs
- 1/4 cup butter, cut into small pieces

#### Graham Cracker Crumb Crust

- 2 cups graham cracker crumbs
- 1/4 c sugar
- 1 stick butter, melted and cooled

#### Lemon Cream Cheese Filling

- 2 (8-oz) packages cream cheese, room temperature
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
- Reserved Lemon Curd (from above)
- Garnish
- 1/2 cup heavy whipping cream
- 2 tbsp confectioners' sugar
- 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
- 12-15 fresh raspberries (optional)
- 1 small lemon, cut into thin slices and quartered

### Directions

- Prepare Lemon Curd: In a small saucepan, whisk together lemon zest, lemon juice, and sugar. Bring to a simmer over medium heat, stirring until sugar is dissolved. Lightly beat eggs in a medium bowl. Drizzle in lemon juice slowly, whisking constantly. When all of the lemon juice has been added, return mixture to saucepan. Add butter and cook over medium heat, stirring frequently, until curd has thickened. Pour lemon curd into a small bowl. Set aside 1/2 cup of Lemon Curd. Press plastic wrap directly onto surfaces of the curd. Cool 30 minutes.
- Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
- Prepare Crumb Crust: In a medium mixing bowl, use a fork to toss together crumbs and sugar. Stir in melted butter. Press mixture evenly onto bottom and sides of a 9-inch pie plate.
- Bake for 12 minutes on bottom oven rack. Remove from oven and set aside while filling is prepared.
- Prepare Cream Cheese Filling: In a medium mixing bowl, beat cream cheese and sugar until smooth. Beat in eggs, one at a time, then add in the sour cream, vanilla extract and all reserved lemon curd (except for the 1/2 cup set aside earlier). Pour into baked crust. Dollop remaining 1/2 cup lemon curd onto filling and swirl through filling using a small knife.
- Bake for 30-35 minutes or until center is just set. Remove from oven and place on a wire rack. Cool for 2 hours, then refrigerate for at least 4-6 hours, or overnight.
- To Garnish: In a chilled, medium mixing bowl, beat whipping cream, powdered sugar, and vanilla with a hand-held electric mixer, starting at lowest speed and increasing gradually each minute, until stiff peaks are formed. Using a star tip, pipe whipped cream decoratively around border of pie. Decorate with fresh raspberries and lemon slices. Refrigerate until serving time. Enjoy!





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## Seed & Stomp Contests

Part of Hootenanny of the Hill on  
October 8th from 10am to 2pm

### 5TH ANNUAL SCARECROW CONTEST DETAILS:

Open to residents of all ages! Organizations, neighbors, & classes join in the fun!

Two ways to enter: Create early and drop off at Negley's atrium by Friday, October 8th or create and/or drop off on event day. If you build a scarecrow at the event, some hay and frames will be provided, just bring clothes and props. Remember, only homegrown scarecrows for this contest.

Prizes: Prizes will be awarded for the Most BEAUTIFUL, Most HUMOROUS, Most TRADITIONAL, Most CREATIVE/ORIGINAL, and maybe, one or two more categories depending on the creative entries! The scarecrows will be judged and photographed at day's end and remain at Negley Garden until 10/31 or until bad weather/damage forces their removal. Let's create a family of scarecrows in PC!

### PUMPKIN DECORATING CONTEST DETAILS:

Open to residents of all ages! Organizations, neighbors, & classes join in the fun!

Please bring your pumpkin already decorated and carved to Fairway Fields by Noon. Put your name, address, and phone number on the bottom of the pumpkin.

Prizes: Prizes will be awarded for the Most BEAUTIFUL, Most HUMOROUS, Most TRADITIONAL, Most CREATIVE/ORIGINAL, and maybe, one or two more categories depending on the creative entries! The pumpkins will be judged and photographed by 2pm and ready to take home at that time.

Questions?

Email [announcements@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:announcements@plumcreektxhoa.com)

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## ARE YOU MULCHING YOUR TREES CORRECTLY?

By: Christina Baese, PC Landscape Committee

Most of us know how beneficial mulch is for our plants and trees, especially during our dry summers. Mulch helps maintain moisture, reduces the need for watering, and improves soil conditions. It's incredibly beneficial for trees. In addition, mulch minimizes weeds, acts as a great insulator, and even, prevents disease, and well, it just looks nice. However, to be truly beneficial, mulch should be applied correctly. If too deep, it can actually hurt the tree you're trying to help!

When trees grow in the forest, they have a rich soil full of nutrients created from fallen leaves and other organic material. It's the perfect conditions for root growth. Our urban and suburban landscapes are less ideal with poorer soils and little organic material. Mulch helps recreate a more natural environment for your tree and other plants.

Most of us grew up hearing that the roots of the tree mirror the top, but in fact, the roots can and often do, extend much farther from the trunk. The fine roots responsible for absorbing water and nutrients are located in the top inches of the soil and actually, need oxygen to survive. If you apply a thin layer of mulch, you will improve the soil and actually, help these roots do their job better.

The best mulches for your trees were once plants of some sort and include anything from wood chips to cocoa hulls to hardwood mulches and more. These mulches decompose over time and must be replenished periodically, but this decomposition is what improves the soil and the health of your plant or tree. Try to stay away from non-living mulches like rocks, rubber, and the like.

As with most things, you can have too much of it, and it can be used incorrectly. You want to create as wide of a mulched area as you can, but you want it to be too deep. Typically, a two to four inch depth is recommended. However, some trees fall victim to mulch mounds or mulch volcanoes – mulch piled high around the base of a tree. These mulch mounds contribute to girdling roots, according to Vincent DeBrock of Heritage Tree Care. According to DeBrock, improper mulching can create more choking roots, which will weaken sap flow and kill transplants, if not corrected. Often, the result is chlorosis (yellowing leaves). If not corrected, the roots will continue to circle the tree and in effect, strangle it. In addition, mulch volcanoes contribute to root rot through excess moisture and actually, encourage insect, rodent, and disease problems. Lastly, these thick mounds can prevent water and air from getting to your trees and their roots.

(Continued on Page 11)

## Tree Mulching- (Continued from Page 10)

If you have mulch, check the depth. If you have 2 to 4 inches, don't add any more, but do rake up your current mulch to break up any spots that are matted together. DeBrock recommends clearing the base of trees from improper mulch mounds or volcanoes. Pull it back several inches to expose the base of the trunk and the root crown. Next, DeBrock suggests checking for choking roots, especially if you have a chlorotic tree (one with yellowing leaves), and if you find any of them, cut a few. Then, he suggests cutting a few more the next year. Finish his process by applying iron sulfate in the soil after removing the choking roots, and if at that point, the tree is stable, apply a good fertilizer. Of course, if cutting roots makes you queasy, as it does me, you can always call a professional. For more information about proper mulching, visit [www.treesaregood.com](http://www.treesaregood.com) or

[hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/addmulch.shtml](http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/addmulch.shtml).

Just remember, mulch is essential for your trees and your landscape, but when you apply it, mulch wide, not deep.

## SUDOKU

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View answers online

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The challenge is to fill every row across, every column down, and every 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9. Each 1 through 9 digit must appear only once in each row across, each column down, and each 3x3 box.

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**Sunday, August 28th The 3rd Annual Colin's Hope Kids Triathlon**

The Colin's Hope Kids Tri will once again take place in the Lake Pointe neighborhood on Sunday, August 28th. Almost 300 athletes (ages 5-15) are registered and now we need VOLUNTEERS to help us cheer them on! Volunteers are needed to help with packet pickup on Saturday, August 27th and at the race on Sunday, August 28th. This is a great family or group volunteer activity and there are variety of volunteer positions and shifts available! Please go online to volunteer at [www.colinshope.org](http://www.colinshope.org).



**August-September 2011 The Hospital at Westlake Medical Center Flamingo Sale to Benefit Colin's Hope!**

When the beloved garden center, Pots & Plants closed its doors- several flamingos were injured in the move. You can help them return for the best care in town at The Hospital at Westlake by donating \$15. ALL profit in July, August and September benefits Colin's Hope. You can add to The Hospital at Westlake's flock, or start your own flock at home. Visit [www.westlakemedical.com](http://www.westlakemedical.com) for more details or stop in The Hospital's Waterfall Café, 5656 Bee Caves Road, Building L, level 3 to sponsor your flamingo. Spread the word on Facebook and raise even more funds for Colin's Hope!



**Friday, September 2nd- The 2nd Annual Got2Swim 4 (and 8) Miles for Colin's Hope**

In celebration of Colin's Birthday on September 2nd, 50 swimmers will be heading down Lake Austin to the Walsh Boat Landing (near the Tom Miller Dam). Some of the swimmers will be going 4 miles while others will be swimming 8 miles. Their journey will be safeguarded by kayak Water Guardians, a team of volunteers and The Expedition School. The goal of this swim is to raise \$50,000 for Colin's Hope while raising awareness for water safety and drowning prevention. Please go to [www.tinych.org/got2swim](http://www.tinych.org/got2swim) to meet our swimmers and make a pledge towards our \$50,000 goal. All funds raised from this event will go directly to Colin's Hope. Visit [www.colinshope.org](http://www.colinshope.org) to find out where you can go on September 2nd to cheer on the swimmers.

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Children who drown often do not **scream, splash, or struggle**. They can silently slip beneath the water, even with adults & lifeguards present.