



PRESS

The Official Newsletter of the
Plum Creek Homeowner Association

November 2011
Volume 2, Issue 11

Judging for the Lights Contest Begins on Saturday, December 10th

Beginning Saturday, December 10th, the PC Landscape Committee will judge the holiday lights of Plum Creek. With three categories, everyone can get into the spirit of the season.

Our first category is Traditional, which includes the simpler designs of house trimming and lots of greenery. It's the classic winter wonderland and Christmas of old with 1st, 2nd, or 3rd awarded!

Next, we encounter the Religious category, which embraces all major religious holidays. These holidays include Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and more. We award 1st place only.

In the Novelty category, you can run amuck! This category accepts all of the rest! Once again, you can receive 1st, 2nd, or 3rd.

Judging begins the night of Saturday, December 10th at 6PM and runs through the night of Wednesday, December 14th. Winners receive a gift card and sign in their yard through the holidays and will be announced in the PC eNews in December and the February PC Press.

Feel free to nominate your own home or your neighbor! Just email landscape@plumcreektxhoa.com.

Remember, have your decorations up and lights shining by Saturday, December 10th at 6PM and every night at that time until Wednesday, December 14th!

Santa Claus is Coming to Plum Creek *Saturday, December 10th from 9AM to 1PM*

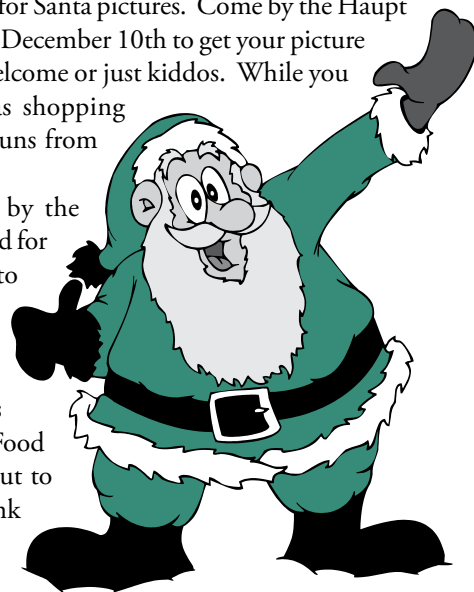
Don't fight the lines at the mall for Santa pictures. Come by the Haupt Community Center on Saturday, December 10th to get your picture taken with Santa. Families are welcome or just kiddos. While you are waiting, do some Christmas shopping from local vendors. The event runs from 9am to 1pm.

Digital photos will be taken by the Recreation Committee and printed for you to pick up. You are welcome to snap some photos on your own, too. Since this is the season of giving, we ask that everyone bring a donation of canned foods to give to the Hays County Area Food Bank. Check donations made out to the Hays County Area Food Bank will be accepted, as well.

If you would like to decorate our community Christmas tree, please bring one ornament per family to place on the tree. Feel free to have a family picture or your names on the ornament. We will continue to add to the tree each year as we watch our community family grow.

If you would like to have a table at the event that day, the table fee is \$10. Checks should be made payable to the Hays County Area Food Bank. Space is limited and first come, first serve.

For questions or to reserve a vendor space, please call Brandee Otto at 512-557-2728 or email questions to recreation@plumcreektxhoa.com. See you and Santa on December 10th from 9AM to 1PM!!!



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Advertising..... advertising@PEELinc.com

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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

Upcoming Events

Toddler Time on November 8th: Toddler Time is set for November 8th for some fall fun! Some snacks and drinks provided. Geared toward the 3 & under crowd, but older siblings welcome. Meet at 10:00AM at the Plum Creek Community Center at 450 Haupt. Email Christina with questions or to RSVP at announcements@plumcreektxhoa.com. Save the Date: Tuesday, December 6th is final Toddler Time of 2011!

Local Vet Clinic Gives Back to School on November 12th: Kyle Animal Hospital, across from Plum Creek, is hosting a sponsorship event for Hays students on November 12th. Bring your pets for their yearly vaccines and a quick medical check for a fraction of the cost of a regular office visit. A portion of the vaccine fees goes directly to local elementary students. If you can't make the 12th, you can still help all month by making an appointment, and again, a portion of the vaccine fees goes to help. Just mention you want to support the elementary school, and the clinic will do the rest.

Starlight Orchestra Recruits Youth, Auditions on November 20th: Starlight Orchestra is recruiting youth from 4th grade through 12th to participate in the Starlight Youth Festival, held in March. Auditions for the youth orchestra will be held on November 20, 2011. Applications and info can be found at www.starlightsymphony.org. For more information, contact Michelle Winn at starlightrecruit@yahoo.com.

FREE Starlight Symphony Concert on December 3rd and 4th: Mark your calendars and get in the winter spirit! Starlight Symphony, a community orchestra, hosts its FREE winter concerts on December 3rd at 7:30pm at Blanco High School, 1215 Fourth Street in Blanco, and December 4th at 4:30pm at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 6000 FM 3237 in Wimberley. Welcome adults and children of all ages. Hope to see you there! Info at www.starlightsymphony.org or join us on Facebook.

*Do You Have Reason
to Celebrate?*

We want to hear from you! Email announcements@plumcreektxhoa.com to let the community know!

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November Negley News

By: Karen Lucita, Negley Assistant Principal

Can you believe it is already November? We know everyone is tired after a night of trick-a-treating, so we will have pajama day on **November 1st**. Please bring your tennis shoes for recess and PE.

2nd six weeks report cards will go home on **November 4th**. Please sign and return the report card in the small brown envelope to your child's teacher.

If your child was absent or you did not like their fall picture, we have retakes on **November 8th**. To take a new picture, bring your complete package to school today.

We would like to give a BIG THANKS to everyone for supporting the PTA's Chick-Fil-A nights. Our next one is **November 8th** from 5PM to 9PM. Visit the Kyle Chick-Fil-A (inside or drive-through) and let them know you are with Negley. They give the PTA a portion of the profits. This is a great way to support your local school.

We will honor Perfect Attendance for the 2nd six weeks and our local Veterans at our morning assembly on **November 11th**.

Hays CISD provides an opportunity for each school to have a Thanksgiving meal with their students. We invite all Negley families to join us for our annual Thanksgiving meal on November 16th. All adults must present a state ID to enter the school. Come early, as lines are usually long.

Enjoy the week of Thanksgiving break, November **21st to 25th**, with your family!

We close the month with our 3rd graders performing at the Annual Kyle Tree Lightning and Santa Arrival on **November 30th**. Come support local vendors and Hays CISD school choirs for a family night of fun.

We encourage all families to join our Parent Teacher Association (PTA). Anyone can join...mom, dad, grandparents, aunts, uncles, community members, anyone who wishes to support Negley Elementary. We welcome everyone. For more details and updates, visit www.negleyPTA.org or find them on Facebook. The PTA will have a Holiday Market on December 3rd. They are currently looking for vendors who would like to participate. Please see the PTA website for more information.

Dates are subject to change. Please visit www.hayscisid.net/Negley.cfm for updated information. Have a WONDERFUL November!

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RESULTS: 6th Annual Plum Creek Seed & Stomp, Scarecrows, & Pumpkins

Thanks to everyone who participated or volunteered at the 6th Annual Seed & Stomp and Scarecrow Contest. We spread about 10 pounds of seed, created 29 scarecrows (MOST EVER), made 75 pinecone birdfeeders, and enjoyed 4 decorated pumpkins.

Pumpkin Contest Results:

Best Overall "Pure Awesomeness": Caramel Apple by Cindy Gabel

Most Beautiful: Petilil by Clay Gabel

Most Traditional: Pumpkin 4 Ways by The Claes Family

Best Character: Minnie Mouse by Danielle Lasater



Scarecrow Contest Results:

Best Overall: The Gabel Family for Big Chief

Most Traditional:

1st Place: Mrs. Farmer's Kinder for Mrs. Farmer's Frogs

2nd Place: The Botello Family for Mr. Scare

3rd Place: Ms. Meyer's 2nd Grade for Cody, the Cowboy

4th Place: Mrs. Galow's 3rd Grade for BIG, the Hobo Farmer

Most Creative/Original:

1st Place: Emma, Ella, and Julie Pettiette for The Enchanted Cornfield

2nd Place: Mrs. Snead's 3rd Grade for Robo-Crow

3rd Place: Mrs. Conner's 2nd Grade for Santa Crow

Most Humorous:

1st Place: Mrs. Stapp's and Mrs. Bordeau's 3rd Grades for Captain Underpants

2nd Place: Mrs. Secrest's Kinder for Disco Dude

3rd Place: Mr. Mika's 1st Grade for Rock Star Reader

4th Place: Mrs. Swearingen's 1st Grade for SuperKid Scarecrow

Most Beautiful:

1st Place: Ms. Little's Kinder for Fancy Nancy

2nd Place: Mrs. Cato's Life Skills for Francine, the Dancing Breast Cancer Awareness Fairy Princess

3rd Place: Mrs. Mireles' Kinder for Rapunzel

School Spirit Scarecrow:

1st Place: Mrs. Spark's Kinder for Navi the Navigator

2nd Place: Mrs. Thomason's 1st Grade for Mr. Webber

3rd Place: Mrs. Hebert's 2nd Grade for Laura B. Negley Cheer Crow

Spooky Scarecrow:

1st Place: The Claes Family for Luna La Muerta

2nd Place: Mrs. Insogna's 3rd Grade for Viola Swamp

3rd Place: Ms. Gripp's 1st Grade for Creepy Crawly

4th Place: Judy Lyons and Sandra Green for Chef Boo!-Ardee

Best Character Scarecrow:

1st Place: Mrs. Bittner's 2nd Grade for Jack Sparrow Scarecrow

2nd Place: Ms. Maddux's 4th Grade for Percy Jackson

3rd Place: Mr. White's & Mrs. Cauble's 4th Grades for Harry Potter

4th Place: Mrs. Vasquez' 1st Grade for Mary Poppins

Best Critter Scarecrow:

1st Place: Mrs. Rholes' Kinder for Monkey Scarecrow

2nd Place: Mrs. Hybner's 3rd Grade for The Fierce Hornet

3rd Place: Ms. Kromer's 1st Grade for Precious Purple Vampire Puppy



(Continued on Page 5)

Seed & Stomp, Scarecrows, & Pumpkins- (Continued from Page 4)



Elite BodyWorks is private fitness studio Conveniently located in Kyle by the Hays Performing Arts center. We offer quality fitness services in individual and group settings without the need for a gym membership.

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Exercise is the key to long term management of most medical conditions. -Michael Jones

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Pet Fair Results

The Hootenanny's Pet Fair was better than ever!

Contest Winners: Sammy, belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Howard Saner, won the Muffin Eating Contest with 7.2 seconds. Bacon won our pup trot, and his owners are Mr. and Mrs. Roland Long. The Killer Cute Cat Kodak Photo Contest was won by Billy Toona, Ceasar, and Razz & Kiwi.

Talent Show, Costumes, and Presenters: Our talent show included various doggie talents such as: singers, squirrel finding dogs, praying dogs, high-jumping dogs, best sitters, and best huggers. Our costume contest brought great characters such as Willie Nelson, Harry Potter, Dog Park Security, hotdogs, Headless horseman, two peas in a pod, and a night angel. Our presenters included Debbie Hiatt from Pet Eden. We were educated on child safety. Daniel Casas from "Hogs gone Wild" presented information on his working dogs. Just FYI, the dogs were given electrolytes prior to the event, which kept them hydrated throughout the day. The dogs are bred for endurance and strength, which gives them an extra lean look.

THANK YOU to our tailwaggers of Kyle Animal Hospital and Plum Creek Veterinary Hospital and to our vendors!



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Kyle Animal Hospital has been serving the pets of Hays County for over 15 years, and now offers **full service, professional grooming** by Rachel!

Rachel began her introduction to grooming while attending school in San Marcos. She took a part-time job bathing dogs and absolutely adored it. Meeting new people and working with the different breeds of dogs is what made work fun for her. She decided to continue to pursue her passion, attending grooming academy and graduating in the summer of 2007! Since then, she has worked at several different pet service companies, even having her own place as Sloppy Kisses Pet Resort for several years. She strives to continue learning and growing in her profession in order to provide the best client care she possibly can. We are excited to have Rachel on board as part of our health care team! Find out more about Rachel and see some pictures at her website, www.sloppykissestx.com. Of course, you can always visit the main Kyle Animal Hospital page at www.kylevet.com, or just stop by sometime to meet her!

Visit our website,
message us on Facebook
call 512.268.5003, or stop by anytime!

Guy G. Mathews, DVM
Cord F. Offermann, DVM
Casey F. Laukkanen, DVM

kylevet.com



Kyle Animal Hospital

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5th Annual Hootenanny BBQ Cook-Off Results

This year, thirteen teams competed in the BBQ Cook-Off. Many competed in the non-meat categories, too. All in all, it was a yummy event. The Browns were the overall winner for the Cook-Off. Here are the category winners:

Brisket

1. Smokin' Aces
2. Doug Dean
3. Creekside Cookers
4. Smokin' Across Texas
5. Trent Bertram
6. The Brown's
7. Relax and Take It
8. Smokin' Bones
9. T&M Construction
10. Manny Rodriguez

Ribs

1. The Brown's
2. Creekside Cookers
3. Smokin' Aces
4. JT's BBQ
5. Doug Dean
6. Keith Bradbury
7. Smokin' Bones
8. Master Basters
9. T&M Construction
10. Smokin' Across Texas

Chicken

1. Smokin' Across Texas
2. The Brown's
3. Smokin' Bones
4. Doug Dean
5. Master Basters
6. Creekside Cookers
7. T&M Construction
8. The Meat Lovers
9. Smokin' Aces
10. Alex Zabule

Open Category (Meats)

1. Creekside Cookers
2. The Brown's
3. Smokin' Bones
4. Matt Garcia

Chili

1. Buck Fitzgerald
2. Shane Sanders
3. Lance Williams
4. Bill Kinhead

Beans

1. Lisa Stone
2. Dianne Lewis
3. The Brown's
4. Manny Rodriguez
5. Vanessa Sanders
6. Larry Peterson
7. Rachel Wright
8. Lance Williams
9. Jenna

Potato Salad

1. Creekside Cookers
2. Lindsay Milligan, Smokin' Bones
3. Ann Dean
4. Michelle Bertram
5. Jessica Preble, Relax and Take It
6. Mayra Garcia

Dessert

1. Dianne Lewis
2. Creekside Cookers
4. Lisa Stone
5. Terry Brown
6. Carol Peterson
7. Erin Chambers



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Neighborhood Watch

Decker Park Vandalism

As many owners are already aware, Decker Park has experienced a significant amount of vandalism and playscape damage this year. The damage and vandalism is costly to repair, about \$1200 in 2011 alone, and hinders the use and enjoyment of the area by Plum Creek families. The HOA has asked the Kyle Police to increase their regular patrols of the area, but we also need your help! If you live in the area of Decker Park, please contact the Kyle Police if you witness any illegal activity. Please report any vandalism, broken areas, or safety issues at the playscape to the HOA office so they can be repaired. We appreciate your help in making Plum Creek a safer and more enjoyable community!

Bike Safety in Early Morning Hours

Received an email from a resident in late summer back explaining that she had a near miss with a cyclist in the wee hours of the morning (before daylight) as she left Plum Creek from Fergus.

The rider was wearing reflective clothing, but she could not see him until she pulled out and her lights hit the vest. He was cycling in the center lane, and the incident jolted the driver. She asked that any cyclists strongly consider lights on bikes and/or their person when riding at dusk, dawn, or in complete darkness just to be on the safe side. So, if you're riding during these times, consider lighting up on your bike for safety's sake.

Tips for Barking Dogs

Seem to receive a few complaints each month about excessive barkers. Please be mindful of your neighbors and check out this website for some great info about why dogs bark and how to help control it: <http://www.aspcbehavior.org/articles/41/Barking.aspx>

2011 Hootenanny on the Hill 5K Results

There were 22 finishers with 10 gentlemen and 12 ladies. Here are the results:

Overall Female: April Mawson, 25:25.00, 8:11

Overall Male: Craig Simons, 19:58.00, 6:26

Top Finishers by Age:

1-19 Female: Shayne K Forsberg, 27:07.00, 8:44

1-19 Male: Marshall Marburger, 22:50.00, 7:21

20-29 Male: Craig Simons, 19:58.00, 6:26

30-39 Female: April Mawson, 25:25.00, 8:11

30-39 Male: Jake Minniti, 23:17.00, 7:30

40-49 Male: Russell Rajnoch, 32:06.00, 10:20

70+ Male: Kurt Solis, 28:46.00, 9:16

Overall Top Male Runners:

Craig Simons, 19:58.00, 6:26

Marshall Marburger, 22:50.00, 7:21

Jake Minniti, 23:17.00, 7:30

Uly Wright, 25:22.00, 8:10

Kurt Solis, 28:46.00, 9:16

Overall Top Female Runners:

April Mawson, 25:25.00, 8:11

Shayne K Forsberg, 27:07.00, 8:44

Angela Kieke, 31:03.00, 10:00

Rachel Solis, 31:27.00, 10:07

Rachel Bickford, 32:45.00, 10:32

Button Corn Craft for Kids

Grab some yellow and green construction paper and create a corn cob and some leaves.

Then, glue your leaves and corn together. Use buttons or other found objects (big sequins, rhinestones, etc.) from around the house in hues of brown, orange, yellow, and red and glue them

all over your corn!

The result is simply adorable and very festive, and one you'd be proud to show off on your fridge!

You can find the corn template and project at www.allkidsnetwork.com.

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Tips to Turn Your Walk Into a Workout

By Sarah S. Jordan, MS

Walking is a great mode of exercise because it requires no equipment, it is low-impact, and something that many people can do regardless of their fitness level or experience.

Benefits of Walking

Any movement is good movement and the same is true for walking. Like other forms of exercise, walking can help you improve cholesterol levels, lower blood pressure, control weight, improve mood, decrease stress, and it also provides numerous other health benefits. Here are some tips to turning your walk into a workout.

Get the Goods

Proper footwear is essential for any kind of exercise. It is important to select shoes with good arch support and soles that absorb shock and provide cushioning. If you are unsure about fit, Austin has several local shoe stores that will personally fit you to a new pair of sneakers.

Choose clothing that is comfortable to move in and that you feel good wearing. Dress in layers if the weather is cool so that you can adjust as needed during your workout. And take a bottle of water along so that you can hydrate along the way. You may find that taking an iPod along will help keep you motivated.

Walking for Fitness: Proper Speed and Technique

Although the act of walking is simple, walking for fitness takes more effort, attention to speed, and technique. In order to get the most out of your walking workout, the speed should be brisk and above your "stroll in the park" comfort level. Also, your heart rate should be elevated. A good estimate: 10 - 15 heartbeats in a 6-second pulse count. (Multiply that number by 10 to get heartbeats per minute.) Strike the ground with the heel and drive off from heel-to-toe in order to effectively engage the muscles of your lower-body.

A few minutes after starting your walking workout, take a moment to stretch the calves, quadriceps, and hamstrings. Hold stretches for

several seconds (with no bouncing) on each side. After your workout, reward your muscles and improve flexibility by taking a few minutes to stretch. Hold stretches longer here because muscles are warm and can make gains in flexibility at this point.

Just Getting Started?

If you are new to exercise, it is important to check with your doctor before starting an exercise program. Start slowly and gain confidence before adding distance. For example, you might try walking 10 minutes in one direction and 10 minutes back. Slowly build up to 15 minutes in one direction and 15 minutes back. Over time, build up to 2-3 miles or 40-60 minutes of walking at a brisk pace most days of the week.

A Seasoned Walker?

If you have been walking for quite some time, you may be looking for something new to add to your walking workout. With a few quick additions, you can further challenge and tone muscles and increase the intensity of your workouts.

- Add speed. Turn your walk into a speed walk. Engage the arms and the core muscles.
- Incorporate intervals. Walk for five minutes. Do an interval for two minutes. Repeat. Intervals can include things like walking lunges, moving side squats, push-ups, and jogging.
- Hit the hills. Adding an incline will increase intensity in a hurry!
- Add resistance. Use a weighted backpack or vest. Or push your child in the stroller. I did not realize just how much weight I was pushing when I exercise with my son until I did the math recently. He is 25 pounds, and the stroller is 15. That extra 40 pounds adds great intensity (and a whole lot of cuteness) to my workouts!

If this is the year that you have devoted to improving health, walking is a great way to start! Remember... "The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."

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AT THE FENCE

Negley is "No Place for Hate" for 2nd Year in a Row!

Negley Elementary School earned their second year as a No Place for Hate campus. Members of the Negley student council accepted their recognition banner at the September school board meeting. Negley Elementary is dedicated to promoting respect, diversity, and acceptance and will be working to earn a No Place For Hate status for the third year. The NPFH coalition and student council will be meeting this fall to discuss various ways to promote No Place for Hate, including, but not limited to, "Mix It Up" lunch, diversity book corner in the library, daily announcements, and assemblies. For more info on how to help, contact Counselor Michelle Winn at winnm@hayscisd.net.

Kyle PARD Offers Brush Drop Sites Through February

Extreme drought conditions have resulted in many residents having to deal with dead trees and bushes in their yards. These can serve as fuel for fires and, if not removed, can cause a fire to spread and/or intensify. In order to help remove these materials, The Kyle Parks and Recreation Department is setting up brush drop off sites in the City's three main city parks. These sites will be fenced and marked with a sign for residents to drop off their dead trees and brush. The parks are Gregg- Clarke Park, Steeplechase Park and Waterleaf Park and they will begin accepting brush on October 1, 2011, and will continue the program until February 29, 2012.

Materials not accepted at the parks will be fencing or other forms of trash and/or debris. Residents are also encouraged to take advantage of their once per year On-Call Brush or Bulk collection from Texas Disposal Systems (TDS). This service is available to all City of Kyle residents through the new solid waste contract approved earlier this year by the Kyle City Council. Call TDS Customer Care at 1-800-375-8375 for more information or to schedule your pick up.

Residents are asked to remember that City crews cannot help with removing these trees, brush and bushes from private yards and that property owners will need to make their own arrangements to have the brush delivered to the parks. Any material collected at the parks will be turned into mulch to use in the city's parks and trails.

Visit the City of Kyle's Emergency Preparation Web Page for more information. <http://www.cityofkyle.com/cityadministration/emergency-preparedness>



Bigger Home Sites Available in New Section

Homes Available for Move-in This Year!

*Austin Homebuilder of the Year 2010,
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