



# PRESS

The Official Newsletter of the  
Plum Creek Homeowner Association

December 2011  
Volume 2, Issue 12

## Santa Claus & Holiday Market DECEMBER 10TH

*Lots of shopping and pictures with Santa 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 and do some holiday shopping. The event runs from 9am to 1pm. Digital photos will be taken by the Recreation Committee and printed for you to pick up. Families are welcome or just kiddos. You are welcome to snap some photos on your own, too. While you are waiting, do some Christmas shopping from local vendors. Big thanks to Jen LaCour of Wine Shop at Home for coordinating all of the vendors this year! We expect a bunch!

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. Since this is the season of giving, we ask that everyone bring a donation of canned food or check donations to give to the Hays County Area Food Bank. Checks should be made out to the Hays County Area Food Bank. Lastly, via a donation from All Season's Feeders, a raffle will be held for a BBQ Pit! So, come purchase some tickets, too! Questions? Contact Brandee Otto at 512-557-2728 or [recreation@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:recreation@plumcreektxhoa.com). See you and Santa on December 10th from 9am to 1pm!



## Golf Carts Now Allowed on Trails in Plum Creek

Recently, the use of golf carts within Plum Creek has been an active topic of conversation. The HOA has received numerous inquiries regarding golf cart restrictions from both golf cart users and those concerned about the use of carts in the neighborhood.

As a result of this activity, the HOA has inquired with both the State of Texas and the City of Kyle regarding golf cart rules. According to the Kyle Police Department, the City of Kyle has no ordinances or laws that restrict the use of golf carts at this time. The City defaults to the State of Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) regulations, which allow for the use of golf carts within master planned communities as long as there is a "slow moving" emblem on the cart. The full text of the DMV regulations related to golf carts can be found here: [www.txdmv.gov/vehicles/drivers/golf\\_carts.htm](http://www.txdmv.gov/vehicles/drivers/golf_carts.htm)

In light of the lack of regulations related to golf carts, the HOA has adopted a set of guidelines that will govern the use of golf carts within Plum Creek. A discussion of those guidelines is below. Please direct all questions related to golf cart use within the neighborhood to the HOA office.

**Golf carts in conformance with DMV regulations are permitted on all streets and hike & bike trails.** The intention of the trail system in Plum Creek is to connect the community at large. Currently, there are some sections of the neighborhood that do not

*(Continued on Page 3)*

## 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](mailto: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!

## 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

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### LAKE COMMITTEE

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### LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE

Suzanne Parr ..... [landscape@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:landscape@plumcreektxhoa.com)

### POOL COMMITTEE

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### 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

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Peel, Inc. .... [www.PEELinc.com](http://www.PEELinc.com), 512-263-9181

Article Submission .. [announcements@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:announcements@plumcreektxhoa.com)

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## Golf Carts Now Allowed...- (Continued from Cover Page)

have direct access to certain amenities without having to travel on major roads to access them. Golf carts provide a quick and convenient transportation method for those trying to access the amenities of the neighborhood. Plus, it adds convenience for individuals requiring special assistance to travel from point to point. The existing signage on the hike & bike trail will be updated to reflect the allowance of golf carts on the trails.

**The use of golf carts for "off road" activity is strictly prohibited.** Operation of golf carts is to be limited to the street and the trail system. This includes, but is not limited to, the use of carts in HOA parks, easements, drainage channels, detention ponds, and on the golf course. Please do not park on the grass in the parks or by the pool entrances.

**Golf cart users are strongly encouraged to forego driving on the trails while wet and to avoid all use of sidewalks.** The trail system is designed to handle the load of a small truck, so a golf cart is not an excessive load on the path. However, there is the possibility of damage to the trails if a golf cart is used when the trail is wet. Please refrain from using the trails when they are wet.

**The use of a golf cart on a sidewalk is prohibited at all times.** The trail system should be accessed directly from the road at the designed entry areas (i.e. where an entry ramp exists). Golf cart users should yield to all pedestrian and bike traffic. The trails are heavily used by walkers, runners, and cyclists. Please give them the right-of-way at all times.

## Upcoming Events

### NEGLEY PTA HOLIDAY MARKET ON DECEMBER 3RD

Come out to the Holiday Market from 10AM to 2PM at Barton Middle School to shop for gifts, crafts, decorations, and more! More activities, such as photo opportunities, can be found at [www.NegleyPTA.org](http://www.NegleyPTA.org)!

### TODDLER TIME ON DECEMBER 6TH

Keep the kids in their pajamas, bring some blankets and pillows, and come enjoy a Christmas movie (one of the TV classics!). Will provide some popcorn, drinks, and fun! After the movie, we'll have a little craft for the kids! 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](mailto:announcements@plumcreektxhoa.com).

*(Continued on Page 4)*



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**Upcoming Events- (Continued from Page 3)**

**SIP AND SEW SET FOR DECEMBER 13TH**

Sip and Sew has accomplished so much this delightful year! We are always learning from one another. We'll celebrate the holidays at our December 13th meeting. As usual, meet at the Community Center in Fergus Park at 6:30 PM. Bring your sewing project to complete and maybe, a suggestion for new projects in 2012. Also, bring a small taste of a favorite holiday treat to share, and your hosts will supply "The Sip". Any questions, please contact: Pam Chapman (512.656.5050), Sandra Sigler (512.405.0187), or Iris Sandle (512.405.0054).

**CALLING ALL AGGIE MOMS AND GRANDMAS...**

All moms and grandmas of Aggie students are invited to the Aggie Moms meetings on the 2nd Thursday of every month at 7:00pm at the Plum Creek Club House in Kyle. There will be no meeting in December, but in January, there will be a student appreciation dinner including Dads - Date to be announced. Please join us for Fun & Fellowship. For more information, contact Debbie Brewington at 512.650.4590 or debbybrew@austin.rr.com.

**NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH**

**MORE DECKER PARK VANDALISM**

As mentioned in the November PC Press, Decker Park has experienced a significant amount of damage and vandalism this year. Unfortunately, October saw a spike in damage and vandalism to the playscape at the park, which is estimated to cost approximately \$1,000 to repair (about \$2000 to \$2500 for the year). The recent damage included destruction of the plastic bubble, several swings, and wooden boards. Repairs to all known damage and vandalism are underway. The HOA is actively pursuing security enhancements to the park in hopes of curtailing some of the damage and vandalism. Options that have been discussed include private security patrols, security cameras, and additional lighting, to name a few. Please continue report all illegal activity to the Kyle Police and all vandalism, damage, or safety issues to the HOA office. Thank you for helping to keep Plum Creek a safer and more enjoyable community!

**SEVERAL COYOTE SIGHTINGS**

Beginning in October, many residents began seeing coyotes frequently in the neighborhood, especially near Lake Negley and the golf course. We seem to have escalated from occasional sightings to frequent ones. Please exercise extra diligence when walking the trails or near the lake or golf course. Also, use extra caution with your pets, especially cats and small dogs. We had a rather high number of cats go missing in November. In any case, it's better to be safe and bring them inside at night. Also, as with any wildlife, try to keep your pets' food picked up outside. For more tips on dealing with coyotes: [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/nuisance/coyote/](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/nuisance/coyote/) Coyotes are a fact of life in Texas, but we can better protect ourselves. Please report any encounters with coyotes to the HOA at [plumcreekmanager@goodwintx.com](mailto:plumcreekmanager@goodwintx.com) and/or to [announcements@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:announcements@plumcreektxhoa.com)

## Water Billing Error

### BIG THANKS TO GOODWIN FOR RECOVERING \$39K IN WATER BILLING ERROR

The good folks at Goodwin have done numerous overhauls of Plum Creek's financials and well, just about everything since they took over the property management earlier this year. However, the biggest save has been their tenacity in researching a particular water meter. The issue seems to have started back in 2007 when the City changed out the meter. Due to unusual past billings, this particular meter was researched NUMEROUS times beginning in 2007 and continuing to the present by prior management, landscape crews, and the City of Kyle. Goodwin spotted this trend, as well, and continued to research it.

When the meter was shut down, there was no usage shown, and no leaks detected. It was a mystery, but the problem was the meter itself and how it was read. It was actually reading water usage incorrectly.

Goodwin solved the problem by calculating the number of sprinkler heads, water flow rate, station run time, and more to determine actual usage for the meter, and at that point, Valleycrest, the landscaper realized the problem with how the meter was read. The meter was reading usage to the gallon, but the City's formula assumed the meter read to the tenth of a gallon. The usage was multiplied by a factor of 10...and thus, the City was billing us 10 times more than they should have been on that meter. When the new meter was installed, they did not realize they had to adjust their read factors.

The problem was never discovered despite previous attempts... until now. It was the persistence of the Goodwin team that continued to push hard enough on this issue to get an engineer to research the meter and discover the problem. The meter was read and billed incorrectly for over 56 months from February of 2007 through September of 2011. The result has been a credit of \$39,234.58 to the Plum Creek HOA Water Account by the City of Kyle, which represents just under a year of water usage for Plum Creek.

*Big thank you to the team at Goodwin for their tenacity  
and their big save for Plum Creek. Thank you!*

## PERSONAL CLASSIFIEDS

**FOUND:** A set of keys and a U-Haul lock were found. Please contact the HOA office at plumcreekmanager@goodwintx.com or 512-262-1140 to claim.



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## December Negley News

*By: Karen Lucita, Negley Assistant Principal*

It's the holiday season, and we are SAILING along with learning! Our No Place for Hate Coalition is up and going thanks to the Gator Club, Ms. Starnes, Ms. George and Mrs. Winn. Be on the lookout for their flash mob advocating a place where there are no bullies! Do you need the perfect teacher gift? The Safety Patrol will be selling Jean Passes for the spring semester. Every teacher LOVES wearing jeans to school. You can buy your teacher a JEAN pass for \$2.00/1 days, \$6.00/5 days, \$10/10 days or \$50 for the entire spring semester. December Events include:

- 2.....3rd six weeks progress reports sent home
- 3.....PTA Holiday Market located at Barton Middle School
- 13.....Negley Chick-Fil-A Night from 5:00 to 9:00 pm
- 14..... 4th Grade taste around Texas & PTA Teacher Luncheon
- 15..... 3rd grade program
- 16.....3rd Six Weeks Ends, PJ day  
(bring your sneakers!), Winter Parties
- 12/19 to 1/3..... Winter Break

*Dates are subject to change.*

*Please visit [www.hayscisd.net/Negley.cfm](http://www.hayscisd.net/Negley.cfm)  
for updated information. Have a Delightful December!*

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*Wishing everyone a  
Happy Holiday  
Season!*







### **USPS CONTACTS PLUM CREEK WITH MAILBOX ISSUES**

Plum Creek was recently contacted by the local US Postal Service about some mailbox issues. Apparently, the postal carriers are having problems delivering the mail due to cars being parked in front of the mailboxes. In short, if a car is blocking your mailbox, you will not have your mail delivered. If the problem continues, the USPS may leave you a notice. If the problems persist, they may insist that we change from mailboxes to a clustered mailbox system in central locations. Plus, they would expect the HOA to foot the bill for the change. So, please keep those mailboxes free and clear, so we can all continue to get our mail right outside our front doors. Thanks!

### **CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING AT GREGG-CLARKE, STEEPLECHASE, AND WATERLEAF PARKS**

The Kyle Parks and Recreation Department is setting up brush and Christmas Tree drop off sites in the City's three main parks. These sites will be fenced and marked with a sign for residents to drop off their trees and brush. The parks are Gregg- Clarke, Steeplechase, and Waterleaf. There will be NO drop-off sites in Plum Creek this year. The City will begin accepting brush on October 1, 2011 and will continue the program until February 29, 2012. All decorations and lights, including tinsel, must be removed. No artificial trees. No nails or screws. No tree bases. The trees will be mulched and used around town for the City Park's landscaping. More information at <http://www.cityofkyle.com/recreation/tree-drop-recycling>

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO TWO YOUNG PLUM CREEKERS!**

According to a fellow resident, an article on the front page of the 10/19 Kyle Eagle announced the winners of the Miss Hays Pageant, and two of the winners are Plum Creek residents: Miss Hays County Teen Melaine Harrington and Miss Hays County Tara Hanson. BIG congratulations to these two ladies! Thanks for representing Plum Creek and Hays County so well!

### **VERTICAL MULCHING TO HELP YOUR TREES**

Thanks to Resident Valerie Marburger for this great information on Vertical Mulching: Our trees are taking a beating due to the drought. Have you ever heard of vertical mulching? It's a way to get essential organic matter down to the roots at the drip line of the tree. Simply stated, you loosen the soil around the drip line of the tree and introduce organic matter down several inches. The internet has several articles about this including a 4 minute video at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PALLQQVTRKq>

### **GOLFERS, DID YOU KNOW?**

Plum Creek HOA Residents get preferred tee times and a 10% discount at the Plum Creek Golf Course. Just take your Rec Tag with you!

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