



PRESS

The Official Newsletter of the
Plum Creek Homeowner Association

February 2012
Volume 3, Issue 2

Let's Get Social, Plum Creek!

Did you know that we have several active social groups in Plum Creek with more popping up all the time? If you are interested in starting a social group, please email socialgroups@plumcreektxhoa.com to get started! In case you missed it in the past newsletters, here is the basic information for each group. Hope you can join in the fun!

55+ GROUP

Meets at various times throughout the year with potluck and catered dinners and speakers/events. If interested, please contact Dennis and Mariel Perkins at dperkins@reoservices.com.

AGGIE MOMS OF HAYS COUNTY

All moms and grandmas of Aggie students are invited to the Aggie Mom's meetings on the 2nd Thursday of every month at 7:00 pm at the Plum Creek Club House in Kyle. Please join us for Fun & Fellowship. For more information contact Debby Brewington at 512.650.4590 or debbybrew@austin.rr.com

BUNCO

Meets 3rd Tuesday of the Month at the Haupt Community Center at 6:30PM. Email Zoe at zls823@gmail.com for more info or to RSVP.

SIP & SEW

Meets 2nd Tuesday of the Month at the Haupt Community Center from 6:30 to 9PM. Members share their talents of knitting, fabric sewing, needle point, quilting, punch needle and rug hooking to name a few. For additional info, contact Pam Chapman (512.656.6050), Iris Sandle (512.405.0054), or Sandra Sigler (512.405.0187).

SCRAPBOOKING

The group meets monthly on the first Friday of every month at 7PM. Plus, there are four weekend retreats in 2012 – 2nd Friday and Saturday in January (1/13 and 1/14) and April (4/13 and 4/14) and the 1st Friday and Saturday in August (8/3 and 8/4) and October (10/5 and 10/6). All free of charge! If you are interested in learning more about this group or to get on the email list, please contact Jeannie Willis at 512.268.4130 or Jeanniemn@yahoo.com.

TODDLER TIME

Monthly toddler playdates in Plum Creek. Email Christina at cb28655@earthlink.net for the dates, times, and events, as they vary from month to month. Next meetup is February 7th at 10:30AM for some President's Day fun!

Valentine's Day

TIME TO PRUNE THE ROSES

Christina Baese, PC Landscape Committee

While many of you celebrate Valentine's Day by giving roses, gardeners celebrate by pruning their rose bushes. Pruning improves appearance, stimulates growth, controls insects and disease, and controls bloom quality and quantity. Without a trim, roses bloom poorly, go to seed, and become dormant. Believe it or not, it is better to prune badly than to never pull out the shears. Thus, even if you don't consider yourself an expert, trimming the roses can only help them.

In the past, roses were given a severe haircut and only a few foot long canes remained. This same rule holds for most modern roses, as they are considered weak growers and require a major jump start for spring. However, many of us, including myself, have a garden filled with antique and Earthkind roses, and they only require moderate pruning. They are strong growing bushes, and thus, a gardener just needs to remove half to two-thirds of the existing bush in spring. They require a trim, not a whacking.

FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE GUIDELINES:

Use sharp pruners or shears for cutting. A keyhole saw or lopper will cut old, woody, and thick canes. Wear gloves to protect your fingers and gauntlet gloves or a long sleeve shirt to protect your arms.

(Cont. on Page 2)

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Newsletter Info

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WAIT FOR THE MAIL?**

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

Roses- (Continued from Cover Page)

Expose the lower plant and canes by removing mulch and debris and take a good look at your bush. You will want to keep the center open for good air circulation, and you may want to cut canes at uneven heights for a longer blooming period and better appearance. Before making any cuts, you must learn the best technique! Prune ¼ inch above a bud on a downward slant at a 45 degree angle, which will keep moisture from settling on the cut and causing stem die back. Cut to an outside bud to make plants grow wider. Cut to an inside bud to encourage more upright growth, especially if the plant tends to sprawl.

First and foremost, remove all dead wood. Any brown coloration in the pith or center indicates a dead or dying cane. Cut to a lower bud or clear to the crown to find live pith, which will be white or pale green. Remove all crossed growth to the quick, or they will return and branch. For modern roses, select three to six strong, basal shoots from the prior year. Remove all other growth and prune the remaining canes to about one foot long.

For antique roses, clip only ⅓ to ½ of the bush. This step will encourage full foliage and heavy bloom without destroying vigor or natural shape. Blooms will appear on the new growth in about four to six weeks. Only prune once-blooming roses, like Lady Banks, after their spring bloom. These varieties bloom on wood that has hardened over winter, and an early spring cut will reduce or eliminate their yearly flowering. Ever-blooming varieties and can be tip pruned or lightly trimmed throughout the year, as they flower on new growth. Climbing roses require only a light trim or taming. Only remove dead and unmanageable canes and then, secure the remaining branches.

*Last, but not least, have fun! If you make a wrong cut,
it will grow back. Happy Valentine's Day from the
PC Landscape Committee! Enjoy your roses!*

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Upcoming Events

CALLING ALL SCRAPBOOKERS ON FEBRUARY 3RD

The Scrapbooker Club will meet on Friday, February 3rd at 7PM for a night of cutting, sorting, gluing, and creating! Feel free to bring a friend, or some snacks to share. Come share ideas and enjoy the fellowship with like minded crafters! There is no charge for this event. For more information or to get on the monthly email reminder list, please contact Jeannie Willis at 512.268.4130 or jeanniemn@yahoo.com.

TODDLER TIME ON FEBRUARY 7TH

Let's make Valentine's Day cards, President's Day masks, Lincoln stovepipe hats, and little log cabins! Crafts are geared toward the 18 month to 3 year old crowd, but younger and older siblings are welcome. Meet at 10:00AM at the Plum Creek Community Center at 450 Haupt. Snack and juice provided. Email Christina to RSVP by Friday, February 3rd at cb28655@earthlink.net. Next Toddler Time is March 27th.

SIP & SEW SET FOR FEBRUARY 14TH

Come and be inspired by a great group of artists! Share your talent or learn a new craft. You will find knitting, rug hooking, quilting, sewing, crocheting, punch needle and needle point. We have a few "beginning pieces" of needle point, if you would like to learn from an accomplished teacher. We gather at the Plum Creek Community Center at 450 Haupt from 6:30 to 8:30 PM on the second Tuesday of the month. February meeting will be February 14th. Any questions, please contact Iris Sandle (512.405.0054), Pam Chapman (512.656.6050), or Sandra Sigler (512.405.0187).

BUSINESS CLASSIFIEDS

LANDSCAPING Plum Creek landscapers ready to prepare your yard for Spring! Services include new sod installation, planting, mulching, tree & bush trimming, mow, blow, and edging. We also do general clean up including raking up leaves and acorn removal. Newly available is lawn aerating. Call Kate for a free estimate or to schedule My Hired Helper 512-663-8389

ALL HOMEOWNER SERVICES: Painting Interior and Exterior, mowing, tree trimming, planting trees and shrubs, yard clean-up and haul-off. Professional window cleaning, pressure washing, move furniture. Help with any project just ask. Excellent rates 512-626-2082

PERSONAL CLASSIFIEDS

TWO DOG HOUSES FOR SALE. One large wooden homemade by owner for German Shepherd or similar size \$75 or B.O. One medium plastic by Petmate \$50. 512-470-9293.



- Primary Care Physicians
- ENT
- General Surgery
- Rheumatology
- Orthopedic Surgery



Dr. Erik Arhelger
Family Practice



Dr. Erik Anderson
General Surgery

Central Texas Medical Associates and Specialty Physicians of Central Texas have combined forces to form a single medical group of more than a dozen primary and specialty care physicians with locations in San Marcos, Wimberley and Kyle.

The new name in healthcare is Live Oak Health Partners.

177B Kirkham Circle in Plum Creek • 405.0077

PLUM CREEK PRESS

Plum Creek's Yearly Event Schedule

Come out for the fun in Plum Creek this year!

- FRIDAY, APRIL 1ST..... Yard of the Month Season Begins,
Runs through June
- SATURDAY, APRIL 7TH.....Easter Egg Hunt
- SATURDAY, MAY 12THSpring Community Wide
Garage Sale, open to the public
- MAY 19TH & 20TH.....Front Porch Days & Front Porch Days
5k/1K, open to the public
- WEDNESDAY, JULY 4TH Annual 4th of July Parade &
Picnic in Plum Creek
- TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2ND National Night Out
- SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6TH Fall Community Wide
Garage Sale, open to the public
- SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13THHootenanny on the Hill
(Wildflower Seed & Stomp, BBQ Cook-off,
Pet Fair, 5K/1K and much more!)
- SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8TH Santa Visits Plum Creek
(Pictures with Santa and Holiday Market)

Other dates coming down the pipeline include the Plum Creek Garden Tour, the Front Porch Days Golf Tournament, the Holiday Lights Contest, Mother's Day Shopping, Movies in the Park, Teen Movie Nights, and Skateboard Days.

Dates subject to change, so please check the PC Press & eNews for the most up-to-date information!



Holiday Lights Contest Winners

While judging, Landscape Chair Suzanne Parr said, "Our neighborhood looks fantastic, and judging was hard. Our neighbors put a lot of effort to make the season Merry and Bright." Isn't that always the truth? Way to show your holiday spirit, Plum Creek!

AND, THE WINNERS WERE...

TRADITIONAL	NOVELTY
1st: 274 Witte	1st: 157 Polk
2nd: 1068 Sanders	2nd: 1449 Fairway
3rd: 470 Hogan	3rd: 191 Sampson

The nominations included 711 Fairway, 1285 Fairway, 1351 Fairway, 1449 Fairway, 5751 Fergus, 5788 Fergus, 5582 Hartson, 5601 Hartson, 5611 Hartson, 2136 Hertzog, 470 Hogan, 738 Hogan, 113 Horton, 1192 Kirby, 4400 Mather, 140 Morrell, 157 Polk, 191 Sampson, 1068 Sanders, 116 Teasley, 238 Wetzel, and 274 Witte.

Next year, remember to nominate your own work or your neighbor! Big thanks to all who entered and decorated for the contest! Also, thanks to the Landscape Committee for judging and volunteering!

Great job all around, Plum Creek!



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FRIENDS AND FAMILY ADVANTAGE

Simply fill in the blanks below, then give this flyer to a friend or family member. When they visit Plum Creek, we'll take care of the rest!

your name here

your home address

city state zip

your phone number

Your friendship means a lot to me. That's why I think you deserve a new KB home. When you sign your purchase agreement, present this flyer to the sales representative. **You'll get \$500 toward KB Home Studio options** when you buy a new KB home at Plum Creek, and I'll get a \$50 The Home Depot gift card. This offer expires November 30.

friend or family member name

community name

date of purchase

homesite number/block number

estimated closing date

KB Home sales representative's signature



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Be Featured in Meet the Neighbor

If you'd like to be featured, just email the answers to the following questions to announcements@plumcreektxhoa.com by the 8th along with a picture. Feel free to elaborate on any one of the questions! If we get lots of submissions, we'll submit one each month until we run out, and then, we'll ask for more!

- Name and General Job Description
- Names and Ages (optional) of Kids/Other Family Members Living in Plum Creek, if any
- Names and Types of Pets, if any
- City/State Before You Lived in Kyle and/or Hometown
- Hobbies/Interests
- Why did you move to Plum Creek
- What is your favorite feature or event in Plum Creek? What do you love about it?
- What is favorite restaurant, store, event, or activity in Kyle?
- What is one thing about you that most people would be surprised to know?

DOES CORN REALLY CONTROL WEEDS?

Christina Baese, PC Landscape Committee

Weed season is upon us. Tackle existing weeds by pulling them by hand or using a tool. Hand removal is the most effective method but requires the most work. To save your back down the road and prevent dormant weed seeds from growing later in the season, try a pre-emergent weed killer called Corn Gluten Meal or CGM.

CGM is a powdery byproduct from the corn milling process, and for years, it has been used as a supplement in hog feed. Nick Christians, a researcher at Iowa State University, discovered another use conducting an experiment on golf course turf pathogens. While the experiment failed, he found that CGM inhibited root growth by drying out sprouting seeds.

CGM serves as a natural and non-toxic herbicide and works best on seeds that germinate on or near the surface of the soil. It is completely safe around established plants, unlike many chemical weed & feed products that can kill lawn, plants, and trees. Weeds controlled by CGM include crabgrass, dandelions, smart weed, redroot pigweed, purslane, lambsquarters, foxtail, barnyard grass, and more.

In addition, CGM has an N-P-K ratio of 9-1-0 or 9-0-0, which is close to perfect for fertilizing our local soils and lawns. The two qualities of natural herbicide and effective fertilizer make CGM an ideal weed & feed for Plum Creek and a great alternative to traditional chemical versions. Generally, apply CGM at 20 to 40 pounds per 1000 sq. ft. but read package directions for the most accurate application. Use a drop or broadcast spreader set on the smallest setting to get the best coverage. Walk briskly to prevent piles and do not apply on windy days.

After applying CGM, sprinkle the area with water to activate the product. One application effectively suppresses weeds for 4 to 6 weeks. Heavy soils, extended periods of rain, and hot spells may require more frequent or monthly applications. Effects are cumulative, and results improve with repeated use. When April or May arrives, evaluate your grass. If your lawn does not appear as green or as healthy as you desire, feed it again with an organic product like Lady Bug 8-2-4. Remember, CGM prevents seeds from germinating and needs a minimum of 60 days to break down before applying any grass or flower seed to the same area.

*Purchase CGM at Lowe's in the organic section,
It's About Thyme on Manchaca Road,
other local nurseries, or online.
Happy Gardening!*

Want to make your new year's resolution stick?

CELEBRATE RECOVERY | Mondays @ 7:00 pm

Codependency Group

(for those with loved ones struggling with addiction)

Sexual Addiction Group (men's group)

Anger Open Share Group (men's group)

Chemical Addiction Groups (men's & woman's groups)

Women's Support Groups (eating disorders, sexual addiction)

HOPE, HEALTH, HEALING | Wednesdays @ 7:00 pm

Divorce Care

Safe People

Boundaries

SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 11 AM
BIBLE LIFE (all ages) @ 9:30 AM

WATCH LIVE SUNDAY MORNINGS
OR VIEW ANYTIME ONLINE

Great Hills Baptist Church
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www.ghbc.org



Get Arty for Valentine's

By, Christina Baese

So, I'm a Pinterest addict. I freely admit it, and I am always looking for unusual gifts. The other day, I came across the neatest project by a lady named Brandy (aka Baby Blackbird on Pinterest). She and her kids actually created this project for Father's Day, but I thought it would be perfect for anyone for Valentine's Day!

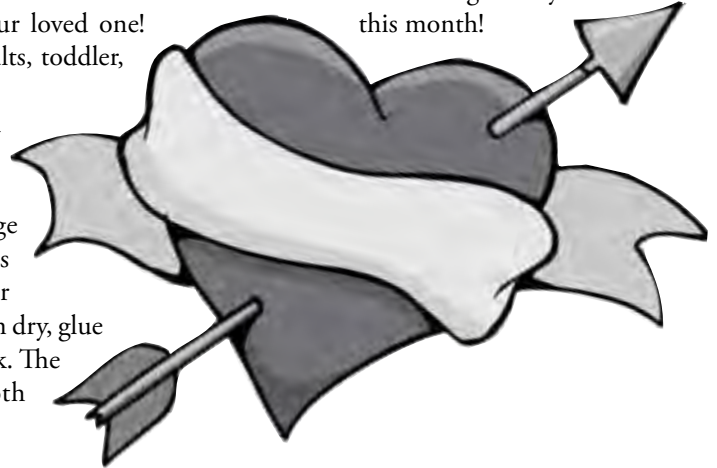
First, get a black canvas and vinyl sticky letters (the removable/repositionable kind). According to her, bigger canvases and letters equal more impact. With the letters, put a special message on the canvas...I love you, With All My Heart, Best Mommy Ever, etc.

Then, pick out a few acrylic paints (like the little jars at Hobby Lobby) and grab your brushes. Cover the canvas with paint.

The painting they created was just a lovely abstract piece covered in various colors...a blue, purple, and yellow sunset. Then, peel off the letters, and voila...you have a beautiful, homemade piece of art with a very special message to your loved one! This project is great for adults, toddler, teens...just about anyone.

And, if you need an even more kid friendly version: Grab a piece of white cardstock. Write a message with a white crayon. Press hard with the crayon. Cover with watercolor paint. When dry, glue to another piece of cardstock. The results are amazing on both

projects and such fun! I have both of these projects posted on my Pinterest Valentine's Day Board, if you'd like to see some samples. Just look for Christina Baese. Hope you get out there and get artsy this month!



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For more information contact:
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1120 Sanders, Kyle, TX 78640

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