



The Official Newsletter of the Plum Creek Homeowner Association July 2013 Volume 4, Issue 7

GARDENING TIPS FOR JULY



We are entering our least productive season for planting landscape plants here in central Texas. Accordingly, the planting recommendations are slim this month. Your best bet is to let the landscape rest and survive through the heat while you plan for the fall garden.

The only exception may be the vegetable garden. It is time to prepare and plant beds for the fall vegetable garden.

Plant vegetable seeds: Beans*, Cantaloupe*, Carrot*, Cauliflower*, Chard, Sweet Corn, Cucumber, *Eggplant, Fennel*, Okra, Black-eyed Peas, Pumpkin, Rutabaga*, Salsify, New Zealand Spinach, Summer and Winter Squash, Watermelon.

(An asterisk (*) before the entry indicates it is best planted the first half of the month; an asterisk after the entry indicates it is best planted the last half of the month.)

- Plant pumpkin seeds around the 4th of July to get Jack'o lanterns for Halloween!
- Plant Vegetable Plants: Pepper, Tomato
- Plant Herbs: Basil, Oregano, Thyme
- Plant Annual Flower/Ornamental Seeds: Cosmos, Morning Glory
- Plant Annual Flower/ Ornamental Plants: Blue Daze, Portulaca, Purslane, Zinnia
- Plant Perennial Plants: Black-Eyed Susan, Grasses, Mexican Bush Sage, Desert plants such as Agave, Nolina, and Sotol.

- Plant native grass seed: Their seedbed will need to stay moist for them to germinate. Therefore, water once or twice daily until fully sprouted.
- Mulch all bare-soil areas.

Plant cover crops, such as cowpeas (black-eyed peas) or buckwheat in bare-soil or follow areas to improve the soil while preventing and crowding out weeds. Till the cover crop- before it goes to seed-into the soil about 1 - 2 weeks before planting there again.

Avoid topdressing lawn until fall. If you feel you must topdress with compost, apply only a light layer, about a quarter of an inch, and water in. Otherwise, topdressing in the heat can burn the lawn.

Likewise, continue to foliar feed with seaweed or seaweed/ fish emulsion combinations only early in the morning or late in the evening.

Any time of year, do not drench a dry plant with anything but water. Any solution, even organic, could burn the roots.

Water deeply, and as infrequently as possible, rather than shallowly and frequently. Watering in the morning is best. If you must water in the evening, avoid wetting the leaves.

Prune or pick off dead limbs or leaves.

Take time to spruce up your garden. Add yard art, like a bird bath or feeder.

Source: The Natural Gardener

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A Public Art Initiative

Rock the Porch is a public art initiative based in the Plum Creek neighborhood in the City of Kyle. Rock the Porch will feature rocking chairs assembled by local artists and personalities and is similar to the Cow Parade of Chicago and Guitar Town of Austin, albeit on a more local scale. This initiative will beautify the Plum Creek neighborhood as well as the greater Kyle community.

Proceeds from this project have been donated to the Kyle-based charity Hope and Love for Kids.

The rocking chair theme was selected for this exercise in expression and community building because the chairs encapsulate the friendly, community spirit of the Plum Creek neighborhood and the Kyle community as a whole. The chairs, which will be placed throughout Plum Creek and the City of Kyle, offer a place for people to engage with works of art that inspire and offer comfort and relaxation.

Milestones

6/10: Participating artists announced

7/20: Completed chairs due

7/27: Chairs placed in locations through Plum Creek and Kyle You can log onto: www.plumcreektx.com or www.cityofkyle.com to check on updates about this community art project.

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Enjoy the Outdoors!

Be sun-smart!

Summer is here and so is the bright, hot sun. Here are some sunsmart tips:

- Limit sum exposure between 10 AM and 4 PM, when the ultraviolet (UV) rays are most intense.
- Slip on a shirt. Choose shirts and pants to protect as much skin as possible.
- Slop on sunscreen. Choose a sunscreen with a Sun Protection Factor (SPF) of 15 or higher.
- Slap on a hat. Choose a hat that shades the face, neck and ears.
- Wrap on sunglasses to protect your eyes from UV rays.

Caution: Sunlamps and tanning booths are as harmful to your skin as the sun. Important: Some prescription drugs can greatly increase your skin's sensitivity to UV rays. Check with your pharmacist. Parents: Take Note! Avoiding sunburn during childhood and

adolescence is very important in reducing the risk of skin cancer later in life. Sunscreen is not recommended for children less than six months old. Keep infants in the shade and protected with clothing.

Everyone is at risk for skin cancer, whatever their skin color. Everyone needs to protect skin and eyes from the sun. Most skin cancers could be prevented by protecting ourselves from the sun's rays.

For more information about skin cancer, call 1-800-227-2345 or visit www.cancer.org.

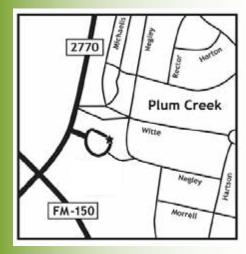
Lifeguards Going Off-Duty August 25th

Just a reminder to all parents/guardians and swimmers, that the lifeguards final day will be August 25th. The lifeguards will be returning to school. Residents are reminded that the age limits to go to the pool without supervision are 16 and up.

We have numerous non-compliance issues when this seasonal change occurs and many young residents get into trouble when not supervised in the pools. Please make sure that any child under the age of 16 is accompanied by an adult after the lifeguards go off duty. Your assistance in the matter is appreciated. Thanks for keeping our pools safe and enjoyable for all.



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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, *(Continued on Page 5)*



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Mulching Your Trees- (Continued from Page 4)

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.

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 or

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.

Defeat Fire Ants Juice 'Em By Christina Baese

Fire Ants have been described as both a blessing and a curse. After all, they eat ticks, chiggers, termites, boll weevils, flies, fleas, cockroaches, and many other troublesome pests. However, they don't stop there. They eat almost any young plant, baby animal, or beneficial insect or reptile, and they cause significant amounts of electrical damage by chewing through wires and invading electrical boxes. Not to mention, they seem strangely attracted to my toes....

Fortunately, they have some natural controls, including lizards, birds, and beneficial nematodes, the worm-like microscopic organisms in our soil that eat white grubs, fleas, and the larvae of fire ants. Unfortunately, these natural controls don't always keep fire ants in check, and thus, we spend our summers battling the bugs.

To start, treat the individual mounds. Drench each mound (Continued on Page 6)



DENNIS AND MARIEL PERKINS

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WE HOPE YOU ENJOY THE FLAGS THIS YEAR. PLEASE HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE 4TH OF JULY



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Fireants- (Continued from Page 5)

in boiling water, vinegar, soapy water, or a compost tea mixture called Garrett Juice from Garden-Ville. Alone, three gallons of boiling water eliminates them by almost 60 percent. However, you must be careful with the vinegar, soapy water and boiling water, as they can all damage and burn your nearby plants and lawn.

Thus, Garrett Juice proves the best tool. The mixture controls fire ants, and it nourishes your lawn and garden too. You can purchase Garrett Juice at Home Depot, Lowe's, Wal-Mart and many local nurseries, or you can make your own by combining 1 cup of compost tea, 1 tablespoon of blackstrap molasses, 1 tablespoon of liquid seaweed, and 1 tablespoon of natural apple cider vinegar per gallon of water. If you want to add an extra punch to your Garrett Juice, add 2 ounces of citrus oil to each gallon of water. Never use citrus oil alone, as it burns plants by itself. Always mix it with a compost tea, molasses, or another organic substance.

Contact the landscape committee for more landscaping tips at landscape@plumcreektxhoa.com. For more information check out: www.dirtdoctor.com for more great tips for your lawn and garden.

Sip And Sew

During July...Adults And Kids Are Invited 10 Years To Adult

Our group of talented woman are willing to share their talents with adults and kids during the summer. During July, we will have two meeting dates, July 9th and July 23. Most individuals need two sessions to «catch on»!

Needlepoint, crocheting, knitting and punch needle will be offered. A \$10.00 supply fee will cover supplies for both dates. Call to make a reservation and confirm the «art» that you desire. Reservations are a MUST! Usual location, Fergus Community Center, 6:30 PM-8:30 PM. Please contact: Pam Chapman - 656-6050 or Sandra Sigler - 405-0187call us with questions or to make your reservation



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TIPS to Turn Your Walk Into a IN ORKOLM

Sarah S. Iordan, 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."



ORCHARD PARK KYLE ASSISTED LIVING & MEMORY CARE

Volume 1



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Upcoming Events

11:00 - 1:00 July 8th Veterans Benefits and **Senior Financial Planning** @ Creekside Villas.

1:00 - 2:00 July 19th Family meet and greet @Texas Pie Company.

4:00 - 7:00 July 23rd Christmas in July @ Plum Creek Club House

Please contact us for details

Letter from the Executive Director

Issue 1



We have made a lot of progress since I first saw Orchard Park of Kyle and cement was still being poured. The community now has walls, sheet rock is going up. We

are getting our "skin" as the stucco and stone work begins. As exciting as it is to see the building coming together, I am most excited about how it will develop as residents move in and we all come together as a

community. The rooms and hallways will fill with residents, families and employees and lasting relationships will form. I am so thankful to be a part of Orchard Park of Kyle, and all of the wonderful people I have met and will meet as it all comes together. Please contact me any time for more information about Orchard Park of Kyle and how I may assist you.

Welcome to Our Newest Team Member



We are pleased to welcome Stephanie Rice, Community Relations Manager, to Orchard Park of Kyle. Stephanie has 15 years of experience in the Senior Industry with a strong



background in social work. She has focused her attention on Marketing in the Senior Healthcare industry for the past twelve years.

Five Signs Your Loved One May Need Assisted Living

It's tough to acknowledge that our bodies seem slower and less agile with each passing year. It can be even more difficult to watch the same thing happen to members of our family. Maybe mom doesn't take walks like she member, are they able to understand you at a normal use to, or dad can't mow the lawn anymore. Below is tone of voice? Do they respond if you call them and a checklist of things to look for the next time you visit their back is turned toward you? your parent to help determine if there are physical or mobility problems where Assisted Living could help.

have a normal color?

Dry, cracked skin can be a sign of dehydration. Prolonged dehydration can have serious consequences for the elderly. Skin should feel supple and not appear regularly? red or irritated.

2. Can your family member see clearly?

Your family member may no longer be able to drive safely which impacts their ability to go food shopping or attend doctor's appointments. They may no longer be able to read their medications, and may not be taking their medications in the right dosages.

3. Can your family member hear you?

Loss of hearing can significantly decrease a senior's quality of life. When you speak with your family

4. Is there food in the refrigerator?

The amount of healthy, fresh food in the home is a 1. Does your family member's skin feel soft and good indicator of whether a senior is well nourished and able to accomplish basic tasks such as cooking and grocery shopping.

5. Are medications current and being taken

Mixing up or not taking prescribed medications can severely impact a senior's health. Assisted Living care can help prevent potential devastating mix-ups and make sure your family member is attending their scheduled appointments.

If after analyzing the situation you feel that your loved one may need Assisted Living, contact us immediately so we may assist you.

July 2013

Garage Sale Signs: Plum Creek HOA Rules

Plum Creek HOA Rules and the City of Kyle Ordinance

A few residents at the Annual Meeting inquired about posting signs, specifically garage sale signs. So, here's a quick overview of the neighborhood deed restrictions and the city's ordinances pertaining to signage.

IN PLUM CREEK

The Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (DCCR's) are the neighborhood deed restrictions, which are designed to create a desired look in Plum Creek and maintain high property values.

Regarding garage sale signs or any other sign from lost pets to a found bike, one would refer to DCCR 3.12, which reads

3.12 Signs. No sign or emblem of any kind may be kept or placed upon any Lot or mounted, painted or attached to any residence, fence or other Improvement upon such Lot so as to be visible from public view except the following:

(i)For Sale or Lease Signs. An Owner may erect one (1) sign not exceeding $\sim' \ge 3'$ in area, fastened only to a stake in the ground and extending not more than three (3) feet above the surface of the ground advertising the property for sale or lease.

(ii)Declarant's and Builders' Signs. Signs or billboards may be erected by the Declarant without approval of the Architectural Review Committee. Builders may erect signs or billboards only with prior written approval of the Architectural Review Committee.

(iii) Political Signs. Political signs may be erected upon a Lot by the Owner. of such Lot advocating the election of one or more political candidates or the sponsorship of a political party, issue or proposal provided that such signs shall not be erected more than ninety (90) days in advance of the election to which they pertain and are removed within fifteen (15) days after the election. Such signs shall not exceed 2' x 3' in area, and must be fastened only to a stake in the ground and extending not more than three (3) feet above the surface of the ground.

Thus, garage sale signs and other signs (lost bike, etc.) are not allowed to be posted at the entrances, other common areas, or on other residents' property. For sale/lease and political signage must follow the rules above.

As with all DCCR's, they are subject to interpretation by the Architectural Review Committee (ARC), and pertaining to garage sales, the ARC will allow a sign to be placed on one's own lot for the duration of the garage sale only. If a sign of any sort is posted/ placed/installed anywhere other than one's own Lot, it is in non compliance with the DCCR's and will be removed and discarded. Also, a deed restriction violation (DRV) may be issued.

During the Community Wide Garage Sale, the HOA will place approved signs created by the HOA announcing the upcoming event in the neighborhood.

Signage other than Garage Sales, such as community events, church activities, PTA, etc., is only permitted if the sponsoring party requests and receives approval from the ARC and HOA Board prior to the event and/or placing the signs.

IN THE CITY OF KYLE

The City of Kyle has additional ordinances pertaining to garage sale signs, which can be found in Sign Ordinance 576, Section 20, Part D at http://www.cityofkyle.com/documents/ SignOrd576.pdf

(C) Garage sale signs. The purpose of a garage sale sign is to announce the sale of household possessions.

(1) Garage sale signs shall not exceed four (4) square feet. Signs shall be allowed for a maximum of seventy-two (72) consecutive hours no more than two (2) times per calendar year.

(2) Single-family residential on-premises: One garage sale sign per street frontage shall be allowed, but only on the premises where the garage sale is being conducted and where there is an existing residential use.

(3) Neighborhood-wide garage sales: Two garage sale signs per subdivision entrance shall be allowed for a neighborhood-wide garage sale sponsored by a homeowner's association (HOA). The garage sale sign may be off premises from where the actual garage sale is conducted, but the sign shall be located on property, including a street right-of-way, that is within the limits of the homeowner's association. The HOA must be registered with the City of Kyle.

(4) Signs shall be placed at least twenty-five (25) feet from an intersection and a minimum of ten (10) feet from the curbline. Signs shall not be placed anywhere in the center median of a public or private street

(5) No permit or fee shall be required for any garage sale sign.

Truly hope this article helps all residents understand any and all regulations surrounding signage in Plum Creek, especially pertaining to garage sales. Again, please remember that information about garage sales, lost pets, found items, and more can be placed in the Plum Creek eNews by sending them to announcements@plumcreektxhoa.com. The eNews is sent out weekly, usually on Thursdays. Thanks!

Street Addresses Needed In Alleys

Did you know that our alleys act as alternative routes for emergency services like police and ambulances?

However, many of our homes, especially in the older section, are not numbered in the alley. Over the years, house numbers have been painted on lot driveways, but sadly, the painted numbers wear away quickly and must be repainted every few years. However, mounted numbers offer a more sustainable and permanent solution.

Have you considered purchasing and placing your street numbers by your garage door for safety's sake?

In the newest sections of Plum Creek, residents are actually required to have their street number by their garage door, as indicated below:

From the Plum Creek Landscape Templates, Page 9 of 17 Home Numbers - Alley Side of Home

On alley lots, in addition to the numbering system on the front of a home, the street number will be required on the face of the garage structure adjacent to the garage door. The numbers should be located 5' above the ground plane and should be 4" matte black metal letter form. It is preferred that the numbers be located just below a wall mounted sconce light to make the numbers visible at night.

However, the HOA wants to encourage everyone in Plum Creek to place their street address by their garage. These numbers help your neighbors and especially, emergency personnel locate your home with ease. So, if your home has an alley, please consider placing your address on the alley side, too.

We, at the HOA office, have priced 4" black metal letters from Home Depot, which range from \$1.29 to about \$4 each. They can be purchased at Lowe's and other fine establishments, as well.

Thank you for your assistance! If you have any questions, please contact me at plumcreekmanager@goodwintx.com



UPCOMING SURROUNDING AREA EVENTS

There are great family events coming in Kyle and surrounding cities. Check out the city's website for upcoming events and entertainment.



City of Kyle: Visit www.cityofkyle.com for more information

Saturday morning coffee with council member Samantha Bellows-Lemense At Casa Garcias- HEB Shopping Center July 6th from 8 AM to 10 AM

Movies in the Park: Gregg-Clarke Park- 8:30 PM July 12th- Madagascar 3

> Movies at the Kyle pool- 8:30 PM July 26th- Finding Nemo

National Night Out in Texas-First Tuesday in October- plan block parties

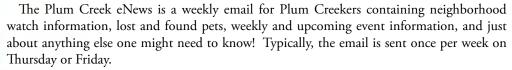


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Have You Registered for the Plum Creek Weekly eNews Yet?



The eNews has been designed as an 'Opt-In' email, as to not bother anyone just wishing to visit the HOA website on occasion. If you're interested, please add your email to the list by following these instructions:

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- Once you sign onto the site, click on My Profile in the menu at the top left of the page. You should arrive at your address book profile.
 - Click on the Subscriptions tab.
 - Check the box next to " Plum Creek eNews: Neighborhood Opt-In Email List"
 - Click Save Changes.
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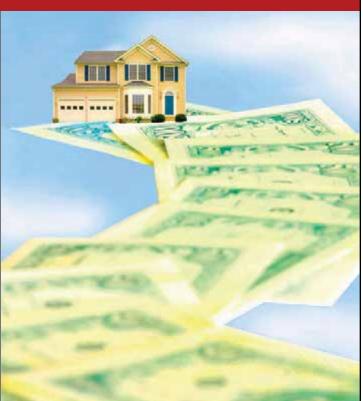
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REMINDER: Keep those Dogs on Leashes

and Please Pick Up after your Pets

Several reports have arrived about dogs roaming free without their owners and dogs with owners but off-leash. Please remember, the City of Kyle has a leash law. Dogs must be on a leash at all times when not in a fenced in areas. Also, please remember to be neighborly and clean up after your pet. *Thanks!*



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DROWNING IS PREVENTABLE

COLIN'S HOPE water safety tips at www.colinshope.org



Ongoing: Volunteers needed to distribute water safey packets info@colinshope.org Ongoing: Colin's Hope Athlete Ambassadors needed! http://www.tinych.org/signup July 21: Colin's Hope Kids Got2Swim Pure Austin Quarry Lake. http://www.tinych.org/got2swim August 29: Colin's Hope Got2Swim Lake Austin 10K/10 miler. http://www.tinych.org/got2swim September 8: 5th Annual Colin's Hope Kids Triathlon http://www.tinych.org/KidsTri

Volunteer - Donate COLINSHOPE.ORG ALERT: 18 Texas children have already drowned this year! YOU can help us prevent children from drowning. Please KEEP YOUR KIDS SAFE around water.

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