PLUM CREEK

POST

The Official Newsletter of the
Plum Creek Homeowner Association
August 2013
Volume 4, Issue 8

HOOTENANNY ON THE HILL ON OCTOBER 12TH

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 12th 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 8th 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 host a pumpkin decorating contest! Email Christina Baese at cb28655@earthlink.net.

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.

Just across the way, the Recreation Committee will host the 7th 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 $20 to $35. Forms are due by October 9th. Check-in occurs on Friday, October 11th at 6PM. Email Brandee Otto at brandeelotto@yahoo.com with any questions.

Other events include a 10k/ 5K/1K/Pup Trot. In addition to the events mentioned above, some old favorites of a petting zoo, pony rides, trackless train, and more will return.

If you are interested in selling pet related products, please contact Gary and Cindy at dogpark@plumcreektxhoa.com. For selling all other products, email Jen LaCour at jen.lacour@gmail.com or 512-787-9611. If interested in sponsorships, email Brandee Otto at brandeelotto@yahoo.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 for additional information and entry forms. As always, volunteers are needed and appreciated at all HOA events! Come out for the fun!

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DON'T WANT TO WAIT FOR THE MAIL?
View the current issue of the Plum Creek Post on the 1st day of each month at www.PEELinc.com

Yard of the Month *Winners*

April
1st Place- 5764 Fergus
2nd Place- 327 Witte
3rd Place- 141 Campos

May
1st Place- 5913 McNaughton
2nd Place- 280 Skinner
3rd Place- 5289 Hartson

June
1st Place- 6098 Hartson
2nd Place- 295 Hutton
3rd Place- 5679 B Fergus

Please take a look at these beautiful yards; they are only a few of the many wonderful landscapes in Plum Creek. Congratulations on your hard work. Keep up the good work!

Suzanne Parr, Landscaping Chair
landscape@plumcreektxhoa.com

BUSINESS CLASSIFIEDS

SUMMER YARD MAINTENANCE & LANDSCAPING: Plum Creek resident My Hired Helper offers complete yard service. Tree & Bush Trimming, Spring Planting,Mulching, Weeding beds, Mow, Bow, and Edging are all available. We can also do acorn & leaf removal/ haul off. Sod Installation. Please visit www.myhiredhelper.com or call Kate to schedule 512-663-8389.

Business classifieds (offering a service or product line for profit) are $50, limit 40 words, please Peel, Inc. Sales Office at 512-263-9181 or advertising@PEELinc.com.

NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE

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MEET THE NEW NEGLEY ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

I don't know how to quilt.

Yes, it's true! I don't know how! I have quite often been envious of people who do know how--and I have more than enough tees ready for the sewing. Luckily, I don't need to know how to quilt to serve the staff and students of Negley Elementary as the new principal. Let me tell you about the things I do know how to do, and why I am excited about this upcoming school year.

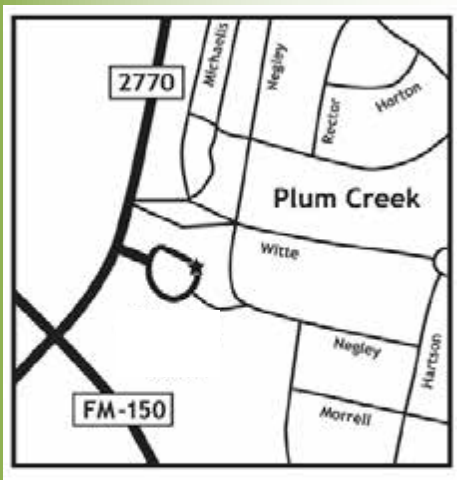
As a leader, I approach things head on. I believe in community; I believe in relationships; I believe that school should be a place where students, staff, parents, and community want to come everyday--to learn and to play! I believe that in order to watch our children grow to their fullest potential, we have to create an academic and socially rich environment... together! Because of this, I prioritize celebrating our areas of strength and our potential for growth. I rely on reflective processes that will not only help us see where we have been--but continue to build on the solid foundations for where we envision our students down the road. I have experience and strengths in community schools and growing people...shining a spotlight on the strengths of all. I am excited about this upcoming school year and am ready to reflect and collaborate to continue making Negley the best elementary school around! The students, parents, and staff of Negley have a demonstrated commitment to excellence, and I am proud to join your school community. I look forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas on how we can partner to move Negley Elementary to the next level.

I am certainly excited to meet you and hope you'll attend our "Set Sail in the Park" on the evening of August 22nd. Also, I will host an (After Dinner) Coffee with the Principal on August 8th at 6:30pm in the Negley Elementary library to provide you a chance to learn more about me in person. I'll bring the coffee...you bring your favorite mug. If you're unable to attend either event, please feel free to email me at salmeronc@hayscisd.net.

In the meantime, if there is anyone in Plum Creek that knows how to preserve memories by quilting tees together, and is willing to teach, I'm ready to learn! Can't wait to meet you...

Charla Salmeron

Come grow well with us!



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Orthopaedics/Sports Medicine

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Family Medicine

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Academic Calendar 2013 - 2014

Hays Consolidated Independent School District

www.hayscisd.net

Visit the Hays CISD website for a detailed campus event calendar.

JULY
4 Fourth of July Holiday

AUGUST
19 Employee Start Day
19 – 21 Professional Development
22 – 23 Teacher Prep Days
26 First Day of School

SEPTEMBER
2 Labor Day Holiday

OCTOBER
4 6-week UIL Eligibility
14 Student Holiday, Professional Development , Elementary Teacher Conferences
18 End of Grading Period – UIL Eligibility

NOVEMBER
25 – 26 Student Holiday, Professional Development "Exchange Days"
27 – 29 Thanksgiving Holiday

DECEMBER
18 End of Grading Period – UIL Eligibility
19 – 31 Christmas Break

JANUARY
1 Christmas Break
2 Student Holiday, Professional Development
3 Teacher Prep Day
20 MLK Holiday

FEBRUARY
17 Student Holiday, Professional Development

MARCH
7 End of Grading Period – UIL Eligibility
10 – 14 Spring Break

APRIL
18 Good Friday Holiday

MAY
26 Memorial Day Holiday

JUNE
4 Last Day of School, End of Grading Period – UIL Eligibility
5 First Bad Weather Make Up Day (or Teacher Workday)
6 Second Bad Weather Make Up Day (or summer break)

UIL Eligibility Reports, Progress Reports, and Report Cards are delivered approximately every four weeks for elementary and every three weeks for secondary (6th – 12th) students.

Staff/Student Holiday

Student Holiday/ Professional Development

E Grading Cut-Off Periods Where Students Could Lose UIL Eligibility (See Chart on Reverse)

★ Inclement Weather Makeup Days (if needed)

[ ] Grade Reporting Periods

Calendar includes 175 instructional & 12 professional development days.

JULY 2013				
M	T	W	Th	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
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29	30	31		

AUGUST 2013				
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SEPTEMBER 2013				
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30				

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FEBRUARY 2014				
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31				

APRIL 2014				
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MAY 2014				
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JUNE 2014				
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23	24	25	26	27
30				

Calendar approval by Hays CISD Board of Trustees March 26, 2012

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HELPFUL BACK TO SCHOOL INFORMATION

It's Back to school for Hays CISD students on Monday, August 26th. The district has released its academic calendar for 2013-2014. You can also find the calendar on the website at: http://www.hayscisd.net.

Plum Creek students will continue to attend Negley Elementary, Barton Middle School and Hays High School for the 2013-2014 school year. New student registration is throughout the summer at each campus Monday- Thursday from 8 AM to 3 PM. Check the website for any scheduled closures. Please call the Central Administration Office, 512-268-2141, for further information if your child is new to the district. Returning students can be registered online beginning July 1st through August 30th.

Negley Back to School Night: Back to school night for Negley Elementary students is Thursday, August 22nd and kids can meet their teacher from 6:30 pm to 7:15pm. Set Sail in the Park (McNaughton) is from 7:15 pm to 8:00 pm. The Negley back to school parade will be August 21st at 7:30 pm. The parade route will be posted on the Negley website closer to the date.

You can log onto the Hays CISD website for further information: www.hayscisd.net

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School Bus Safety Tips

With school just around the corner, please remember that the greatest risk is not while riding the bus but approaching or leaving the bus. It is essential that car drivers follow these safety tips.

- When backing out of a driveway or leaving a garage, watch for children walking or bicycling to school.
- When driving in neighborhoods with school zones, watch for young people who may be focused on getting to school but may not be thinking about safety.
- Slow down. Watch for children playing and gathering near bus stops or walking in the street, especially if there are no sidewalks.
- Be alert. Children arriving late for the bus may dart into the street without looking for traffic.

KNOW THE LAW

Texas law states that:

An operator on a highway, when approaching from either direction, a school bus stopped on the highway to receive or discharge a student:

Shall stop before reaching the school bus when the bus is operating a visual signal as required by Section 547.701; and

- May not proceed until;
- The school bus resumes motion;
- The operator is signaled by the bus driver to proceed; or
- The visual signal is no longer actuated

An operator on a highway having separate roadways is not required to stop:

- For a school bus that is on a different roadway; or
- If on a controlled-access highway, for a school bus that is stopped:
- In a loading zone that is part of or adjacent to the highway; and
- Where pedestrians are not permitted to cross the roadway.

DANGER—KNOW THE ZONE

Get the children to the bus stop at least five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.

When the bus approaches, have them stand at least three giant steps (6 feet) away from the curb, and line up away from the street.

Instruct children to wait until the bus stops, the door opens, and the driver says it's okay before stepping onto the bus.

If children have to cross the street in front of the bus, instruct them to walk on the sidewalk or along the side of road to a point at least five giant steps (10 feet) ahead of the bus before they cross. Be sure the driver can see them and they can see the driver.

Knowing the rules will help provide a safer neighborhood and community for our children.

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BACKPACKS AND YOUR KIDS

By Dr. Wendy Devries, DC

Getting back to school can be "Back Breaking" work: Don't let a heavy backpack ruin your child's day.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that 6,152 emergency room visits each year result from injuries related to book bags. CPSC also cites the statistic that backpack related injuries are up 256% since 1996. The American Chiropractic Association, its Council on Occupational Health and your local chiropractor offer the following tips to help prevent the needless pain an over stuffed backpack could cause the student in your household.

And now that backpacks have begun to replace briefcases in the workplace, you too, might want to follow this advice:

Make sure your child's backpack weighs no more than 5 to 10 percent of his or her body weight; the backpack will cause your child to begin bending forward in an attempt to support the weight on his or her back rather than on the shoulders, by the straps.

The backpack should never hang more than 4 inches below the waistline. A backpack with individualized compartments will help you position the contents most effectively and ensure that your child's sandwich isn't flattened by a heavy textbook.

When packing the backpack, make sure that pointy or bulky objects are packed away from the area that will rest on your child's back. An uneven surface rubbing against your child's back could cause painful blisters.

Tell your child to use both straps, not just one. A backpack slung over one shoulder disproportionately shifts all the weight to one side, and can cause not only neck and muscle spasms, but also low back pain. Padded shoulder straps are very important. Not only will they be more comfortable than non-padded straps, but they will also help prevent the straps from digging into your child's shoulders. The shoulder straps should be adjustable, so the backpack can be fitted to your child's body. Shoulder straps that are too loose can cause the backpack to dangle uncomfortably, and cause misalignment and pain.

Lift correctly, face the backpack at your knees, use both hands, check the weight of the bag, lift with your legs, and apply one shoulder strap then the second.

Talk to your child about the proper use of backpacks and help him or her understand why this and other issues are important. A child who is educated early in life on these issues can apply this knowledge later in life (at home or in the office) and as a result, your child will be happier and healthier.

AIM A/C and Heating Services

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Volume 1 Issue 1 July 2013

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We enrich the lives of residents, families and employees through extraordinary experiences because…

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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

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.

Talking Points

Jude Prather
Hays County Veteran Services Officer
Veterans Benefits and Senior Financial Planning

At Creekside Villas
Monday, July 8 @ 11:00 am
Contact Orchard Park today for reservations.
Call (512) 920-6400

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 use to, or dad can't mow the lawn anymore. Below is a checklist of things to look for the next time you visit your parent to help determine if there are physical or mobility problems where Assisted Living could help.

1. Does your family member's skin feel soft and 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 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 member, are they able to understand you at a normal tone of voice? Do they respond if you call them and their back is turned toward you?

4. Is there food in the refrigerator?

The amount of healthy, fresh food in the home is a 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 regularly?

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.

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WATER WISE

TIPS FOR THE AUGUST HEAT

By Christina Baese, Landscaping Committee

Plant well-adapted and native shrubs, trees and grass. Choose plants that are tolerant of drought, heat, and our minimum winter temperatures.

Improve soil with mulch and compost. Mulch retains moisture, reduces runoff, and control weeds. Use one to three inches of mulch in your garden and planters. Top dressing, or compost, functions like mulch for your lawn. It increases organic content and protects shallow grass roots.

Apply fertilizer only in the spring and fall. Your grass will develop good root systems, use less water, and need less mowing. Also, aerate your lawn once a year.

Pull your weeds regularly, as they rob plants of valuable nutrients and water.

Monitor your grass length. Keep grass length between 1.5 and 3 inches and never cut more than 1/3 of the length at a time.

Leave lawn clippings, which hold in moisture, reduce evaporation, moderate temperature, and give nutrients back to the lawn.

Water one inch, including rain, every 5 days or longer and only after the top 2" of soil has dried out. This system increases overall health, drought tolerance, and deep root systems. Start in spring when root growth is high or adjust slowly with successively longer periods between watering. Plan around any City of Kyle water restrictions.

Water early in the morning or evening. Evaporation loss can be 60% higher during the day. Never water on windy days.

Use drip irrigation or soaker hoses for garden beds and trees and use low angle sprinklers for lawns. They minimize evaporation, impede weed growth, and may help prevent diseases caused by under or overwatering.

Adjust run time and frequency of automatic sprinklers monthly to respond to rainfall and temperature conditions. Install rain shut off devices to avoid unnecessary watering. Adjust sprinklers to eliminate overspray on pavement. Adjust irrigation times according to City of Kyle water restrictions.

Blueberry-Lavender Lemonade

Becca Bakes Signature Drink

Ingredients

- 1 cup lemon juice, fresh squeezed (about 5-6 lemons)
- 2 cups sugar
- 7+1/2 cups water, divided
- 1 pint blueberries
- 15 sprigs fresh lavender (1 small plant) + a few extra for garnish

Directions:

1. In a saucepan, bring 2 cups sugar + 2 cups water to a boil
2. Remove from heat, add fresh lavender sprigs and cover. Let seep for 30 minutes
3. In a bowl, crush blueberries until they become a puree. You can also puree them in a blender or food processor.
4. You can do this next step two ways. (1) Place the blueberry-puree in a fine mesh sieve positioned over a pitcher. Remove lavender sprigs from saucepan and pour lavender infused water through sieve on top of the blueberry-puree and into the pitcher. (2) Remove sprigs from saucepan and place lavender infused water and blueberry-puree in a French press. Press down to create a very clear blueberry-lavender mixture.
5. Pour lemon juice into picture followed by 5 + 1/2 cups of water. Tip: taste lemonade in-between adding cups of water – some like it tart! You can also add more sugar or lemon juice at this step as well.
6. Stir well! Garnish with a sprig of lavender, some floating blueberries, or a lemon slice on the glass edge. Enjoy!

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Please Keep Our Parks Clean and In Good Condition

We all pay for the maintenance and upkeep of the neighborhood parks and trails. If you see trash in the parks, you can pick it up and throw it away. Sometimes kids need gentle reminders to pick up after themselves and not to damage property. We have to work together to keep the parks and trails clean and maintained. We are all guests when we visit the parks and picking up after ourselves is part of living in a community. As Plum Creek residents, you have the right to approach anyone who is acting in an unacceptable manner at the parks, pools, trails, lake, or any other community-owned amenity. You can ask them to abide by the rules, pick-up after themselves, and take responsibility for their children's behavior.

Trash, vandalism, and mistreatment of our common property are paid for through our homeowner's dues … every resident pays! Please take care of your community property.

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At the Fence

August 8th

Coffee with the new Negley principal, Charla Salmeron. Negley Elementary library at 6:30 PM. Bring your favorite coffee mug.

August 21st

Negley Elementary parade at 7:30 PM. More information to be posted on the Negley Elementary website.

August 22nd

Negley Elementary Meet the Teacher from 6:30 to 7:15. Followed by Set Sail in the Park (McNaughton) from 7:15 to 8:00 PM.

October 5th

The Fall Community Wide Garage Sale. Start cleaning out those closets and mark those calendars!

October 12th

Hootenanny on the Hill: Saturday, from 10 AM to 2 PM

Have something to celebrate – a birthday, a new baby, or something else? Email it to announcements@plumcreektxhoa.com by August 8th for inclusion in the September PC Press! Do you have any fun, simple recipes that you want to share with your neighbors? You can submit it to announcements@plumcreektxhoa.com to be published in the eNews and newsletters.

WHERE ARE YOUR CARTS?

Remember- unless it is Tuesday, your trash and recycle carts must be removed from the alleys and stored from public view.

DEED RESTRICTION REMINDERS

Please remember that you agreed to abide by the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions when you purchased your home- do your part in keeping Plum Creek HOA a beautiful place to live! The HOA management staff drives the property twice a month to note violations in addition to periodic spot checks. These commonly include: front yard landscape maintenance (mowing, edging, free of weeds), home maintenance (paint, screens, siding), and recreational vehicles (boats, RV's, trailers) parked in the driveway. The HOA is required by law to notify owners in writing through via mail. Fine notifications are required by law to be mailed via certified mail. If you receive a letter, please contact us at the HOA office and let us know your individual situation. We would like to work with you to bring your home into compliance. If you would like to report a violation, you can go on the website at www.plumcreektxhoa.com and select eForms.

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Social Groups

SIP AND SEW

Join a great group of individuals ready to share their «artsy» talents of needlepoint, knitting, crocheting, punch needle, quilting, cross stitch and rug hooking. We meet the second Tuesday of the month in the Fergus Community Center. For August, we will meet the 13th - 6:30 PM-8:45 PM. Not quite sure of what you might like to take up as a hobby, just come and observe. Bring a current project and just Sip and Sew. If you have questions, please contact: Iris Sandle -405-0054, Pam Chapman - 656-6050 or Sandra Sigler - 405-0187

TODDLER TIME: SWIMMING PLAYDATE ON 8/28

The big kids are back in school, so bring your puddle jumpers and sunscreen and let's play at the pool! The fun runs from 10:30 to Noon on Wednesday, August 28th at the Haupt Bucket Pool. Snack and juice boxes provided, while they last. The lifeguards are off duty, so plan to play in the water with your kiddo. Don't forget your pool keys, rec tags, and towels! See you at the pool!!

GUARDRAILS

We see them everywhere. They are placed on the edge of a danger-zone: bridges, medians, curvy roads, etc. Guardrails are not complicated, they are simply a system designed to keep vehicles from straying into dangerous or off-limit areas. But what would it look like to place some mental guardrails in our lives? What would it look like to have a mental barrier that kept us at a safe distance from danger? (Whether it's financially, ethically, morally, relationally, professionally, etc.)

Think about that. Think about your last financial blunder. Think about your last relational mess. Could they have been avoided if you had had mental guardrails that kept you from going too far? At one time or another we've all gone "too far" in some area of our life, and none of us want to return to that place. So let's place a few guardrails in our life to keep us safe.

Pastor Chance Endsley, CrossRoad Christian Fellowship
www.thecr.org

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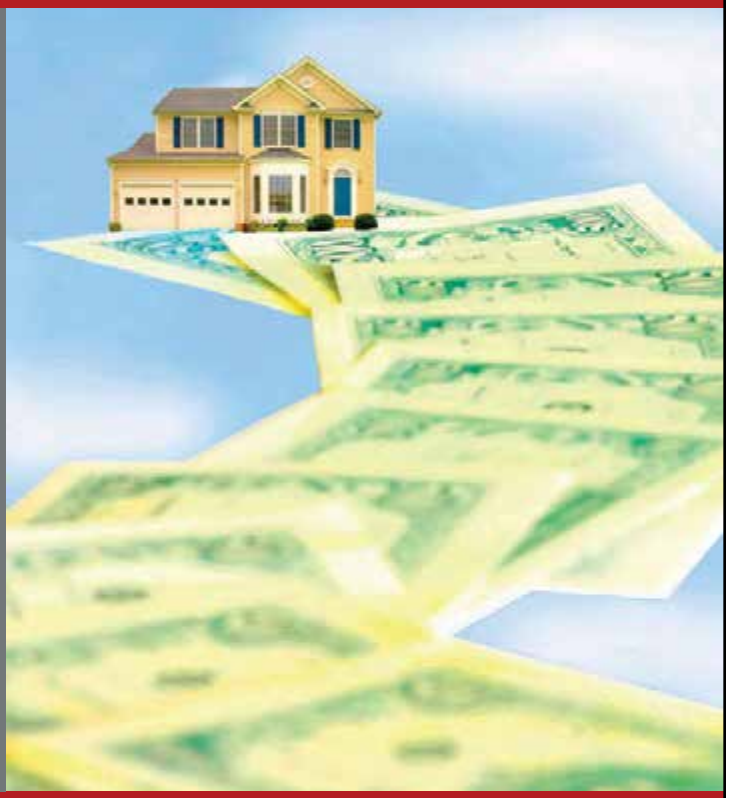

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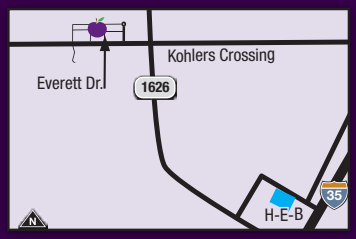

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Update From The Architectural Control Committee

The Architectural Control Committee of Plum Creek would like to remind everyone to submit your proposed improvements to the ARC for review. Just about all exterior changes you are considering require review. Many common landscaping improvements have Design Guidelines that specify how things can added. For specific information, go to www.plumcreektxhoa.com, and select the Documents link on the left side. Then select Choose a Category on the right side. Most of the information for the neighborhood is stored in this section of the website including the ARC Application form.

Some of the improvements that need review:

- substantial re-design of front yard landscapes
- conversion of front yard landscapes to Water Wise landscape plans
- decks, sheds, patios, patio covers
- fences, trellises, other screening improvements
- playscapes
- home additions

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MANAGER'S CORNER

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING ON THE PLUM CREEK HOA WEBSITE?

www.plumcreektxhoa.com

Many owners and residents are not aware that the Plum Creek website has copies of the rules, pool waiver form, governing documents and the local area information stored on it. Most of these documents are stored under the link – Documents on the left-hand side. Click the Documents link and select: Choose a Category on the right-hand side. The amenity rules are saved under the Amenity Information link.

You can call the Plum Creek office at 512-262-1140 if you have questions about the Plum Creek website.

Do you need a log in for the Plum Creek website? Access the website and then select the Log-in Request link on the left side. We will need to verify that you are the owner or tenant in the house before we can approve the log-in request. Tenants can bring a copy of their current lease or they can email a copy of their current lease to pcoffice@goodwintx.com for verification of current residency.

NEED TO MAKE A PAYMENT?

To make an electronic payment- epayment- go to www. goodwintx.com/plm website. This website allows you to make a one-time payment or set-up reoccurring payments. You will need your user name and password which is listed on a recent statement or you can call the Plum Creek Office at 512-262-1140 to request a copy of a statement with your user name and password. Payments can still be mailed with the payment coupon to:

Plum Creek HOA
c/o Goodwin Processing Center
PO Box 93447
Las Vegas, NV 89193-3447

You can also set up a reoccurring payment on your bank's on line bill payment website. The payment should be mailed to the payment address listed above. Include your account number, which is also your user name for the www.goodwintx.com/plm website. Payments are due on the first day of each quarter and are late 30 days after the payment becomes due.

FORGOT TO MOW YOUR LAWN?

At times we all get busy with work projects, personal projects, family emergencies, or getting our kids to their designated activities. Sometimes time just gets away from us. After a good rain the grass (and weeds) can grow several inches in a week. Here are some tips to avoid getting that unfavorable letter in the mail reminding you to mow and weed your lawn:

Plan ahead and mow during an evening before a busy week.

Check the weather to see if rain is in the forecast. You may need to ask a neighbor for assistance in mowing.

Have a friend or a relative stop by and check on the lawn.

If you have kids, ask them to spend an hour of time in the yard pulling weeds or mowing the lawn.

It all comes down to planning ahead and asking for help from your friends, neighbors or family. No one wants to receive a violation letter. The violation letters serve a purpose in helping to maintain the overall attractiveness and value of the neighborhood. We all have to do our part to keep up the value or the neighborhood.

DO YOU NEED TO REPORT A POSSIBLE VIOLATION?

We request that all deed restriction violations are reported in writing. Here are options on how to submit the violation concern:

- You can log on to the Plum Creek website and select the eForms link on the left side. Select the Report a Violation link and fill in the information.
- You can log onto the goodwintx.com payment website and select Plum Creek in the community list. Then select the Report a Violation link and complete the information.
- You can request a Deed Restriction Violation form from the Plum Creek office. You can come by the office and fill the form out or you can request for a copy to be sent to you.

We are not allowed to discuss specific account history about a neighbor's address. We can confirm that we received your concern and have notified the owner about the concern.

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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**
October 19: Sharkfest Austin Swim benefitting Colin's Hope, **www.sharkfestswim.com**

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ALERT: 36 Texas children have lost their lives to a fatal drowning this year.
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