



POST

The Official Newsletter of the
Plum Creek Homeowner Association

December 2014
Volume 5, Issue 12



Judging for the Lights Contest Begins the Second Week of December

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 7th at 6 pm and runs through the second week of December. Only houses that are nominated will be judged. Winners receive a gift card and sign in their yard through the holidays and will be announced in the Plum Creek eNews in December and the February PC Post.

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

**JUDGING WILL BE THE WEEK OF DEC. 7-13
SO EVERYONE PLEASE HAVE ALL YOUR
BEAUTIFUL LIGHTS SHINING AND LIGHTING
UP PLUM CREEK THAT WEEK.**

Santa Claus is Coming to Plum Creek

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH FROM
10AM TO 1PM @ 450 HAUPT**

Don't fight the lines at the mall for Santa pictures. Come by the Haupt Community Center on Saturday, December 6th to get your picture taken with Santa. Families are welcome or just kiddos. While you are waiting, do some Christmas shopping from local vendors. The event runs from 10am to 1pm.

Santa Photos and Donation to Hays County Area Food Bank:

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

Decorate Community Christmas Tree:

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.

Vendor Space Available:

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

For questions or to reserve a vendor space, please call Brandee Otto at 512-557-2728 or email questions to recreation@plumcreektxhoa.com. See you and Santa on December 6th from 10AM to 1PM!!!

Committee Contacts

PLUM CREEK HOA MANAGER

Kristi Morrison plumcreekmanager@goodwintx.com

PLUM CREEK POST AND WEEKLY ENEWS

Adriane Carbajal announcements@plumcreektxhoa.com

COMMUNITY CENTER RESERVATION QUESTIONS

Kristi Morrison reservations@plumcreektxhoa.com

DOG PARK COMMITTEE

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LAKE COMMITTEE

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WELCOME COMMITTEE

Tamberly Hankins-Wojcik.....

..... welcome@plumcreektxhoa.com

HOA OFFICE PHONE 512.262.1140

Important Numbers

STREET LIGHTS, ROAD REPAIRS, STREET SIGNS

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..... pw@cityofkyle.com

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Hays High School 512.268.2911

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

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Plum Creek HOA Dues

QUARTERLY PAYMENTS BECOME
DUE ON: JANUARY 1ST, APRIL 1ST
JULY 1ST & OCTOBER 1ST

The quarterly dues payment in 2015 is \$134.00.

You have 30 days to send in the payment before a
\$36.00 late fee is applied.

The payment address is:

Plum Creek HOA
c/o Goodwin Processing Center
PO Box 93447
Las Vegas, NV 89193-3447
****include your account number**

You can contact the Plum Creek HOA office at
512-262-1140 to request your account number.



Safety Committee

We now have 16 Block Captains in the Neighborhood Watch program at Plum Creek. The Safety Committee met in November to review the issues that were addressed with the Kyle Police & Fire Departments, Kyle EMS, and Hays County Sheriff's deputies during the National Night Out picnics on October 7 at Haupt, Decker, Kirby, and McNaughton Parks. If you were unable to attend either of these meetings and would like to learn more about how you can help keep Plum Creek a safe place for families and neighbors, contact Carol Peters, Safety Committee chair. Our next Neighborhood Watch meeting will be in January.

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Have a Dirt Circle Under Your Tree?

By: Christina Baese, PC Landscape Committee

In some of our gardens, our trees have grown so big and full that our grass has thinned or just disappeared completely. If that's the case in your garden, here are a few ideas:

1. Just mulch it. Mulch introduces organic material into the soil, providing valuable nutrients to your tree's roots. It helps stabilize soil temperature during summer and winter, too. Spread it about two to four inches deep and don't let it touch the actual trunk.

2. Let there be light! Thin the canopy of your tree and let the sun shine! Grass and many plants need plenty of sun to survive and thrive, so some selective pruning of your tree limbs may be a simple solution to thicken your grass.

3. Get planting. One can always create a flowerbed or plant groundcover. Several groundcovers can be planted in shade, such as pigeonberry, purple heart, or monkey grass. Cedar Sage, heartleaf skullcap, or columbine (reseeds when happy) are some great shady perennials, and American beautyberry is a lovely, shade tolerant shrub. When planting anything under a tree, be very careful with the roots, as not to stress the tree or expose it to disease. If possible, consider using seeds.

4. Rocks rock. River rocks and other natural stones can create a lovely, non-traditional garden.

5. When all else fails, Google it! There are many creative solutions on the web about how to deal with bare spots under trees. So, hit that keyboard.

Helping Keep Neighborhood Pets From Being Pests

By Sandy L Stevens

Almost everyone loves having a pet...a dog, a cat, a hamster, or a fish, just to name a few. With pet ownership comes great responsibility, not only for the care and well-being of the pet but also a responsibility to other residents, especially with dogs. Resident complaints regarding dogs in the neighborhood are on the rise, especially as the neighborhood grows. Though there may be other issues, the three that are consistently brought to the attention of the committees and the HOA are:

(1) dogs off leash, (2) waste pick up, and (3) noise.

The first issue, dogs off leash, is not only a violation of the HOA ordinances, but is a violation of Hays County and City of Kyle ordinances. Hays County has begun a campaign to crack down on dogs off leashes, taking the animal to the pound and citing the owner. In Plum Creek, we have very few dogs that are truly running around the neighborhood without supervision. We do, however, have many residents who allow their dogs off the leash on the trail or at the parks. Several residents have been bitten by dogs that are with the owners but are not restrained on a leash. Someone being bitten is the worst scenario, but dogs off a leash can cause other annoyances, such as running in front of bicycles causing accidents, encroaching on those who may not be "dog friendly", or knocking over a small child. It may also endanger the dog if they veer into traffic and are injured by a moving vehicle or run in front of a bicycle on the trail.

The second issue, waste pick up, is quickly becoming a major issue, not only in resident's yards but also on the trail and in the parks. Please carry a plastic bag with you when taking your dog for a walk and pick up any waste your dog may deposit, even if it is to the side of the trail. The waste causes significant concerns, especially during the hot weather, not only because of the smell but also with insects.

Third is incessant barking or noise. Due to the nature of most neighborhood designs, homes are closely spaced. Dogs barking for long periods of time or at inappropriate times of the day (late at night

(Continued on Page 6)

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PLUM CREEK POST

(Continued from Page 4)

or very early in the morning) may cause discomfort for the neighbors. Complaints may be filed with the HOA using the appropriate form, available on the community website, www.plumcreektxhoa.com. Be sure that you have all of the information requested on the form, such as the address of the offending resident and specifics of the incident. Your name and information will be kept confidential by the HOA. You also have the right as a resident to approach anyone you see that is in violation of the rules and ask them to comply.

In addition, Hays County has a link on their site that outlines the laws governing dogs off leash.

Go to <http://sheriff.co.hays.tx.us> and click on Animal Control then County Ordinance for more information. The City of Kyle has Animal Control officers, and may be reached at 512-268-3232.



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At the Fence

SIP AND SEW

Members have suggested “a time out” for our December Sip and Sew! We will look forward to January, 2015 with new projects and friends. Wishing you Happy Holidays!

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=PALLQQVTRKg>

Golfers, did you know?

Plum Creek HOA Residents get a discount at the Plum Creek Golf Course. You need to present your Plum Creek recreational id to receive the discount. Call the golf course at 512-262-5555 for more information.

Street Parking

The streets can easily become crowded with extra vehicles. Please use your driveway and garage for as many vehicles as possible. If you have more than two vehicles and need to park on the street, make sure not to block access to a neighbor's mailbox. Blocking a neighbor's mailbox on a regular basis can prohibit their mail from being delivered regularly. Also, be courteous to neighbors and try not to block the entire front of their house. Your neighbors have friends and family that want to visit them also. Remember to be courteous with your neighbors and feel free to discuss parking issues directly with your neighbors.

Plum Creek office- Closed for Holidays

The Plum Creek HOA office will close at 5 pm on 12/23 and will re-open on Monday December 30th at 9 am. The Plum Creek HOA office will be closed on New Year's Day.

Plum Creek HOA Office Hours:

Monday – Friday 9 am to 5 pm

Office: 512-262-1140

Email: plumcreekmanager@goodwintx.com



JODY CELUM, NEIGHBOR
AND REALTOR

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HELLO, NEIGHBORS!

Volume 1, Issue 1

NOVEMBER

JODY CELUM, NEIGHBOR AND REALTOR

Fun Facts and Great to Knows!

- ◇ *I can save you money if you are ready to list your house and move up/down to your next HOME.*
- ◇ Texas is No.1 in location desirability for job seekers. (Austin Business Journal)
- ◇ You can replace the oil and eggs in a boxed cake mix with a 15oz can of 100% pumpkin.(I have tried it! It is wonderful!)
- ◇ Gnats!!! - put some apple cider vinegar and a few drops of dish soap in a goblet type glass by the kitchen sink. . It draws them in and kills them. Gnats hang out in the p-trap and love this concoction.
- ◇ Portion out and freeze grapes for lunches. They should be thawed, but still cool/cold when lunchtime rolls around.
- ◇ Dryer sheets or dry tea bags in smelly shoes help to make them bearable!
- ◇ Want to do a quick, effective, inexpensive, update to your home? Paint your doorknobs and hinges with an oil rubbed bronze color. BAM! Instant update!
- ◇ Coconut Oil is an amazing moisturizer for your skin and hair!
- ◇ When you need softened butter for a recipe, just grate it while it is still hard, then mix in with the other ingredients. This allows the butter to soften quickly and mixes beautifully.
- ◇ *Of my 20+ years of experience as a Realtor, over 10 have been living in and buying and selling, right here in Plum Creek.*

Pumpkin Dump Cake! Simple, Quick, Amazing!

What you need:

1 Large Can 100% Pure Pumpkin

1 Stick Salted Butter, Melted

1 Box Yellow Cake Mix (I use Sugar Free)

2 C Chopped Pecans

Directions:

Preheat oven to 325F

Butter up a 9x13 pan (glass is prettier)

Dump the pumpkin and spread out evenly

Dump the cake mix evenly over the pumpkin

Sprinkle with pecans

Drizzle the melted butter all over the top of it all!

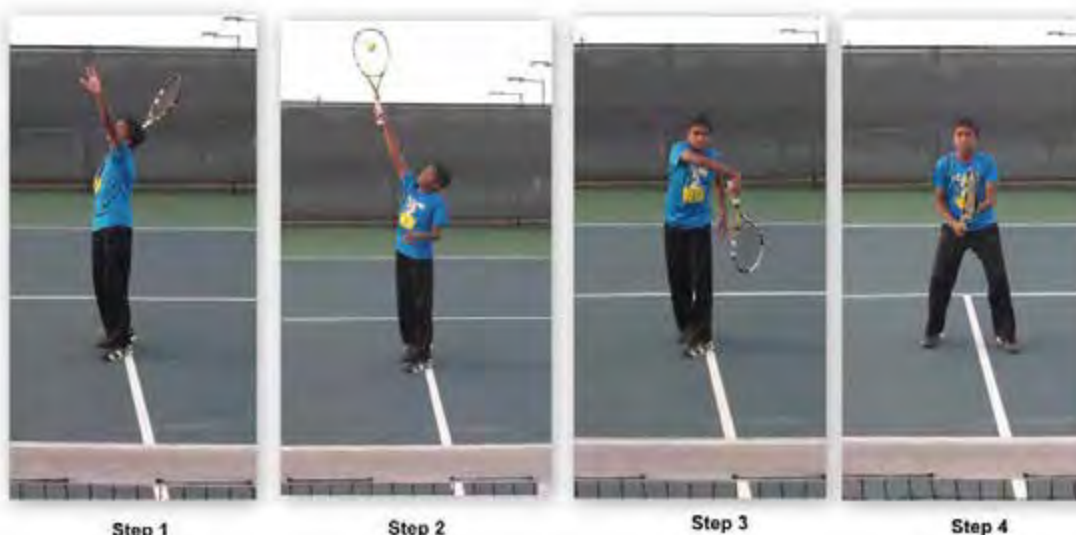
Bake at 325F for 25-30 minutes (depending on your oven)

Do the toothpick trick to check for doneness, let cool, and enjoy!

(Pinterest--lilistyle.com)

TENNIS TIPS

By USPTA/PTR Master Professional
Fernando Velasco



The Modern Game: The Slice Overhead

In previous newsletters, I offered tips on how to execute the basic strokes for players who are just beginning to play tennis or who want to resume playing.

I am now offering suggestions on how to play the “modern” game mostly geared towards players who are content with hitting the ball over the net and controlling the point with consistency. These players may already be playing for leagues or tournaments and are looking for more “weapons” on the court.

In this issue, I will offer instructions on how to execute “The Slice Overhead.” This shot is utilized when an opponent hits a lob that is both high and deep. The player will take the overhead and hit it slightly on the side of the ball forcing the opponent off the court.

In the illustrations, Chaitanya Aduru, one of the top players at the Grey Rock Tennis Academy, shows the proper technique to execute this stroke. Chaitanya is coached by the Director of the Tennis Academy, Darin Pleasant.

Step 1: The Back Swing: When Chaitanya sees the opportunity, he makes a quick turn of his upper body and takes the racket high

and back. The head of the racket is now at shoulder height, his shoulders are turned, and his eyes are focused on the ball. His right wrist is “laid back” to allow maximum for point of contact.

Step 2: The Point of Contact: The success of a slice overhead shot is in keeping the ball on the strings of the racket as long as possible outside of the ball. Chaitanya started the swing high and is allowing the head of the racket to be fully extended. His left shoulder is almost opening and his weight is moving through the shot.

Step 3: The Follow Through: In order to attain maximum control and power, Chaitanya is wrapping the racket around his body. He has “snapped” his right wrist and has the head of the racket facing down. His weight is going forward.

Step 4: The Ready Position: If Chaitanya’s overhead is successful but was not a winner, he now gets ready for the next shot, which probably would be a volley.

Look in the next Newsletter for: “The Modern Game: The Forehand Baseline Drop Shot”



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DUE: December 31st

Be sure to include the following so we can let you know!

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(first name, last initial)

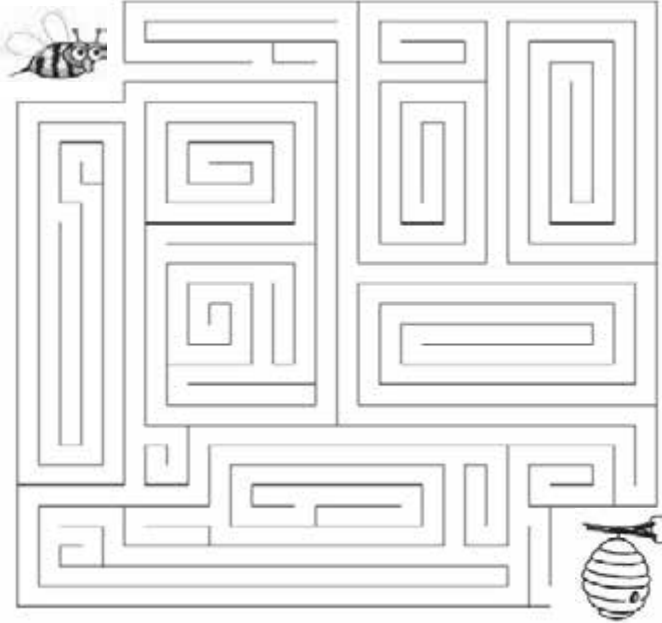
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