



POST

The Official Newsletter of the
Plum Creek Homeowner Association

June 2015
Volume 6, Issue 6

YARD *of the* MONTH

Plum Creek is looking FABULOUS !!!! With all the rain the yards, trees, flowers, just everything is looking beautiful in our neighborhood. To walk the streets and trails is truly enjoyable.

Last month the landscaping committee had quite a job judging the many homes that were nominated for YARD OF THE MONTH. We would love to have that lengthy task again this coming month. Please submit your nominations for June YARD OF THE MONTH to landscape@plumcreektxhoa.com.

Nominate yourself (that is perfectly OK) or your neighbor or just a yard that you pass on your drive through the neighborhood. The winners receive a sign in the yard, a gift card, and recognition in our various publications.

Thanks again for the nominations and for keeping Plum Creek beautiful.

Happy Gardening,
Landscape committee



July 4th POPSICLE RUN

Plum Creek Popsicle Run will include the option to test your skills at 6 functional challenges along the race course. Camp Gladiator Trainers are preparing 3 levels of each exercise so this will be something anyone can do! It's your choice - do all six, do less, or just run, walk, or stroll.

On July 4, this 4-miler event, with optional Camp Gladiator Functional Challenge, will start and finish at Negley Elementary in the Plum Creek neighborhood in Kyle, Texas. Participants will walk or run by and through some of the features of this master-planned development, including the pools, the golf course, the walking trail, the newest section of housing, and the playgrounds.

For added fun, this run will include some functional challenges, at ability-appropriate levels, along the course. Frozen treats will reward the participants at the finish line, provided by Lone Star Delights!

In addition to the four-mile course, there will also be 3K and 1K options, so there is something for everybody in this family-friendly event.

Committee Contacts

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Important Numbers

STREET LIGHTS, ROAD REPAIRS, STREET SIGNS

City of Kyle Public Works Dept 512.262.3024
..... pw@cityofkyle.com

ANIMAL CONTROL

City of Kyle Animal Control 512.268.8800

SOLID WASTE

TDS Customer Care Dept 1.800.375.8375

POWER OUTAGES

PEC 1.888.883.3379

SCHOOLS

Hays CISD 512.268.2141
Negley Elementary 512-268.8501
Barton Middle School 512.268.1472
Hays High School 512.268.2911

DON'T WANT TO WAIT FOR THE MAIL?

View the current issue of the Plum Creek Post
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Active and Current Social Groups in Plum Creek

55+ Line Dancing

Meets at various times throughout the year in the community center. If interested, please contact Suzanne Parr at landscape@plumcreektxhoa.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

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 Iris Sandle (512.405.0054), or Sandra Sigler (512.405.0187).

Photography Club

Times vary based upon community center availability. If interested, you can review the Plum Creek Photography Club facebook page for upcoming meeting dates: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/334895980001792/>

The recreation committee is seeking individuals interested in hosting other social groups at the community center:

Scrapbooking

Toddler Time

Bingo

Pickle Ball

Homeschool PE

PC Pinterest Club

If you are interested in starting any of these groups or have an idea to start another group email Brandee Otto at brandeelotto@yahoo.com.



BURGLARY PREVENTION TIPS

1. Sometimes, I carry a clipboard. Sometimes, I dress like a lawn guy and carry a rake. I do my best to never, ever look like a crook.

2. The two things I hate most: loud dogs and nosy neighbors.

3. I'll break a window to get in, even if it makes a little noise. If your neighbor hears one loud sound, he'll stop what he's doing and wait to hear it again. If he doesn't hear it again, he'll just go back to what he was doing. It's human nature.

4. I'm not complaining, but why would you pay all that money for a fancy alarm system and leave your house without setting it?

5. I love looking in your windows. I'm looking for signs that you're home, and for flat screen TVs or gaming systems I'd like. I'll drive or walk through your neighborhood at night, before you close the blinds, just to pick my targets.

6. Avoid announcing your vacation on your Facebook page. It's easier than you think to look up your address. Parents: caution your kids about this. You see this every day.

7. To you, leaving that window open just a crack during the day is a way to let in a little fresh air. To me, it's an invitation.

8. If you don't answer when I knock, I try the door. Occasionally, I hit the jackpot and walk right in.

Sources: Convicted burglars in North Carolina, Oregon, California, and Kentucky; security consultant Chris McGoe, who runs <http://www.crimedocto.com/> and Richard T. Wright, a criminology professor at the University of Missouri-St Louis, who interviewed 105 burglars for his book Burglars on the Job.

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GO PAPERLESS



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PLUM CREEK POST

From the Landscaping Committee: XERISCAPING!

If you are still pondering what to do with your yard, please consider XERISCAPING. No we do not mean all cactus, rocks, and cattle skulls. That is not xeriscaping. According to Dr. Welch from Texas A&M University, xeriscaping is a quality landscape that has proportional balance of 1/3 plantings, 1/3 lawn, and 1/3 hardscape (decks, patios, sidewalks). You can see quality landscapes (i.e. XERISCAPED) in magazines such as Southern Living and Better Homes & Gardens. There are many yards in Plum Creek that are xeriscaped according to Dr. Welch's definition. With his definition in mind, you can have a beautiful landscape and also save time and conserve water. It is never too late to start saving water and doing our part to preserve our planet. Happy Gardening!!!!

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

Here are some Pearls of Wisdom from the Community Associations Institute:

- Curb thy dog
- Keep music at reasonable volumes.
- Do not block your neighbor's driveway or mailbox.
- Don't be a six-car family.
- Take care of your property.
- Help form a neighborhood watch.
- Share a smile with a neighbor.
- Offer to lend a hand.
- Welcome new neighbors to the community.
- Nurture relationships.
- Talk about problems. Direct conversation is more effective than sending a letter.

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Tree Trimming

Trees are one of the many things that make Plum Creek such a wonderful place to live.

The street trees and yard trees planted throughout Plum Creek reduce home cooling costs by providing shade. They cool the ambient air temperature by providing shade to the sidewalks and streets, which absorb sunlight and continue to radiate heat during the night. Trees reduce storm water runoff, store carbon, and improve air quality by releasing oxygen and filtering the air. Additionally, the trees make walking in Plum Creek cooler and safer by creating a physical barrier between pedestrians and cars and improve our quality of life.

However, these wonderful trees with all of their benefits need our regular attention and

care. Many of the trees need to be trimmed to prevent damage to persons or vehicles that traverse the sidewalks and streets. Please prune any and all of the trees in the planting strip or yard that are encroaching on these areas. It is requested that these trees be trimmed up to allow seven (7) feet of clearance over the sidewalk and fourteen (14) feet over the street. Remove dead trees and limbs on a regular basis. Unmaintained trees and limbs can lead to a deed restriction violation which may result in a \$25 fine until the violation is corrected.

With everyone taking care of their trees, Plum Creek will continue to be a place where people want to call it home. Thanks so much!



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Sun Smart Tips

Enjoy the Outdoors!

Be sun-smart!

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

- Limit sun 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.



AT THE FENCE

SIP AND SEW ON JUNE 9TH

Sip & Sew returns to the community center in June. Do you have a project that you might need a little guidance? Or, just want to get ideas....or, perhaps learn needlepoint, crochet, knitting? The large table at the group is filled with talented individuals knitting, crocheting, needlepoint, rug hooking, mending and every month we are encouraged with some "new project" a member has brought to share. Come join a fun talented group who are willing to share their talents. We meet the second Tuesday of the month, June 9th, 6:30-PM – 8:30 PM returning to the community center. If you have questions or need additional information, please call Iris Sandle – 512-405-0054 or Sandra Sigler – 512-405-0187

4TH OF JULY PARADE AND PICNIC

Plum Creek Annual Fourth of July Celebration on Saturday, July 4th!

Hosted by the Recreation Committee

Come out for our annual 4th of July Parade and Picnic! The fun happens on Saturday, July 4th from 10:00 am to Noon.

The parade will start promptly at 10 Am on the corner of Witte and Negley and continue down Witte to McNaughton Park with the picnic to follow. Bring the whole family and enjoy the fun. Volunteers needed to help cook and serve. Contact Brandee Otto at brandeelotto@yahoo.com or 512-557-2728.

PARKING ON PUBLIC STREETS

Parking on the public street is allowed. To reduce congestion, we encourage residents to park in their garages and driveways. If you have to park on the street, try not to block your neighbor's driveway, mailbox or sight distance at an intersection.

Speed limit on the neighborhood streets: 25 MPH

Reduce your speed to watch for children and for oncoming traffic.



SEND US YOUR *Event Pictures!!*

Do you have a picture of an event that you would like to run in this newsletter? Send it to us and we will publish it in the next issue. Email the picture to announcements@plumcreektxhoa.com. Be sure to include the text that you would like to have as the caption. Pictures will appear in color online at www.PEELinc.com.



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The goal is to fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Each digit may appear only once in each row, each column, and each 3x3 box.



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FOUR-LINED PLANT BUGS



Four-lined plant bugs are brightly colored. Nymphs (immatures) are red while older nymphs start to have wing pads with yellow and black stripes. Adults have fully developed wings that are yellow and black striped. Adults look similar to, and may be mistaken for, striped cucumber beetles.

These insects have piercing-sucking mouthparts which they use to suck out plant juices. The plant bugs suck out chlorophyll and leave a "window" between the upper and lower epidermis of the leaf. Damage appears as white, dark or translucent spots of foliage and is sometimes mistaken for fungal damage. Feeding may also cause curling and browning. Fortunately, damage is mostly cosmetic, but if you are trying to eat the foliage of the damaged plant it may become a problem.

The insects feed on a wide variety of hosts, including fruits and vegetables, annuals and perennials and woody plants. When disturbed, the insects are fairly good at hiding. They either crawl to the underside of the leaves or drop to the ground to hide among foliage.

If you feel the need to manage these insects, try insecticidal soap. If that doesn't work, you can try azadirachtin (neem- concentrate, not oil; it's getting too hot to use oil formulations) or pyrethrins. If that doesn't work then try a residual contact product.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com.

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TENNIS

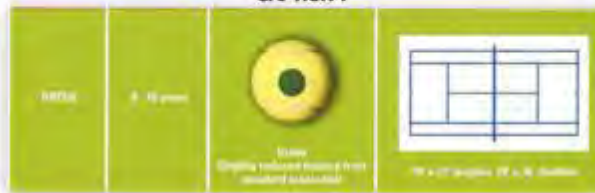


By USPTA/PTR Master Professional
Fernando Velasco

TIPS



CAPTION 1



CAPTION 2



CAPTION 3

“Tennis for Children 9-10 years old and under – Green Ball”

This series of Tennis Tips are focused on how to involve children of all ages learning to play tennis and offering tips to the parents on how to assist at home. In the last issue I offered advice for children 9-10 years old and under playing with the softer orange ball and on a 60' foot court. This issue, will focus on children 9 and 10 years old and under playing with the green soft ball and on a 78' foot regular size court.

Caption 1: Tennis Racket and balls: The children should be using rackets ranging in length from 25” to 27” long along with the green ball. These longer, lighter rackets and bouncier balls will make it easier for the child to control the swing and the point of contact with the ball. The appropriate racket to use will depend on the height of the child. Balls will bounce from 47” to 53”, which is within the comfort zone for most children of that age.

Caption 2: Tennis Court: For those players ready to cover the regular size court, they will now be playing on a 78’ x 36’ tennis court. Lines are now painted regular white making it much easier to see the ball landing, especially while the opponents are serving. Players need to be physically ready to cover the entire court.

Caption 3: Make Tennis Your Kid’s New Pick-Up Game: Just like any other sport or skill, repetition is the key to learning. Once basic skills are learned the child will:

- Receive Mind and Body Workout

- Develop Confidence and Character
- Encourage Self-Control and Discipline
- Improve Fitness and Focus
- Offer Both Individual and Team Play
- Encourage Cross-Training and Low Rate of Injury
- Teach Problem Solving and Sportsmanship

Children at this age are already playing points and are given tips on how to hit groundstrokes, volleys and serves with control. The USTA provides tournaments and leagues for children 10 and under using the green ball on the 78’ courts. Matches are normally 4 game sets and they are encouraged to play round robins and/or consolation rounds.

Tips to parents:

- Take your child to a tennis court and encourage them to drop the ball and hit it on their own.
- Afterwards, feed the green balls from your own service line to them standing on the opposite service line. Feed the ball softly and with control. Make them move very slowly and with body control.
- Have them stand on their base line and feed balls next to them. Later move to the service line and once successful, move to the opposite side of the net.

Look in the next Newsletter for: “Tips for children 11 years old and older – Yellow Ball”. For more information about our programs and club information, you can visit us at www.greyyrocktennis.com or call us at 512-301-8685.

June 2015

If you know or hear of a friend, relative, or coworker that is thinking of buying or selling a home, please share my contact information. I would love to provide them with excellent client care.

Jody



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~Red Adair

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Notable Quotes, Fun Facts, and Great to Knows!

- ◇ **Brighten up your curb appeal! Spray paint your old flower pots with bright colors and freshen up your mulch!**
- ◇ Mosquitoes hate fresh Rosemary, Lavender, and Basil
- ◇ **Get creative with containers for gardening! Old wheel barrows, wine barrels cut in half, tires, wagons, and antique wash tubs are all fun ideas!**
- ◇ **I AM NEVER TOO BUSY FOR YOUR REFERRALS!**
- ◇ HOPE anchors the soul." ~Hebrews 6:19
- ◇ **I can save you money if you are ready to list your house and move on to your next HOME.**
- ◇ "Why fit in when you were born to stand out?" ~Dr. Seuss
- ◇ **I am happy to answer your Real Estate Questions.**
- ◇ **Of my 20+ years of experience as a Realtor, over 10 have been living in and buying and selling, right here in Plum Creek.**
- ◇ **Lowe's has a plant clearance sale area! Great deals!**
- ◇ The Summer market is here! If you are thinking of buying or selling a home, now is the time! Call me! 512-771-7037 jody@homecity.com



Baked Parmesan Zucchini Rounds

What you need:

- ◇ 2 medium-sized zucchini
- ◇ 1/2 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese
- ◇ Garlic salt & freshly ground black pepper, optional
- ◇ Place oven rack in center position of oven. Preheat to 425°F. Line a baking sheet with foil (lightly misted with cooking spray) OR parchment paper.
- ◇ Wash and dry zucchini, and cut into 1/4-inch thick slices. Arrange zucchini rounds on prepared pan, with little to no space between them.
- ◇ Lightly sprinkle zucchini with garlic salt and freshly ground black pepper.
- ◇ Use a small spoon to spread a thin layer of Parmesan cheese on each slice of zucchini. Bake for 15 to 20 minutes, or until Parmesan turns a light golden brown. (Watch these closely the first time you make them and pull them out of the oven early if the Parmesan is golden before 15 minutes!) Serve immediately.

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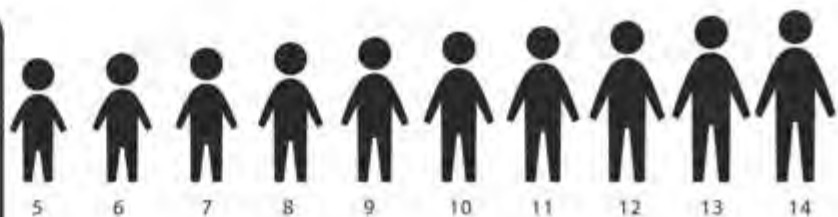
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13 Texas children have already lost their lives to drowning in 2015

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