



The Official Newsletter of the Plum Creek Homeowner Association November 2015 Volume 6, Issue 11



Turkeys Tackling Hunger

October 1st – December 31st At Hays County Food Bank 220 Herndon Street San Marcos, TX 78666 http:// turkeystacklinghunger.org/

You can help families throughout Hays County enjoy the comfort and tradition of a Thanksgiving meal by taking a few hours this holiday season to help spread the word about Turkeys Tackling Hunger. Share your good fortune and help others by putting up posters, coordinating a fund drive at your office, or even donning a turkey suit for special events. For every \$30 that you raise, a family enjoys a home-cooked Thanksgiving dinner! Call 512-392-8300 or email Melissa Reed at mreed@haysfoodbank.org to get started!

Judging for the Lights Contest Begins in 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 go let your imagination go wild! This category accepts all of the rest! Once again, you can receive 1st, 2nd, or 3rd.

Judging begins the first Sunday of December and continues through the entire week.

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 entire week (starting the first Sunday in December) so everyone please have all your beautiful lights shining and lighting up Plum Creek that week.



Committee Contacts

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PLUM CREEK HOA WEBSITE:www.plumcreektxhoa.com

Important Numbers

Newsletter Info

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Plum Creek Welcome Committee News

The Plum Creek Welcome Committee will meet Monday November 16th at 6:30 PM at 1143 Sanders, (the home of Arcelia and Gary Gibbs). Any resident is welcome to attend. We are always looking for new volunteers.

The Plum Creek Welcome Committee greets new neighbors moving into Plum Creek. We give every new resident a Plum Creek tote bag, which contains a Plum Creek HOA Welcome Packet, a Kyle Chamber of Commerce Guidebook, and a variety of items from local area businesses. Some of our volunteers also solicit local businesses for the promotional items to be included in the tote bags.

Community Association Living: Avoiding Conflicts with Neighbors

Community association living often means lots of people are living in close proximity. Sometimes dealing with them can lead to conflict. Communication is often the best way to prevent and resolve conflict before it reaches the legal system. You don't have to be friends or spend time together to achieve peaceful coexistence, but you should try to be a good neighbor and follow these tips:

- Say hello. At the mailbox, while walking the dog or when you see a moving van arrive, introduce yourself. Learn your neighbors' name and regularly offer a friendly greeting.
- Provide a heads up. If you are planning a construction project, altering your landscaping or hosting a party, notify your neighbors ahead of time.
- Do unto others. Treat neighbors as you would like to be treated. Be considerate about noise, vehicles, pets, etc.
- Know your differences. Make an effort to understand the other person. Differences in age, ethnic background and years in the neighborhood can lead to different expectations or misunderstandings.
- Consider the view. Keep your property looking good.
- Appreciate them. If the neighbors do something you like, let them know. They'll be pleased you noticed, and it will be easier to talk later if they do something you don't like.
- Stay positive. Most people don't try to create problems. If a neighbor does something that irritates you, don't assume it was deliberate.
- Talk honestly. Tolerance is important, but don't let a real irritation go because it seems unimportant or hard to discuss.
- Be respectful. Talk directly to your neighbors if there is a problem. Gossiping with others can damage relationships and create trouble.
- Remain calm. If a neighbor mentions a problem they have with you, thank them for the input. You don't have to agree or justify your behavior. Wait for strong emotions to subside before responding.
- Listen carefully. When discussing a problem, try to understand your neighbor's point of view and feelings.

Take your time. Take a break to think about what you and your neighbor have discussed. Arrange to finish the conversation another time.

Hays County Brown Santa

Brown Santa is an annual event hosted by the Hays County Sheriff's Office to collect toys, food, and funds for families of Hays County that are in need. With the assistance of deputies, correction officers, dispatchers, and the community typically reaches out to touch the lives of hundreds of families. The program is similar to the city police department Blue Santa programs. The brown color is the historical uniform color of most Texas sheriff's offices. Brown Santa operations begin in November, and culminate in the delivery of Christmas presents and food just prior to Christmas. If you wish to volunteer or for more information, call 512-393-7877 or email Lt. Dennis Gutierrez at dg1203@co.hays.tx.us.



Description: The position includes marketing our community newsletters to local and area businesses. It is a flexible position that allows you to work from home and set your own hours.

Roles: Stimulate new advertising accounts in our community newsletters. Maintain current accounts assigned to you by Sales Manager. Service your accounts by assisting them from ad design to final proof approval.

Skills: Excellent communication through email and phone, with high level presentation and relationship-building skills. Strong prospecting and business development skills are a must. Previous sales experience preferred but not required.

Benefits: Commission Based Apply by sending resume to jobs@peelinc.com



PLUM CREEK POST

AT THE FENCE

SIP AND SEW ... FERGUS COMMUNITY CENTER Sip and Sew

November is a great time to finish projects....or think about learning to knit, crochet, punch needle, rug hooking, needlepoint. You name the craft and we have a teacher....or, just come and complete the item you are working with! We have a group of talented individualsenjoying their love of "hand crafts". We meet the second Tuesday of the month, November 10th at the Fergus Community Center.....6:30-8:45 PM. For answers to questions....please call....Iris Sandle – 405=0054 or Sandra Sigler – 405-0187. Come, Sip and Sew

Safety Committee Meeting

The Safety Committee will not meet in November. We invite all members to attend the November 19 Plum Creek HOA Board of Directors meeting at 6pm at Plum Creek Office.

Thank you to all the HOA Neighborhood Watch Block Captains who

assisted with the October 6 National Night Out parties at Haupt, Kirby, Decker, and McNaughton Parks. Over 300 families attended. HEB gift cards totalling \$300 were won by participants.

The next Safety Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, December 17 at 6:30 at the Haupt/Fergus Community Center. Please bring your completed Neighborhood Watch Observation forms to turn in and your Block Captain's Handbook. Handbook's will be available to new members who attend the meeting.

Walking Trails

Motorized vehicles are not allowed on the walking trails around the lake. Only pedestrian and bicycles traffic only. Motorized vehicles damage the trails and are dangerous for pedestrians.

Board Meeting

The next scheduled board meeting is November 19, 2015 at 6 pm at the Plum Creek HOA office.

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Street Addresses Needed In Alleys

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

Alley address numbers will help emergency services locate your house faster.

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

The HOA also encourages residents, in the older sections of Plum Creek, to add alley address numbers to reduce the number of incorrect notices of violations. Property inspections in the alleys lead to incorrectly identified addresses without alley address numbers.

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.

Thank you for your assistance! If you have any questions, please contact the Plum Creek HOA office: plumcreekmanager@goodwintx.com







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PLUM CREEK POST

HOME SAFETY 101

Our homes can never be 100% safe. What can we do? We can make our house less appealing to burglars. We can slow down criminals. Here are some common sense security tips:

- Lock all doors, windows and gates! Make sure your locks are the right type for the door placement. Lock all windows. If you have a back gate, put a lock on it!
- Keep your garage door closed! Light up your property! Put up motion detector lights around your front and rear doors. Make sure your back yard is well lit at night.
- Neighbors can work together to watch the alley during the day and night.
- · Deliveries: Ask the bottled water delivery driver to place the

bottled water behind a bush. If you are going out of town and expecting a delivery, ask a neighbor or friend to stop by and pick it up for you.

- Keep shrubbery trimmed back. Keep all your trees trimmed up 7 feet off the ground. You want to prevent areas for someone to hide.
- Alarm Signs: Put the alarm sign where everyone else can see them. People walking to the front door should notice the sign without searching.

For more common sense security tips log onto the Plum Creek website: www.plumcreektxhoa.com and select the Documents link. Select the Common Sense Security in the Choose a Category box.





Plum Creek Covenants for the benefit of the Community:

Pertinent covenants are offered below, and it is in everyone's best interest to abide by them.

They are designed to protect your property values and make Plum Creek a better place to call home.

Thanks so much for your time and your understanding.

- 3.27 Maintenance of Lawns and Planting states, in part, the following:
- "Each Owner shall keep all shrubs, trees, grass and plantings of every kind on such Owner's Lot (including any Greenbelt platted as a part of such Owner's Lot and any Greenbelt located between such Owner's Lot and a publicly dedicated roadway) cultivated, watered, pruned, mowed, and free of trash and other unsightly material"
- "In addition, each Owner shall keep all shrubs, trees, grass and plantings of every kind located in Planting Strip in front of or behind such Owner's Lot cultivated, watered, pruned, mowed and free of trash and other unsightly material."
- 3.22 Unsightly Articles states, in part, the following: "no lumber, grass, plant waste, shrub or tree clippings, metals, bulk materials or scrap or refuse or trash shall be kept, stored, or allowed to accumulate on any portion of the property"
- 3.24 Animals Household Pets states, in part the following: "No animal shall be allowed to run at large and all animals shall be kept within enclosed areas which must be clean, sanitary and reasonably free of refuse, insects, and waste at all times"



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PLUM CREEK POST Mealybugs



Mealybugs are pests of landscape plants and houseplants. They are often active during times of warm, dry weather, but can also become a

problem indoors at any time of year. Infestations usually start at the base of stems and then spread from there as populations increase.

Mealybugs are a type of unarmored scale insect. They are sexually dimorphic (males & females look different). Males have wings while females remain wingless and nymph-like throughout their life. Females are oval, soft-bodied and covered with a white waxy powder.

These insects have piercing-sucking mouthparts which they use to penetrate plant tissue and suck out juices. This can lead to chlorosis (yellowing of the plant), wilting and distortion. With larger infestations, the insects may cause stunted growth, premature leaf drop or death of the plant. Mealybugs are also known for secreting honeydew, a sweet, sticky substance on which a fungus called *sooty mold may grow.

*Sooty mold is a fungus that grows on honeydew excretions. Sooty mold can indirectly harm the plant by covering plant surfaces and reducing the amount of sunlight that reaches plant tissues, resulting in reduction of photosynthesis.

Since all but male mealybugs are wingless, adult females have to be placed near a host plant for them to infest it. They can crawl short distances to plants. Immatures can be blown to new locations by the wind, move by water or be transported by animals.

Tips for mealybug management:

- Conserve beneficial insects; there are many insects that will feed on mealybugs or parasitize them
- **Use high pressure water sprays to dislodge the insects from the plant
- **Insecticidal soap
- **Horticultural oils
- **Insecticides labeled for mealybug control
- For severely infested plants, it may be best to throw the plant away and buy a new one

**If treating houseplants, move plants outside during treatment then move back inside once treatment has dried.

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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THINGS YOUR BURGLAR WON'T TELL YOU:

_Of course I look familiar. I was just here last week cleaning your carpets, painting your shutters, or delivering your new refrigerator.

_Hey, thanks for letting me use the bathroom when I was working in your yard last week. While I was there, I unlatched the back window to make my return a little easier.

_Love those flowers. That tells me you have taste...and taste means there are nice things inside. Those yard toys your kids leave out always make me wonder what type of gaming system they have.

_Yes, I really do look for newspapers piled up on the driveway. And, I might leave a pizza flyer on your front door to see how long it takes you to remove it.

_If decorative glass if part of your front entrance, don't let your alarm company install the control pad where I can see if it's set. That makes it too easy.

_A good security company alarms the window over the sink. It also includes the windows on the second floor, which often access the master bedroom (and your jewelry). It's not a bad idea to put motion detectors up there too.

_It's raining, you're fumbling with your umbrella and you forget to lock your door.... understandable. But, understand this: I don't take a day off because of bad weather.

_I always knock first. If you answer, I'll ask for directions somewhere or offer to clean your gutters. Don't take me up on it!

_Do you really think I won't look in your sock drawer? I always check dresser drawers, the bedside table and the medicine cabinet.

_You're right – I may not have enough time to break into that safe where you keep your valuables. But if it's not bolted down, I'll take it with me!

_A loud TV or radio can be a better deterrent than the best alarm system. If you're reluctant to leave your TV on while out of town, search the internet for a device that works on a timer and simulates the flickering glow of a real television.



Adding Yoga to Workout Regime Can Improve Health

Implementing yoga into a workout routine can provide unique health benefits, said a Baylor College of Medicine physician and yoga enthusiast.

Yoga is a broad philosophy containing many different paths to achieve the goal of physical, mental and spiritual well-being,said Dr. Bobby Kapur, assistant professor of medicine at BCM and associate chief for emergency medicine at the Harris County Hospital District's Ben Taub General Hospital. In physical fitness, yoga is the practice of physical postures and breathing exercises that allow a person to strengthen the body and at the same time enter a meditative and relaxed state of awareness.

Yoga entails various positions, stretching and deep breathing. Practicing yoga can help a person improve flexibility, balance, limberness, blood circulation, and it can also relax muscle tension and fight infection, Kapur said.



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