



# POST

The Official Newsletter of the  
Plum Creek Homeowner Association

December 2015  
Volume 6, Issue 12



## Santa Claus is Coming to Plum Creek

**Saturday, December 5th from 9AM to 1PM**

Don't fight the lines at the mall for Santa pictures. Come by the Haupt Community Center on Saturday, December 5th 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 9am to 1pm.

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.

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.

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 [brandeeotto@yahoo.com](mailto:brandeeotto@yahoo.com). See you and Santa on December 5th from 9AM to 1PM!!!



## 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](mailto: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

### PLUM CREEK HOA MANAGER

Kristi Morrison ..... [plumcreekmanager@goodwintx.com](mailto:plumcreekmanager@goodwintx.com)

### PLUM CREEK POST AND WEEKLY ENEWS

Adriane Carbajal ..... [announcements@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:announcements@plumcreektxhoa.com)

### COMMUNITY CENTER RESERVATION QUESTIONS

Adriane Carbajal ..... [reservations@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:reservations@plumcreektxhoa.com)

### DOG PARK COMMITTEE

Sandy Stevens ..... [dogpark@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:dogpark@plumcreektxhoa.com)

### LAKE COMMITTEE

OPEN ..... [lake@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:lake@plumcreektxhoa.com)

### LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE

Sandra Gonzales ..... [landscape@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:landscape@plumcreektxhoa.com)

### POOL COMMITTEE

Scott Brown ..... [pool@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:pool@plumcreektxhoa.com)

### RECREATION COMMITTEE

Brandee Otto ..... [recreation@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:recreation@plumcreektxhoa.com)

### SAFETY & MONITORING COMMITTEE

Carol Peters ..... [safety@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:safety@plumcreektxhoa.com)

### WELCOME COMMITTEE

Arcelia and Gary Gibbs .....  
..... [welcome@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:welcome@plumcreektxhoa.com)

HOA OFFICE PHONE ..... 512.262.1140

PLUM CREEK HOA WEBSITE: [www.plumcreektxhoa.com](http://www.plumcreektxhoa.com)

## Important Numbers

### STREET LIGHTS, ROAD REPAIRS, STREET SIGNS

City of Kyle Public Works Dept. .... 512.262.3024  
..... [pw@cityofkyle.com](mailto: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

## Newsletter Info

### PUBLISHER

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## Volunteer for an Association Committee

Committees are an important part of association operations, providing valuable advice to the board. The association just would not be what it is without our active and effective committees. They deserve our sincerest thanks.

To be successful, our association needs fresh ideas and additional resident involvement in our committees; so we'd like your help on one of our committees.

Committees give the board a way to gather information, offer new ideas and opinions and provide a training ground for future board members. All committees are advisory unless given specific decision-making authority by the board or CC&Rs.

The board provides each committee with a job description, goals, and mission statement to help it succeed as a community resource.

Our association can have several types of committees:

- Administrative committees, like the architectural review committee, are set out in the association's bylaws and

CC&Rs. This is ongoing and permanent, often having clearly defined power and authority.

- Standing committees, such as the landscaping, welcome, safety, pool, dog park, and recreation committees, are established by the board for an ongoing and specific purpose.
- Ad-hoc committees, are established by the board for specific projects or tasks. When the task is complete, the committee is disbanded.

So if you're thinking about running for the board, but first want to learn a little more about association operations, or if you'd like to contribute to your community or just want to get out and meet neighbors, volunteer for a committee. Contact information for committee chairs is listed in the monthly newsletter or on the Plum Creek resident website under the Board/Executive Committee menu link: [www.plumcreektxhoa.com](http://www.plumcreektxhoa.com)

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# Nine Great Benefits of HOAs

Texas Community Association Advocates created a list of Nine Great Benefits of HOAs

1. HOAs preserve the nature of the community and protect property values by delivering services and providing a safe, well-maintained living environment.
2. HOA regulations are another layer of protection against neighborhood degradation, and an effective means to maintain community standards and protect property values.
3. HOAs lessen the need for local government oversight of housing conditions. Most municipalities are not equipped- i.e. do not have the manpower- to monitor housing.
4. HOA leaders live in their communities and better understand the needs of the community, from the delivery of core services, such as waste collection, to amenities and decisions affecting the future of the community.
5. HOAs promote a higher level of civic involvement than municipalities, in terms of voting, meeting attendance and volunteerism.

6. By definition, planned communities offer a more efficient use of land to address the growing issue of urban sprawl associated with unplanned development.
7. Land-use efficiencies can make homes more affordable, a benefit for first-time home buyers, retirees and low-and moderate-income families.
8. Many HOAs maintain swimming pools, tennis courts, playgrounds and other amenities that most Americans cannot afford on their own.
9. Associations offer a sense of community, an important contribution in an increasingly transient society.

Living in a community association encourages all members to work for common goals of maintaining the community. If you want to find out more about how a community association works you can visit the following websites:

Community Associations Institute [www.caionline.org](http://www.caionline.org)  
Texas Community Association Advocates [www.txcommunityassociationadvocates.org](http://www.txcommunityassociationadvocates.org)

*Submitted by Adriane Carbajal*

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# Brands of Hays County



From right to left: Michaelis, Negley Family, Johnson Family, Bunton family, Word family, Jesse Falcon family

View brands of Hays County on the Kyle Parkway Bridge over IH-35. For more information about the history of Hays County visit the Hays Historical Commission website: <http://www.hayshistoricalcommission.com/>



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## At the Fence

### Safety Committee Meeting

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. Handbooks will be available to new members who attend the meeting.

### Bulky and Brush Pick-Up

Another part of the expanded residential service is large bulk and brush collection. Kyle residents can contact TDS once per year to have items such as furniture, appliances or bundled brush of up to 3 cubic yards (approximately the size of a washer and dryer) picked up at no additional charge.

Questions regarding the program can be directed to TDS Customer Care at 1-800-375-8375 or visit the website: <http://www.texasdisposal.com/>

### Plum Creek Welcome Committee News

The Plum Creek Welcome Committee will meet Monday December 14th 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.

### SIP AND SEW

Enjoy the holidays! We will not meet in December, but hope you find time to curl up in a chair by a warm fire and knit, crochet, etc. We will look forward to January with new projects to start and encourage others to join our group and learn to sew, knit, crochet, rug hooking, punch needle. You name it and we have talented individuals ready to share their talent. See you in January! Again, the Fergus Community Center, second Tuesday of the month.....6:30-8:45 PM. Wishing you Joyous Holidays!

## Seven Principles of Drought Tolerant Xeriscape

1. Planning and Design- develop a plan. Consider how your property is shaped and formed. Determine what areas, if any are sloped; what areas get too much sun or not enough; what trees and plants already exist that can be used; what type of soil do you have; are there any other constraints?
2. Improving Soil- the type of soil a location has can vary within a given site and is crucial to know when determining planting locations and watering needs.
3. Plant Selection- for best results select drought resistant plants that are native to your region. See the Plum Creek Landscape Template for approved plants to install in Plum Creek.
4. Efficient Irrigation- low pressure, low- angle sprinklers are best used to irrigate turf areas. Drip, micro-spray or bubbler emitters are most efficient for watering trees, shrubs, flowers and groundcovers.
5. Mulch- mulch is your landscape's best friend. It helps to maintain the soil's temperature, keeping it cooler, while reducing evaporation and preventing erosion. Mulch also reduces the amount of weeds growing in beds.
6. Practical Turf Selection- turf plays an important part in a landscape design but in order to be a viable option, it needs to be well thought out. Approved turf options for Plum Creek are Bermuda, Zoysia and Buffalo as approved by the City of Kyle.
7. Maintenance- During the first two years, a fair amount of weeding may be needed, but once established, drought tolerant landscapes require significantly less maintenance time than regular landscapes.

*By Tony Tucker, Resource Conservation Representative with New Braunfels Utilities*



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# TexPTS South Austin announces new **Clinic Director**

## **Justin Simon, PT, DPT, OCS**

is a Board Certified Orthopaedic Clinical Specialist. Dr. Simon graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Health and Human Performance from Montana State University of Billings in 2010. He went on to receive a Doctorate in Physical Therapy from the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, WA in 2013. He then moved to Texas in 2013 to pursue Residency training in Orthopedics through Evidence in Motion and graduated in the spring of 2015. Justin and his wife continue to live in San Marcos, where they met. They spend their free time around the San Marcos river, love biking and hiking in the hot Texas summers and are both heavily involved with their church with the children's ministry and with the band. Justin plans to continue in the educational realm by educating and mentoring young physical therapists and doctoral interns.



## **Dr Simon is joined in practice by Peyton Sykes, PT, DPT.**

Dr. Sykes completed his Bachelors in Kinesiology at Stephen F. Austin State University. He received his Doctorate of Physical Therapy (DPT) from University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences in Austin, Texas. As part of the first class to complete the DPT program at this campus, he was asked to deliver the Student Commencement Speech at graduation. Throughout the course of the program, he also participated in two orthopaedic clinical internships. Dr. Sykes is currently completing his orthopaedic physical therapy residency.

He enjoys treating patients with all types of orthopedic conditions, ranging from high school athletes to retirees looking to get back to enjoying their lives and activities at the most optimal level.

Dr. Sykes is a Southeast Texas native and moved to Austin in 2009. He enjoys staying active, outdoor activities, and performing as a singer/songwriter in his spare time.



### **TexPTS South Austin is located at:**

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## Deed Restriction Enforcement-Trash Cans

The Plum Creek DCCR's are in place to maintain the appearance of the neighborhood and to protect property values. One area of compliance to the DCCR's that goes a long way to keeping the community an attractive place to live relates to trash and recycling receptacles.

Article 3.13 of the DCCR's discusses trash and the storage of trash receptacles:

Many owners are already keeping compliance with this restriction; however, there are a significant number of owners storing their trash and recycling receptacles in their driveway against the garage, at the street in the alleyway, or on the side of the house, visible from the street. While these storage locations may be convenient, they unfortunately do not comply with the requirement that receptacles be appropriately screened

from view.

Acceptable areas of storage for trash and recycling receptacles include inside the garage or behind the fenced area of each yard or garage. Trash can screens that stake into the ground are acceptable. These should match the color of the fence in your area. In addition, receptacles should be taken to the curb the evening before trash pickup (Tuesdays) and should be returned to their storage location the evening following trash pickup.

If you have questions regarding the enforcement of Article 3.13, please contact Kristi Morrison, property manager, at 512-262-1140 or [plumcreekmanager@goodwintx.com](mailto:plumcreekmanager@goodwintx.com).

The Board, management company, and your neighbors thank you for your compliance!



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## Come By and Grab a Cake

### When:

First Thursday of Each Month

5pm-7pm

### Photos with Santa

### When:

December 13th From 2-5pm

### Where:

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Downtown Buda

December 22nd-January 5th

Winter Break

NO School!

January 19th

Student and Staff Holiday

MLK Day

NO School!



*Jody Celam, Realtor/Neighbor:*

*512-771-7037*



*Megan and Jesse Miller, Realtors/Neighbors: 512-954-0616*



*Amanda Rickman, Realtor/Neighbor:*

*512-557-2358*

## Creamy Corn Cassarole

### Ingredients:

- ◇ 1 Can regular corn
- ◇ 1 Can cream style corn
- ◇ 1 Stick of butter melted
- ◇ 2 Eggs slightly beaten
- ◇ 1 C sour Cream
- ◇ 1 Box Jiffy corn muffin mix
- ◇ 1/2 t each salt and pepper
- ◇ 2 C shredded Swiss cheese save 1/4 cup to sprinkle on top

### Directions:

- ◇ Heat oven to 350 degrees,
- ◇ Spray a soufflé dish with non-stick spray
- ◇ Mix all of the ingredients together
- ◇ Pour mixture into the prepared baking dish
- ◇ Cover with foil and bake for 30 minutes
- ◇ Remove foil and bake for 30 minutes longer
- ◇ Sprinkle the remaining cheese on top
- ◇ Bake for 10 more minutes
- ◇ ENJOY!!!

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

# PLUM CREEK POST

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## Please Trim Those Trees! Winter is the Perfect Time!

Due to safety concerns, the HOA is evaluating street and yard trees that encroach on the sidewalk and streets. Since these trees belong to the homeowner, we want to provide residents with the opportunity to prune their own trees. The HOA requests that you prune your trees seven (7) feet above the sidewalk to prevent injury and fourteen (14) feet to prevent damage to emergency vehicles. Corner lots and round about lots need to clear limbs for sight distance of traffic signs and oncoming vehicular traffic at intersections.

City of Kyle and Hays CISD regularly drive through Plum Creek to inspect for drivability for large fire trucks and schools buses.

We have a short window to prune in winter, but this time of year is best for pruning!

When raising your tree's canopy, follow proper pruning techniques, including cleaning tools between trees and wound spraying any cuts on all OAK trees to prevent Oak Wilt. For more information visit: <http://texasoakwilt.org/>

For information and diagrams about pruning visit:

[www.treesaregood.org](http://www.treesaregood.org)

<http://texastreeplanting.tamu.edu/PruneYoungTree.html>

[www.plumcreektxhoa.com](http://www.plumcreektxhoa.com)

For information about contacting local certified arborists or for questions or concerns about pruning, feel free to contact the Landscape Committee at [landscape@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:landscape@plumcreektxhoa.com)

So, get out there with your clippers this winter and let's clear those sidewalks and streets!

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