



POST

The Official Newsletter of the
Plum Creek Homeowner Association
December 2018
Volume 9, Issue 12

Judging for the Holiday Lights Contest Begins in December

As my favorite Elf once said - 10AM Santa's Coming!

It's that time of year again! It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas.....

Come one, come all! Show us and everyone your best holiday spirit ever! Get out those decorations and start planning now for the biggest best Holiday Season in Plum Creek.

Judges will ensure everyone has a chance to win! Any house decorated or lit up is a potential winner. Winners will be announced in the Plum Creek eNews, and on the Plum Creek - Kyle, Texas FB page in December and then in the February PC Post. To ensure we have enough time to start decorating and ensure there is enough time for judging here are all the guidelines you need to know.

- Our first category is Traditional Religious, which includes the simpler designs of house trimming and lots of greenery, winners will be 1st, 2nd, and 3rd awarded!
- In the Novelty category, you can let your imagination go wild! This category is up to your imagination, winners will be 1st, 2nd, and 3rd awarded!
- Last but not least is the Overall Neighborhood Favorite! Only one winner in this category. In order to win, please have folks vote by sending an email plumcreekmanager@goodwintx.com
- Judging will begin the night of Friday December 7th, through Sunday, December the 16th.
- Only houses with lights on will be judged so be sure to turn your lights on.
- All houses decorated will be judged.
- We will drive through the neighborhood and view and listen to your display.

First Place winners and overall winner will receive a gift card. All winners will have sign in their front yard to let everyone know they are the best through the holidays. Winners will be announced in the Plum Creek eNews, and on the Plum Creek - Kyle, Texas FB page in December and in the February PC Post.



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HOA OFFICE PHONE512.262.1140

PLUM CREEK HOA WEBSITE: www.plumcreektxhoa.com

Important Numbers

STREET LIGHTS, ROAD REPAIRS, STREET SIGNS

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

TRI SHIELD SECURITY512-486-9955

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

YOU SHOULD RECIEVE THE PLUM CREEK POST EACH MONTH ON OR BEFORE THE 10TH.

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Personal classifieds (one time sell items, such as a used bike...) run at no charge to Plum Creek residents, limit 30 words, please e-mail forestcreek@peelinc.com

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FINISH STRONG

The holiday season is in full swing, and we know your calendar is packed. But with numerous exercise classes offered daily, state-of-the-art fitness equipment and facilities, the YMCA of Austin is here to help you finish the year strong. Keep the commitment to your health through the holidays and burn off your seasonal stress at a Y near you.

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Safety Committee

Hard to believe that we are ushering the end of 2018. Feels like we celebrated New Year's just a few weeks ago. Those of you whom are older will know exactly what I mean.

But anyway, here we are! Christmas around the corner and time to put out all those awesome decorations both inside and outside our homes. And having said this, let's look at some safety precautions that you can take this holiday season to ensure a safe and happy holiday with family and friends.

Candles-although beautiful to see and smell, this is probably the number one safety issue in the home. Be sure that lit candles are not near fabrics, Christmas trees, holiday garland, and other flammable materials. Please always keep candles in open areas away from the above mentioned materials. And please, never place real lit candles on your tree as decoration!

Holiday lights-Be sure to check the lines for wear, bare spots where you can see wire, and loose connections.

Electrical outlets-please do not overload these outlets, as this is a common cause of holiday fires. Try using outlet strips and plug one into each outlet.

Holiday light strings-Never connect more than three lines at a time. May not only blow a fuse, but may cause fires.

Christmas trees-keep tree watered daily. Be sure that the tree is not too close to fireplaces or portable heaters, or other combustible sources. A dry tree can catch fire very quickly.

Stay in the kitchen-when doing holiday cooking be sure to stay in kitchen while stove and oven are on. Never leave these appliances on unattended.

Shut it down-be sure to turn off and unplug all decorations at the end of the evening. Never leave any decorations on.

The safety and neighborhood watch committee wishes a happy and healthy holiday season to all. And to all a good night!

Talk to y'all next year!

SIGHT DISTANCE AT INTERSECTIONS - CORNER LOTS

The City of Kyle periodically inspects intersections for sight distance. Trees and shrubs planted within 25 feet of the intersection can block the view of oncoming traffic and traffic signs. Traffic can be pedestrian, bicycle or vehicular traffic. Traffic signs include, but are not limited to, speed limit signs, yield signs and stop signs. Another consideration in trimming trees and shrubs is the range of height of vehicles. Drivers can be low to the ground in a sports car or they can sit high up like a UPS truck. The Plum Creek Declaration indicates that the trees and shrubs within the 25 foot triangle on corners shall not be permitted to remain within the 25 foot triangle unless the foliage is maintained at a sufficient height to prevent obstruction to the sight distance.

2019 Recreation Committee Events

The Recreation Committee hosts family friendly events throughout the year. Events include an Easter Egg Hunt, Races, Festivals like Front Porch Days and Hootenanny on the Hill, 4th of July Parade & Picnic & Popsicle Run and the Holiday Bazaar. Come on out for some good family fun!

2019 Dates & Events:

March 2nd: Negley 5K- Kicks off the Plum Creek Challenge Race Series. The race starts at Negley Elementary.

April 20th: Easter Egg Hunt- McNaughton Park 9 AM sharp

May 18th: Front Porch Days- Races start at Negley Elementary www.frontporchdays.com . Garden Tour in the AM.

May 19th: Front Porch Days: Carnival & Pie Contest. Open to the public www.frontporchdays.com

July 4th: Annual 4th of July Parade and Picnic- Parade starts on Witte and ends at McNaughton Park. Popsicle Run starts at Negley Elementary.

October 19th: Hootenanny on the Hill: Races, BBQ Cook-off & Carnival. Carnival in Haupt Park 12- 4 PM. Open to the public. www.hootenannyonthehill.com

Race information found on Athlete Guild: <https://www.athleteguild.com/>

Please check the PC Post and eNews for updates.

Recreation Committee Meetings: The 3rd Tuesday of the month at the HOA office at 6:00 PM. Check the community events calendar on the Plum Creek website for schedule changes.

Community Center Reservations:

Plum Creek Community events, that require the usage of the community center, will take precedence over any individual reservations. The recreation committee may need to use the community center the week prior to the event for set up. These community events are Front Porch Days (May), Fourth of July, Hootenanny on the Hill (October), and Holiday Bazaar (December). If you make a reservation on these dates in advance be aware that your reservation may be cancelled. The dates are published each year in the PC Post newsletter and the eNews in the first quarter of the year.

Event Fanfare:

Plum Creek HOA hosts many social events each year and you, your family and neighbors are always welcome! The events mostly take place in the parks, though some happen in other spots throughout the neighborhood. Social events promote teamwork and community involvement, and we encourage participation and volunteerism. If you live near a park, or on a running course trail, enjoy fanfare and community spirit during these events! As a courtesy to all, event dates are posted on the Plum Creek HOA website Community Events Calendar: www.plumcreektxhoa.com.



Guidelines for the Board Meetings

Residents are encouraged to attend and observe association board meetings. If you'd like to bring an issue to the board's attention, you're welcome to speak during the homeowner forum—a time set aside just for you. So that everyone who attends has an opportunity for a meaningful exchange with the board, we ask that you observe the following guidelines:

- Although we're all neighbors, this is a corporate business meeting. Please behave accordingly.
- The meetings are run by community volunteer board member using a modified Robert's Rules of Order.
- If you'd like to address the board, please sign in when you arrive. You will be called in the order you entered. This allows the board to contact you if we need further information and to report back to you with an answer.
- The homeowner forum is an exchange of ideas, not a gripe session. If you're bringing a problem to our attention, we'd like to hear your ideas for a solution too.
- To keep the meeting businesslike, please refrain from speaking if you're particularly upset about an issue. Consider speaking later, speaking privately with a board member, or putting your concerns in writing and e-mailing them to the board.
- Only one person may speak at a time. Please respect others' opinions by remaining silent and still when someone else has the floor.
- Each person will be allowed to speak no more than three minutes. Please respect the volunteers' time by limiting your remarks.
- If you need more than three minutes, please put your comments in writing. Include background information, causes, circumstances, desired solutions and other considerations you believe are important. The board will make your written summary an agenda item at the next meeting.

We may not be able to resolve your concerns on the spot, and we will not argue or debate an issue with you during the homeowner forum. We usually need to discuss and vote on the issue first. But we will answer you before—or at—the next board meeting.

At the Fence

SIP AND SEW

Happy Holidays! Sip and Sew will not meet in December, but we look forward to Sipping and Sewing in 2019. Make a resolution to join our group in 2019. Remember, the second Tuesday of the month at the Fergus/Haupt Community Center, 6:30-8:45 pm. Any questions, please contact Iris Sandle – 512-405-0054 or Sandra Sigler-512-405-0187.

PLUM CREEK GAME NIGHT!

Come join us for adult board or card game night at the Plum Creek Community Center, from 6-9: pm on December 8th from 6:00 – 9:00 PM. All residents are welcome, (please no children). We will have tables set up for Mexican Train and Spinner dominos, as well as card games such as canasta, hearts, etc. We will provide lemonade and water; guests, please feel free to bring an appetizer, simple snacks or desserts to share.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH: PLEASE SLOW DOWN ON THOSE STREETS!!

As a reminder, please keep those speed limits to 25 when driving through Plum Creek. We hear from residents too regularly about the constant speeding of cars through Plum Creek. With no bus service now more kids are walking to and from school so please be aware. Alleys are typically 5 MPH. Please be extremely careful on streets with lots of parked cars, as you never know when a jogger, child, or pet might dart out from behind one. THANK YOU! :)

REMINDER: WINTER IS A GOOD TIME TO TRIM TREES!

Winter is a good time to trim shrubs and 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 Texas Disposal System regularly drive through Plum Creek to inspect for drivability for large trucks.

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 information and diagrams about pruning visit:

www.treesaregood.org

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

www.plumcreektxhoa.com

For information about contacting local certified arborists or for questions or concerns about pruning, feel free to contact the Garden Committee at plumcreekgardencommittee@gmail.com



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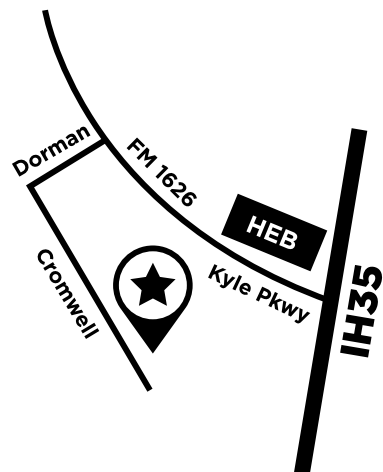
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PLUM CREEK POST

Plum Creek HOA Dues



Quarterly payments become due on:
January 1st, April 1st, July 1st & October 1st

The quarterly dues payment for 2018 is \$147.70. Peninsula-\$486.67 quarterly. Prepayments accepted.

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

The payment address is: (This payment address has not changed)
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, or log in to the Plum Creek website www.plumcreektxhoa.com and go to the Home Tab and click on Account History on the resident dashboard and you can view your account number.

Set up ACH Draft:

Visit www.goodwintx.com/payonline to setup to an ACH draft. Select the Make A Payment button at the bottom of the page.

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Deed Restriction Violations

Plum Creek HOA management is scheduled to inspect the property twice a month for violations of the deed restrictions. Spot inspections occur on an as needed basis.

Frequently asked questions:

1. How long do I have to cure (fix) the violation? The violation needs to be cured by the next violation drive to avoid further violation notices. Contact us if you have questions regarding the time frame to cure a violation.
2. Do I maintain the planting strip between the sidewalk and the street? Each owner maintains their lot to the street curb. The section of grass/lawn between the sidewalk and street is part of each homeowner's lot. Check the lot survey provided at closing.
3. How can I plant new grass or replace a tree when watering is restricted? There are several options to consider-You can request a watering variance from the City of Kyle to water additional days for new plants. Also, hand watering is allowed during many stages of water restrictions. Drip irrigation is another tool to help establish trees.
4. Is xeriscaping allowed? Yes, and it is encouraged. Plum Creek adopted an approved plant list which includes native low water usage plants. You can get very creative on a minimal budget adding xeriscaped lawn features to your yard. See what works for your budget and how much time you want spend with yard maintenance. Take a drive around the neighborhood and see what other residents have installed. Remember: adding xeriscaping is a permanent architectural change to the exterior of your home and requires the submission of the ARC form and plans.

Most common violations:

Screening of trash cans: Trash cans cannot be stored in the driveways or alleyways. They need to be stored in one of the following places to avoid receiving future violation notices:

- a. Inside the garage
- b. Behind the property fence
- c. Behind an approved screen
- d. Behind a bush so as not to be visible from the alleyway

Yard Maintenance:

Weeds

The yard should be free of high weeds, weeds that grow through the fences, weeds that grow over the sidewalks, curbs and driveways.

Dead Yard

Bald spots or dirt circles are not part of a maintained yard. Search the internet for options to help with dirt circles/ bald spots. Here are some options to explore, options may need prior approval before installation:

1. Add a mulch bed with edging
2. Add xeriscaped landscaping or other landscaping feature.

3. Trim tree limbs to allow more sun to get to the grass.
4. Add seed or sod in areas and hand water as needed.
5. Amend the soil.

Need other ideas: Drive the neighborhood and see what your neighbors have added in their yards, consult the Garden Committee and/or the Compliance Assistance Team with questions or consult with a local nursery.

Plant or install landscape features within your own budget and maintenance capabilities.

**An Architectural change request form needs to be submitted when changing from a sod yard to a xeriscaped yard.

Bushes

Keep bushes neatly trimmed and out of walking paths, sidewalks and alleyways.

Trees

Tree limbs should be trimmed 7 feet above sidewalks and 14 feet over streets. Tree limbs and bushes on corner lots should not block line of sight for upcoming street signs and intersection.

Not sure about trimming tree limbs? Refer to tree trimming documents, consult an arborist or local nursery or search internet.

Sheds:

Sheds are allowed, but need prior approval before installation. The Declaration indicates that the shed materials need to match the existing home. Turn in the architectural request form along with a survey of your lot and a picture of the shed you want to install to the HOA office. Approval usually occurs within 7-10 business days.





4 Ways to Help Prepare Your Home for Winter

Winter is on its way and for much of the country that means freezing temperatures, wind, snow, ice and heavy jackets.

Preparing your home now for the colder months ahead is vital. The following tips are designed to help get you and your home ready for what winter has in store.

Invest in Weather Stripping

If you can run your hand around the edges of an outside-facing door on a cold day and feel the flow of cool air, you have an airflow problem, one that could cost you a lot of money over the course of the winter.

Weather stripping is a good way to help seal warm air in and cold air out of your home. Available in almost any hardware store, weather stripping installs quickly around windows and doors and can help prevent air leaks.

Before winter arrives, check your windows, doors, vents and fans, plumbing areas, air conditioners and any electrical/gas lines for leaks or drafts to save yourself energy and heating costs.

Evaluate Your Roof to Prevent Ice Dams

"Your roof is one of the most vital protections standing between you and the harsh outside elements. Excess snow, ice and other environmental hazards can cause significant damage," said Chala Sampers, Top Dog Roofing. "The objective is to get as much of the water away from your house as possible."

In cold weather, heat escaping your home can melt and refreeze ice and snow on your roof, leading to ice dams. Evaluate your roof in advance of harsh winter weather to prevent ice damming. An ice dam in your gutter can cause water to seep into and saturate an interior wall. These block off drains, and let water and ice continually build up on your roof – and possibly under it – weakening your roof and putting your home at risk. If you're unsure of what to look for, see if a roofing professional can evaluate your roof for ice dams while cleaning your gutters.

To help prevent ice dams make sure your attic is well insulated and

ventilated. Insulate the attic floor well to minimize the amount of heat rising through the attic from within the house. If your attic wasn't built with a ventilation system, contact a trusted local professional or contractor about ventilating your attic before winter.

Buy a Roof Rake to Keep Snow from Building up

If you expect a lot of snow this winter, invest in a roof rake. As snow packs down from multiple storms it could cause a roof collapse – a roof rake can help you easily clear snow off your roof and protect your home during those blizzard months.

"Understanding the importance of checking your roof and knowing the basics of winter roof maintenance and damage can help homeowners avoid unnecessary stress and surprise costs," added Chala Sampers, Top Dog Roofing (<https://www.topdogroof.com/>).

What's even more surprising is that a new, national survey by Owens Corning Roofing found that although 70% of Austin homeowners said that damage to their roof would be stressful or very stressful, only 3% say they always check or have their roofs checked before the start of a season that typically brings bad weather. So be prepared this season and make sure to conduct a thorough roof check before, during and after harsh winter months.

Protect Pipes from Freezing

A frozen water pipe can burst and flood your house or basement.

Help protect your pipes from freezing in bitter cold weather by making sure you don't turn the heat down too much when you're out of the house. You may not be there to enjoy it, but your pipes need the heat to prevent freezing.

Give your home a once over for any exposed or vulnerable piping and wrap them with insulation. Hardware stores usually carry foam rubber or fiberglass sleeves for pipes, which are easy to install.

If your pipes do freeze, and water stops flowing from faucets, call a plumber immediately.

Please keep personal safety in mind when checking items off this list and connect with a trusted professional or contractor for help with anything you are unable to do yourself. For more info visit <https://www.owenscorning.com/roofing>.



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December Family Tips

by Nourish Interactive, edited for space

1. Decorate the table with the colors from veggies and fruits.
2. Use snack time to add another half serving of fruit or vegetables.
3. Be patient and positive when encouraging children to eat their fruits and veggies.
4. Teach your children about healthy foods from all the different food groups.
5. At a party or holiday event, indulge in your one favorite food. Take small portions of everything else.
6. Try eating meatless meals on Mondays this December.
7. This busy holiday season, try to get kids to bed for a full night sleep.
8. Keep your teeth extra happy this holiday and remember to brush them after meals.
9. Play a word game and keep your family's mind sharp! Try and have kids name a fruit or vegetable that begins with each letter of the word Christmas?
10. Help your kids write a letter to Santa and mail it to the North Pole. Use our fun holiday fruits and vegetables stationary!
11. Mrs Claus always makes a healthy breakfast for Santa. Start your child's day with a healthy breakfast with foods from at least 4 of the food groups.
12. Plan for Christmas TV specials! Set a goal to watch TV no more than 2 hours a day
13. Taking the kids shopping, increase activity by taking stairs instead of the escalator or elevators
14. Shoot hoops with the kids for some fun activity- instead of using the word horse use the word Santa.
15. The elves keep warm at the North Pole by exercising for 60 minutes every day. Teach kids to be like an elf and get moving!
16. Go to the grocery store or farmers market and pick out a new red or green fruit and vegetable to try for this year's holiday meal.
17. Some of the best gifts are free. Make a special gift of your time for a loved one. Just print the Gift of Time coupons and fill in a special activity!
18. Are you baking some special holiday sweets? Try adding some raisins, nuts or bran for a healthier treat.
19. Turn off the TV and enjoy your meals as a family this holiday season.
20. Bundle up, grab a flashlight and take a family walk to look at holiday lights together.
21. Decorate your plate with the color of Christmas, add lots of green and red vegetables.
22. Teach kids to enjoy their Christmas cookies with a glass of low-fat or nonfat milk.
23. Remind kids that a healthy holiday meal includes food from all the food groups! Merry Christmas!
24. Find a family activity and have fun!
25. Take stock of last year and resolve to do better, love more and live healthier.

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COME HOME TO **PLUM CREEK**

Welcome to Plum Creek, an award-winning 2,200-acre master-planned community in Kyle, Texas. With a focus on a maintenance-free lifestyle, the community offers front yard maintenance and full irrigation*, which allows you more time to relax and enjoy family and friends. Empire offers a wide selection of floorplans ranging from 1,300 sq. ft. to over 2,200 sq. ft. in The Peninsula, a gated, private area within the Plum Creek community.

CONTACT OUR SALES COUNSELOR

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*Front yard maintenance and full irrigation are included in your monthly HOA dues of \$162.22 (effective 01/01/2018). Prices, plans, features and promotions subject to change without notice. E. & O.E. October 2018.