



POST

**The Official Newsletter of the
Plum Creek Homeowner Association
May 2020
Volume 11, Issue 5**

Canceling In Person Front Porch Days

COVID-19 guidelines have limited many of us in our daily operations and plans for this spring. We have made the decision to cancel the in-person Front Porch Days event and all of its festivities, but we would like to make it into a VIRTUAL event. We are concerned that even if the shelter in place is lifted on May 14, not have a good turnout for the festival as the first event following those orders. Also, this time right now is when we would be really looking for more sponsors and vendors and we recognize that our generous and creative sponsors and vendors are not in the place to commit right now.

The Recreation committee will host a virtual vendor event on the weekend of May 16th. This was previously announced in the Association News email and on PC Social Rabbit.

Front Porch Days Races will also be virtual – check for race updates on the FOR THE LOVE OF GO! Website calendar

Front Porch Days Booth Vendors: Payments you have already made can be paid towards one of our scheduled upcoming vendor events. If you would like to apply that payment to an upcoming event or request a refund send an email to Adriane Carbajal at plumcreekmanager@goodwintx.com.

Upcoming Events:

End of Summer Vendor Bash

August 9th

Our next scheduled vendor booth event is end of Summer Vendor Bash on August 9th. It will be located at the Haupt park. This is a smaller event geared toward showcasing vendors and their products. Be on the lookout in the next few months for this vendor booth form. This event will be hosted by Hays Home Team.

Hootenanny on the Hill

Saturday, October 17th

Haupt Park

Fall Community Festival with Carnival Rides, BBQ Contest and Vendor Booths.

Second Quarter Assessments

The Second Quarter Assessment is now due: \$151.50

Assessment due dates: January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1

The Board of Directors approved to waive late fees for the second quarter due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Payment Options:

1. Online payment: TownSq <https://app.townsq.io/login>

First time users need to register: Register with your HOA account number and the property zip code: 78640

You must agree to the user fees.

Download the corresponding App on your mobile device.

****You can check your HOA account balance on this application.**

2. Mail check or money order in with the quarterly coupon.

3. Mail check or money order to the bank payment lockbox:

Plum Creek HOA

C/O Goodwin Processing Center

PO Box 93447

Las Vegas, NV 89193-3447

*include the account number on the check

Need your HOA account number? Send an email request to Melody at pcoffice@goodwintx.com

4. Your bank's online bill payment center. Send payment to the lockbox address in item 3.

5. Continue paying on the Western Alliance Bank online bill payment website.

PLUM CREEK POST

Committee Contacts

PLUM CREEK HOA MANAGER

Adriane Carbajal plumcreekmanager@goodwintx.com

PLUM CREEK POST AND WEEKLY ENEWS

Melody Stein pcoffice@goodwintx.com

COMMUNITY CENTER RESERVATION QUESTIONS

Melody Stein pcoffice@goodwintx.com

DOG PARK COMMITTEE

Chris Clement dogpark@plumcreektxhoa.com

LAKE/PARK COMMITTEE

Linda Campbell lake@plumcreektxhoa.com

GARDEN COMMITTEE

Sandra Gonzalez garden@plumcreektxhoa.com

POOL COMMITTEE

Amy Canaan pool@plumcreektxhoa.com

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Jennifer Crosby recreation@plumcreektxhoa.com

SAFETY & NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH COMMITTEE

OPEN safety@plumcreektxhoa.com

WELCOME COMMITTEE

Arcelia & Gary Gibbs welcome@plumcreektxhoa.com

HOA OFFICE PHONE 512.262.1140

PLUM CREEK HOA WEBSITE: welcome@plumcreektxhoa.com

Important Numbers

STREET LIGHTS, ROAD REPAIRS, STREET SIGNS

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

TRI SHIELD SECURITY 512-486-9955

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 RECEIVE THE PLUM CREEK POST
EACH MONTH ON OR BEFORE THE 10TH.**

HOA Requests

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.

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 Landscape Committee at garden@plumcreektxhoa.com

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

Resident of the Year 2019



The award for resident of the year will be presented at our annual meeting which has been postponed due to COVID – 19 restrictions.

We are asking our residents for their nominations for this award. Nominations are still being accepted.

The following is the criteria for the nominees:

Minimum five years of residency in Plum Creek.

Candidate active in community service in Plum Creek neighborhood.

Cannot be elected city or county official.

Candidate distinguishes themselves by Plum Creek participation in community issues and offers solutions.

All nominations can be sent to

Plumcreekmanager@goodwintx.com

Neighbors *Helping* Neighbors



Nobody knows your neighborhood like your neighbors!

Think **GOLD** and get **SOLD**



Dana Castro
REALTOR®
Resident 6 years
512-781-3113



Jody Celum
REALTOR®
Resident 12 years
512-771-7037



Paige Kimball
REALTOR®
Resident 10 years
512-294-3530



Brandee Otto
REALTOR®
Resident 16 years
512-557-2728



May To Do List

- Do a full irrigation audit (Should be done monthly)
- Still a great time to add mulch to all the beds
- Interested in planting a garden? Great time to plant Okra, Summer Squash and Tomatillo plants
- The month is a great time to add seed (Bermuda) to a common Bermuda lawn
- Great time to sod old worn out areas. Any of the varieties (Zoysia & Bermuda, can be done this time of year.
- As it warms up, be aware of the pest activity around your plants and turf. Be observant and treat at first signs.

The average rainfall in May is approximately 4.5". Since "average" is a loose term, great time to collect rainwater for home use. Predictions for hot & dry summer are just that...."predictions". Now where is my crystal ball?



Call Us For A Free Roof Inspection

512-627-3113

Visit us at www.bolingroofs.com

AT THE FENCE

PARKING ON PRIVATE STREETS AND ALLEYS

No automobiles or other vehicles may be parked overnight on any private alley or private roadway (these private roadways include the private streets of Michaelis, Utterback, Edwin, Echols, Grace and Lightfoot) within the Property except in areas designated for parking on a Plat or as approved by the Board of Directors. At no time shall any automobile or other vehicle be parked on the lawn within a Lot.

REMINDER:

The Plum Creek Street Tree List was updated as of November 2018, which can be found on the Plum Creek website under Deed Restrictions>Street tree list>Amended Street Tree List or under Tree Care Information>Street Tree List.

****Mexican Sycamores** can be removed from the planting strip without approval, however please notify the HOA office if you intend to remove the Sycamore in the planting strip.

Large canopy trees can be removed from the front yard without approval if a canopy tree exists in the planting strip. A planting strip canopy tree can be removed if the front yard has an existing canopy tree.

Review the Landscape Template (on the Plum Creek website) for ornamental tree replacement requirements in the front yard.

The Mexican Sycamore has been replaced with a Monterey Oak on the assigned planting strip canopy tree list.

Yard of the Month

Yard of the Month started in April. Resident Kevin Foley volunteered to organize a review of the yards.

Prizes will be award to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in April, May and June. Keep working in the yards and gardens.

Send nominations to: plumcreekmanager@goodwintx.com

LAKE TRAILS IN SPRING –

WATCH FOR SNAKES



It is springtime in Texas, and that means wildflowers, birdsong and yes, snakes waking up from their winter slumber. Remember that our parks and lakes support a diversity of wildlife, including snakes. Not all are venomous, but some are, like rattlesnakes and water moccasins. We also have nonvenomous snakes like water snakes.

There are lots of sources both digital and print that can help you learn how to identify common Texas snakes. For example, a snake with heat-sensing pits is venomous. Triangular heads are another commonality in most venomous snakes. The rattlesnake, copperhead, and water moccasin all have arrowhead faces and pointed snouts. If you can get close enough to see, pit vipers also have pupils that are oblong, like a slit. In contrast, water snakes are not venomous and have more oval or oblong heads, rounded snouts and round eyes. Harmless water snakes swim with their bodies submerged under the water, whereas water moccasins swim with their entire bodies visible on top of the water.

If you encounter a snake, leave it alone and give it room. There is no need to take a chance when you can avoid the snake. Use caution during this time of year and remember to watch your dogs. HOA rules require that dogs be on a leash at all times and this is especially important during the spring.

Bare Spots in Yards

PC Garden Committee
garden@plumcreektxhoa.com

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

1. Just mulch it. Mulch introduces organic material into the soil, providing valuable nutrients to the tree 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. Amend the soil. Soil needs roots to hold it in place. Over time, exposed bare soil erodes away. Find a healthy top soil to top off the bare spots before installing new plants.

3. 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.

4. 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. 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.

5. River rock. River rocks and other natural stones can create a lovely, non-traditional garden. Be sure to add an edge to prevent the rocks from washing out. An architectural approval is needed to change to xeriscape yards.

6. Visit the Plum Creek website - www.plumcreektxhoa.com. Look in the Resource Center tab in the Deed Restriction menu item for general ideas. All yards were developed as sod yards. If you want to change to a xeriscape yard, you must submit an architectural change request form.

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

Ask the Garden Committee about tips for a healthy yard.

Thank you Plum Creek Residents for staying strong during these unusual and trying times.

In order to comply with the restrictions, we cancelled recent meetings, community events and reservations. Our pools remained closed and the community center, basketball and pickleball courts were closed to comply with the guidelines.

Thank you for your ongoing cooperation and understanding. We will get through this together!

Frequently Asked Questions About Lawn Deed Restriction Violations

Compliance Assistance Team:
plumcreekcomplianceassistance@gmail.com

Q: What do you mean that I have to recover my lawn?

A: For a variety of reasons including drought, disease, and lack of proper maintenance, some front yards have reached a state that is considered detrimental to the preservation of property values. Dead grass/shrubs, excessive weeds, and bare dirt, etc. are not acceptable. As the owner of the property, you are responsible for fixing these problems and restoring your front lawn to a state that is consistent with the policies established by the rules of the Plum Creek HOA. This does not necessarily mean you must immediately re-sod your front yard. HOA policy allows for and promotes alternative approaches.

Q: Should I replant when we are in drought conditions, have water restrictions and are being told by the City of Kyle to conserve water?

A: We all have to be realistic about our climate, but our yards must look decent. That's why the alternative is there to xeriscaping your lawn. Xeriscaping doesn't mean just rock and cactus. There are many ways to create a lush and water-wise landscape. Review the Landscape Design Guidelines for low water plants on the Plum Creek web site if you are interested in this type of landscape. Important Reminder: An Architectural Review Committee (ARC) request form must be submitted and approved before you start any visible changes to your landscape. See below for links to the form and the guidelines. Failure to have an approved plan on file may mean you have to take out plants or hardscape that don't meet the guidelines.

Q: What is considered a reasonable period of time to cure the violation?

A: It depends on what problem was identified. If it's something easily corrected (like weeding, mowing and edging), it should be fixed by the next inspection. Inspections are done every two weeks. If it's something more involved that requires more time such sodding, seeding or complete renovation of your landscape, remember to communicate with our property manager within two weeks of the violation date. You may be granted an extension to complete your project. Not taking corrective action or communicating will mean you may not have time to correct the violation before a fine is assessed. Fines are assessed on the third notice.

Q: Should I re-sod?

A: There are a lot of factors to consider before you re-sod such as soil quality, your ability to keep a new lawn watered, available shade, time of the year and of course your personal preferences.

Re-sodding does not require an ACC request approval but it can be expensive so be sure you are willing to do what's needed to keep it alive before you make that investment. You will probably have to hand water frequently to supplement the once-a-week watering restriction, especially during the hotter parts of the summer. Review the Landscape Design Guidelines for the list of approved low water plants.

Resources

- Need to Sign-In to the Plum Creek Web Site? Sign up onto www.plumcreektxhoa.com and select Resident Sign In. You must be a current resident.
- o Resource Center
 - Architectural Changes
 - Governing Documents
 - Landscape Template
 - Hays County Master Gardeners – www.hays.agrilife.org
 - Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center – www.wildflower.org
 - Central Texas Gardener – www.klru.org/ctg
 - Search the internet for ideas

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