



Ponderosa Press



Ponderosa Estates Homeowners Association Newsletter

October/November 2011 Edition

What would YOU like to see in the Ponderosa Press?

Many responses came in on what YOU would like to see in the Ponderosa Press. THANK YOU to those who responded.

It was conveyed that some residents are not opposed to including a classified section and sell advertising space (for a small fee to help defray printing costs) for our residents cottage industries or have a brick and mortar business as well. Starting this printing there will be a few "idea" advertising spots to encourage everyone to consider placing an ad for the Dec/Jan "Holiday Edition".

Yes, to having more info on what our Administrative team and meeting members are proposing or discussing.

Yes, to more info on educational/ fun family friendly activities and events being offered in around the area.

If you would like to give us your suggestions for this publication, please e-mail Brad Doll PEHOA President at Braddoll@msn.com and include the words HOA in the subject line.

THANK YOU for your opinions and views they ARE appreciated!



Trick or Treating- How Old is too Old ?



Let's face it, trick or treating is a blast! First you rush through the drama of figuring out what to be for Halloween, then you spend hours putting together the perfect costume, applying make-up, teasing your hair (or hiding it under a wig!), and then, you grab a sack or bucket and head out the door to canvas the neighborhood for delicious treats.

But, the lingering question looms, At what age should you call it quits?

I have a confession to make, the last time I went trick or treating I was 17 years old. In all fairness, I convinced my (then) boyfriend and his best buddy that Trick or Treating was far more fun than smashing pumpkins and egging houses, the more common choice of fun amongst teens in our area. I hadn't been trick or treating in a few years before that (since I was 13).

While most people were gracious and happy to see trick or treaters at their doors, I have to admit that I did get a couple of, "aren't you too old for this?", "Halloween is for little kids". The negative comments were more than enough to shame me into never going again. When you're little and you knock at the door, you're greeted with smiling faces who comment on how cute or neat your costume is, as you get older, you're often greeted with raised eyebrows and skeptical glances.

As a parent an option to this potentially "life's most embarrassing moment " for your teen is to have a Halloween party for your "older" kids either at your home(see party ideas page 2).Participating children's parents pool their resources and ideas to create a night of FUN for all involved. We did a haunted house every year with my girlfriends kids.! WE parents dressed up and participated as the characters in the haunted house. It was a BLAST ! So Halloween is for the "little kids" and everyone who is "Young at heart". Trick or Treat !



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Halloween Party Games and Ideas

Have homemade fun this Halloween and plan a monster-ific party! The success of any party starts with great planning. To start pick out a theme and then build your party around that theme. Consider the group of the children who will be participating and any limitations or allergies they may have. Then figure out what kind of games, decorations you may want to do and food you will be offering. Ask for help from other parents whose children are coming to your Halloween Bash.

Here are some inexpensive ideas for games that are appropriate for most age groups you may be planning a party for :

Bob for Apples

Take a tub and fill with water and apples. Each **child** takes turn trying to get an apple out of the tub without using their hands. Make sure to supply towels as this gets pretty messy.

Halloween Freeze Dance - Play Halloween party music or creepy sound effects and tell the children to dance.

When you turn off the music, they all need to freeze. Whoever is caught moving during the freeze is out of the game. The last person dancing, wins. For a fun variation on this game, tell the children they will need to pose in the Halloween shape you will have called out during the previous freeze. Some fun shapes could be: black cat; pumpkin; broomstick; mummy; bat; etc.

Pin the Nose on the Pumpkin - Tack a large cardboard pumpkin to a wall. In turn, blindfold each child and give them a black cutout shape of a nose with double-side tape on the back. Have them walk up to the wall and pin the nose on the pumpkin.

Slime Race (messy but fun)

Make slime in plastic Halloween cauldrons by putting 4 c. cornstarch, 1 cup water, 15 drops green **food** coloring in each cauldron. Mix well. Form two teams. The first player in each group grabs some slime with his hands and runs to an empty cauldron at the other end where he glop's it in, then runs back to tag the next **kid** in line. The first team to empty their Slime cauldron wins!

Make Your Own Mad Scientist Lab

peeled **grapes** = eyeballs

cooked **spaghetti** = intestines

Jell o = liver

carrot = finger

nut shells = toenails

cooked **cauliflower** = brain (you can add really nice colors to the water and partially cook it for a realistic look!)

piece of hot dog = nose

pieces of chalk = teeth

piece of liver = heart

dried apricots = ears

plastic glove with water = frozen hand



To make it more effective, use dim lighting in a small room and fill jars with various items listed above. Have your guests reach into bowls and "feel" some of the body parts that have been removed.



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Hoot'n'Howl

Friday, Oct 21 6:00p to 10:00p
at [Northwest Trek Wildlife Park](#), Eatonville, WA

Bring your brood to Northwest Trek Wildlife Park for the annual Hoot 'n' Howl celebration on October 21-22. Navigate through the park and search for animals in the dark on a special nighttime tram tour. Revelers young and young-at-heart can don their costumes, play games, win prizes and eat treats during this wild weekend! Check it out!

Summer Pool Offers Lessons & More!

As the weather turns colder keeping kids busy Becomes more difficult. Why not enroll them in swimming lessons at the Sumner Pool? Not only will they learn a valuable life long skill, they will get some exercise and have a lot of fun!! First Wave of Lessons, Registration starts Oct 10th for lessons that start October 17th Second Wave of Lessons, Registration start Oct 17th for lessons that start October 24th. And Zumba swims are coming in October too! Head over to their website for more information at: <http://www.sumnerbonneylakeaquatics.org/Home.>

Need help finding a job ?

**A Resume Class will be offered
At Sumner Library**

**Tuesday, Oct. 4 , 2011
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM**

Start creating your resume and learn to modify, print and email it during your job search. Please bring your previous resume or a list of jobs and employers.

This event requires registration contact Library staff for help or register online at. <http://www.piercecountylibrary.org>

National Parks Fee Free Days November 11,12,13th 2011 (Veteran's Day weekend)

Each year the National Park Service announces its Fee Free days. No entrance or admission fees are charged during this time. This is a great chance to get out and explore some of our Nation's jewels! Visit Mount Rainier and learn about glaciers. Discover life in a rainforest. Hike the Wonderland Trail. Explore subalpine ecology. Watch clouds shroud the mountain and disappear. Visit a rustic historic building. Dream about climbing to the summit. Study geology. Experience a mountain meadow. Listen to a glacier crack. Get out and enjoy nature with your family and make wonderful memories today!

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Please e-mail Brad
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President at
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information

Fort Nisqually's Bonfires, Beaver Pelts and Bogeymen

Saturday, Oct 29 7:00p to 9:00p
at [Fort Nisqually Living History Museum](#), Tacoma, WA
Price: \$3-\$5
Phone: (253) 591-5339
Age Suitability: Kids and up



Celebrate Halloween in the style of past centuries with ghost stories told around a roaring bonfire in the meadow outside the Fort's walls. Follow a trail of glowing jack o'lanterns where storytellers from the past will send shivers down your spine as their words bring forth the spirits of the fur trade. Come and find out what scared people in 1855 as you listen to ghost stories the way they're supposed to be told - outside and in the dark! Dress for the weather, but please no umbrellas.



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TAKE A BITE OUT OF
CRIME

Safe Streets Meeting a Success!!

On September 24th many Ponderosa residents turned out for a informational meeting on starting the Safe Streets program in our community. There have been several house robberies in our community this past year that have been reported. As well as security camera destruction at our park twice this summer. Brad Doll our HOA President along with our board of directors thought it would be a good time to start a neighborhood watch to protect us all from crime happening in our area.

Who should get involved? Anyone who live, work, or go to school in Pierce County neighborhoods.

Why is it important to organize? The best crime prevention tool is a good neighbor. Joint efforts are more effective than individual ones. There are more citizens than there are law enforcement agents. Citizens can be an extension of law enforcement's eyes and ears. Citizens provide a vast resource pool.

Keys to organizing success in your neighborhood-Neighborhood organizing empowers individuals — adults and youth — as well as the entire community to take action and bring strategic partners together to build safe communities. For effective organizing, you need:

Communication: among block members, such as a phone tree for information sharing.

Collaboration: the work we do together far surpasses the strength and success of the work we do separately.

Patience: problems take time to solve and there may be more than one solution.

Commitment: it takes time and commitment to rebuild a positive environment after a negative one has existed.

Safe Streets 101 Training to protect your neighborhood

In our monthly training sessions, we work with members of the community who want to start or strengthen a Block Watch, Neighborhood Watch, or Business Watch group in their neighborhood.

In the training, you will acquire skills to set up meetings, recruit members, set agendas, and establish goals and a work plan. You will also learn techniques to identify and document problems.

Work together with other neighbors and other community services, law enforcement, and social services.

Learn to motivate neighbors to take action and follow up on plans.

Collaborate with other block leaders in your area and the greater Pierce County area.

Safe Streets organizes one neighborhood at a time, then unifies block groups into neighborhood alliances.

Nothing we do is about taking law enforcement into our own hands. Block groups do not take the places of law enforcement officers in apprehending criminals or enforcing the law. Safe Street 101 Trainings are held every fourth Tuesday of the month in various locations. For more information on classes go to their website:

<http://www.safest.org/Page.aspx?nid=2>

Car Prowling Problems

Reported in Prairie Ridge Neighborhoods...

Heads Up Ponderosa keep a look out for trouble ! The thieves could come here next!

There have been numerous reports of car prowling. It appears that the victims are those who forgot to lock the car doors. It is assumed that prowlers are on foot. They are taking contents like change, soda pop, jewelry, CD 's, medication and other items that can be easily carried. It is important to remember

to lock your car doors in order to protect yourself from this criminal activity.

Stolen property has been discarded on the side of the road that the prowlers did not want, but might be important to the people they stole from. I can't say it enough. LOCK YOUR VEHICLES. I will keep you posted of any new information that I hear.

Jodi Bretz, Corporate Secretary

Prairie Ridge Home Owners Association

Advertise YOUR home based or brick and mortar

Business HERE Please e-

mail Brad Doll PEHOA

President at

Braddoll@msn.com and

include the words HOA in

the subject line for more info



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5 Quick and Inexpensive Thanksgiving Decor Ideas!



Thanksgiving is my house. It reminds us to take time out of our busy lives and remember how lucky we are for the blessings of family. It is also a gateway for the busy (and sometimes expensive!) holiday season! So here are some great ideas to bump up the autumn splendor in your home, while saving that spending money for other things!

Set a backdrop for your Thanksgiving celebrations! Layer fabrics on windows and tables, bring out the area rugs (you can layer them too!) and switch out some of your more summery accessories for things with rich colors and feel. This doesn't have to be expensive. Visit your own linen closet for quilts and sheets that can be pressed into service, or take a trip to your local thrift store to check out what they might have there. Make pretty no-sew placemats from warm colors of fleece. Call up a few friends and see if they have linens or accessories to trade. Make an afternoon tea out of it.

Invest in a package or two of silk fall leaves. They only cost a couple of dollars at the Dollar Tree, so use them as lavishly as your budget allows. Tuck them behind picture frames, sprinkle them on tabletops, and even pin them to your guest towels. Nothing brings that warmth to a home more than fall's splendor.

Rearrange your family living areas. Think about how redirecting your seating arrangements might create conversational areas, and warm up the look of a room. Try the sofa on a diagonal, or use the loveseat at the dining table. Move a rarely used chair to a corner and add some throws and pillows for a reading spot. A new view can be charming and fresh, and who knows, maybe you actually will get around to that book!

Create a little snack or breakfast table in a corner of your kitchen with a cheap card table and some layered linens. Accessorize it with a basket of apples, and keep a place setting or two always set for that impromptu hot cider with your spouse or kids. These touches add warmth whether we use them or not, just knowing they are there for us.

Finally, make ordinary moments special times of Thanksgiving. Serve Monday night burgers on your best china, set a vase of fall flowers out at breakfast, or visit a farmers market and display your finds in pretty baskets from the Dollar Tree. Tie fall ribbon on the backs of dining chairs, around throw pillows or guest towels. Use dry erase marker to write inspirational messages on the bathroom mirrors for your kids and for your guests.

Use these great ideas for your home today, and find out how thankful your loved ones are that you cared enough to make their home as special as can be, without spending more than you need to!



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Nurture Thankfulness in Your Child

Among the early words you teach your tot are "thank you." Young children need prompts like, "What do you say to Aunt Becky?" Hopefully, over time, it becomes an automatic response. But parents need to continue teaching an attitude of thanks even to teenagers. As you celebrate the

busy holiday season, utilize every moment as an opportunity to nurture thankfulness in your child. Incorporate these free and simple ways into your family life:

- **Live the Lesson-** It has been said that we're always teaching; sometimes we use words. Remember to say "thank you" to others, but more importantly, live a life of appreciation. Your children are watching their first and most influential teacher!
- **Convert Attitude into Action** - A small gesture, such as a smile, can lighten the day of the waitress who hands your child a glass of milk or a hug for the teacher is always welcome. When a child empties the dishwasher, it is an action of appreciation for home and food. Thankfulness is also expressed through homemade cards and drawings. To appreciate their classroom teachers, my girls and I always made little gifts for them at the holidays.
- **Contrast Your Family with Folks Less Fortunate** - Help your child see that there are those in your community who aren't as blessed: families without homes, people who are sad and living alone, or those who must go to food kitchens to eat. Volunteer to serve a meal to the homeless. The thankfulness on their faces after eating a hot meal is unforgettable and a great lesson for any child or adult.
- **Make a Medley of Thankfulness** - Grab a pile of old magazines. Encourage your child to look through the pages and cut out pictures of things for which they are thankful. Glue these on one page, overlapping pictures. Soon your child will have a visual reminder of the blessings in his life.

Practice Gratitude Permanently - Showing thanks and appreciation need not end with this time of year. I believe letter writing is becoming a lost art. Help your child write thank you notes for their Christmas gifts. Preschoolers can dictate to you their gratitude or express thanks by drawing a picture of their appreciation for their gift-giver. Find opportunities during this upcoming year to reinforce your lesson. For more ideas on teaching children about good manners and attitudes go to mannersoftheheart.com.

- As a parent, I hope my children learn to be thankful by the way I live my life before them. After all, as William Bennett said in his book, *The Moral Compass: Stories for a Life's Journey*, "Sometimes we need to remind ourselves that thankfulness is indeed a virtue."



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Consumer tip ...Just 4 Ingredients

Baking soda, salt, bleach and vinegar can save the day and your budget, too. It's easy and quick to make household cleaning supplies with them. Here are a few ideas to get you started. Mix vinegar with water at a ratio of about three parts water to one part vinegar. This will disinfect counters and sinks, as well as remove hard water deposits from faucets/showerheads, etc. It's cheap by the gallon and will last a long time. I put it in a spray bottle for convenience, clearly marked of course. For those items that need whitening and more rigorous disinfection, you can do the same with bleach. Mix about two teaspoons bleach to a quart of water for most purposes. Follow directions on the bleach container. Be sure to keep this out of reach of children, just as you would undiluted bleach, as well as marking it clearly. A sharpie or other permanent marker works well for this.

Vinegar can also be used to clean your dishwasher each month. Just put a small dish of it on the bottom of your dishwasher, under the lower rack. You can add glassware to remove hard water spots on them at the same time. You can also fill the rinse dispenser with vinegar instead of an expensive commercial product. I also save by using baking soda as a mild abrasive to remove stains from the refrigerator, microwave and even the countertops. It can also be combined with vinegar to clear clogged drains. In combination, it will fizz, so don't be alarmed. Just put in the baking soda first, then the vinegar. Use one-half cup of baking soda to about one-half cup of vinegar. Wait a bit after the fizzing before rinsing the sink. Salt and vinegar also make a good cleaner for copper pots. Just dampen the pot with vinegar then sprinkle on a bit of salt and scrub. Your pots will look like new. Vinegar also makes a good fabric softener in the washing machine. There is no odor when the clothes are dry. This is particularly good if you are bothered by the strong scents of dryer sheets or liquid softeners. Baking soda and/or washing soda can boost the effectiveness of detergent, too. Follow directions on the box. I also use baking soda to remove stubborn coffee and tea stains in my favorite mugs.

I keep some in an old spice jar with a sprinkle lid for this and other quick cleaning purposes. You can buy 12-pound bags of baking soda at the warehouse clubs very cheaply if you plan to use large amounts. Generic baking soda, bleach, salt and vinegar are just as good as name brands, since all must meet the same standards. All of these are safer for our environment and cheaper than the commercial products. You will save time, money and space by using them. For more ideas about homemade cleaning products search the web or visit your local library.

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Holiday Cash Crunch - How to Avoid It!

The holidays have crept up on us again. If you're anything like me, you started this year out with the good intention of purchasing or making a few gifts each month as you went along throughout the year. However, there always seems to be something that happens when you're busy making plans... Life. You know what I mean, an appliance breaks down, the furnace clogs and has to be cleaned, your child lost one of his brand new shoes in a mud hole and suddenly you have to shell out another \$15-20 for new ones.

Perhaps you are already ahead of the game, you put a lot of effort into planning the holidays and you manage to pick up a few gifts along the way. If not, don't fret, your starting in the right place.

1. Make a List of everyone that you plan on giving a gift to this year. (Sometimes it helps to plan for 2 extras: 1 gal, & 1 guy)
Did you ever notice when you make a nice list, someone always gets forgotten?

2. Go down through your list and determine whether the gift should be a personal (individual) gift or a family gift. For instance, for your own children you would choose personal gifts, but when choosing a gift for a neighbor's child, you might choose a family gift for the household to enjoy.

3. For each person/ family, jot down a few things that the recipient enjoys. For instance, a hobby, their occupation, are they athletic, do they have a tendency to pamper their pets, etc.

4. You're almost done. Now comes the tough part. You need to determine a dollar amount that you plan to spend this holiday season. Once you come up with a grand total, then go down through your list and plug in numbers. For instance, you might spend \$25 on your Parents, \$50 on your children, \$5 on a neighbor, etc. Be as realistic as possible, and do not allow for gifts on your credit card. To avoid the Holiday Crunch (and the months of regret that follow) I'm going to show you how to give gifts you can afford.

5. If you've completed everything above, you're doing wonderfully. You now have a complete list of WHO you need gifts for, What They Like (half the battle), How much money you can afford for their gift, now all you have to do is decide what to give them. Search websites for gift ideas you can make. A handmade or well thought out homemade gift is always well received by the person you are giving it to and your budget! Some sites with gift ideas are: <http://www.budget101.com/> ;

Samples:

1. Dylan --- Individual--- crafts, plants, computers, art, books --- \$5. --- Gift: Craft Kit

2. Kathy--- Individual--- Gambling, Accountant, always has nice nails-- \$5-- Gift: Casino Survival Kit & Manicure Gift basket

In order to make this project even easier for you, Holiday budget planner to make it easier to choose gifts and have an idea of who to add to your Christmas list. As well as keep track of gifts and your gift giving budget.

Once you have made your list, it is quite easy to come up with inexpensive gift ideas that fit each person or family. Just think, you could create gifts for your entire list for less than \$200 this year.

