



Ponderosa Press



Ponderosa Estates Homeowners Association Newsletter

February 2012 Edition

***Next PEHOA with the sheriff Monday, Feb 6th, 7:00 pm at the Bonney Lake Library.** We'll be talking about phone trees and signs for the neighborhood.



Valentine Chocolate Surprise

Saturday, February 11, 2012, @ 2:00 PM

Register to participate in this fun event offered by the Bonney Lake Library. Participants will create a beautiful Valentine chocolate box and card for their sweetheart.

Hosted by creative crafter Dena Hughes Register at the Bonney Lake Library or online @ www.piercecountylibrary.org

- Sponsored by Friends of the Bonney Lake Library
- Current participant availability at the time of printing: 18

Get Loose with Dr. Seuss and The Harmonica Pocket

Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2012, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.
[Puyallup Public Library, 24 S. Meridian](#)

Plan to bring your Toddler, Preschool, Elementary School-age children to enjoy this special concert for young children to celebrate the Birthday of an American icon, Theodor Seuss Geisel. Journey with the musical group Harmonica pocket to learn about the man most know as Dr. Seuss. Join the zany fun when a handful of Dr. Seuss' famous and lesser-known books are set to music. Sing along to the words to Dr. Seuss's ABCs, One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish, and help save the Who's on a giant speck of dust. Fun theatrics will teach the history behind the creation of Horton Hatches the Egg. Of course, no Birthday celebration is complete without singing Happy Birthday to Dr. Seuss. Recommended for ages 1 to 8 years old. PRE-REGISTER via EMAIL at : puylib@ci.puyallup.wa.us PHONE: 253-841-5454



Enumclaw Wine and Chocolate Festival
Saturday, February 4th&5th
12:00 to 9:00 pm

[Enumclaw Expo Center, 45224 284th Ave SE, Enumclaw, WA](#)

Bring your friends and enjoy two days of wine tasting from 24 wineries and chocolate sampling from some of the most delectable chocolate makers around. In addition, you can shop until you drop at our many fine gift vendor booths.

You want more? You got it....you'll also be treated to live music, demonstrations, presentations and more. Make this your date night with your spouse for a night to remember! Advance tickets are \$15 or \$20 at the door, so buy today to save! See you there!



Free Kids Workshop's at Home Depot
[Saturday, February 4](#), All day
[9602 214th Ave E, Bonney Lake, WA](#)



Take the kids out for some FUN to any Home Depot location on the first Saturday of every month for a free kids workshop. The Home Depot's Kids Workshops offers useful projects including the creation of toolboxes, fire trucks and mail organizers, as well as more educational projects, such as a window birdhouse, bughouse or Declaration of Independence frame kit. Check with Home Depot to see what the kids can create this month and get out and have some FUN!

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FREE Tax Preparation

Tuesday, February 21st & Friday, March 9th
South Sound Outreach will be offering FREE tax preparation services for those seniors who qualify in Pierce County. Pierce County residents should call to see whether their tax situation qualifies for free services. We cannot serve you if you received any capital gains or losses in the sale of stock, or if your self-employment expenses are greater than \$5,000. If you are unsure whether you are eligible or to schedule an appointment please call (253) 593-2111.

Strengthening Families FREE Workshop A Series of 6 Mondays beginning February 6, 2012



Families with children ages 9 to 14 years are invited to participate in the FREE Strengthening Families Workshop is designed to help improve communication skills in your family.

Six weekly workshops facilitated by trained instructors will strengthen your family's ability to safely and successfully navigate the teen years and prepare for a bright future.

Monday evenings from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m., February 6 – March 19, 2012

Mountain View Middle School, 10921 199th Ave. Ct. E., Bonney Lake 98391

Sessions will begin with a free dinner that will be served at 5:30 pm for the entire family!

- Free childcare for siblings provided at no charge!

- During the first hour, parents and children meet separately with their facilitators. **- During the second hour,** parents and children meet together as a family.

TO REGISTER Call the Puyallup Family Support Center at 253-845-9177

Parents will discuss: What kids this age are like making rules and having consequences; Solving problems with youth and ways to show love and support.

Children will learn to: Handle frustration; resist peer pressure; appreciate parents; Recognize strengths and get along with others.

Families will: Discuss family strengths; share in fun activities; learn to solve problems together.

Sponsored by the Pierce County Community Connections Department

Chemical Dependency Division; Sumner School District

STARR Project; Mountain View Middle School; Good Samaritan Community Services; the Family Support Partnership; and Readiness to Learn.

BL Senior Center Offers Evenings of FUN!!!

B I N G O! With \$\$CASH\$\$ PRIZES!

Wednesdays at 1:00pm ~ Adult Bingo must be 18 or older to play. Fridays at 7:00pm ~ Family Bingo is open to all ages.

The Bingo committee is looking for dedicated volunteers to help with all aspects of running Bingo. If you would like to help keep Bingo **alive** at the Senior center please contact Nell or Dorothy @ **253.863.7658** to volunteer. Bingo is the main fundraiser for the Senior Center it helps supplement Senior Center Programs such as: Foot care, trips, special events and more! Please help keep the Programming going by telling your friends and family about Bingo. Bingo at the Senior Center could be a fun birthday event for all ages ...consider other events you could plan around a night of Bingo...Above all GO and enjoy a night of FUN !

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Make S'more Love Bars for your Valentine

Ingredients

1 cup graham cracker crumbs
3/4 cup packed brown sugar
1/2 cup softened butter
1/2 cup flour
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
4 cups mini marshmallows
3/4 cups M&Ms (you know I used more than that though!)
1/4 cup hot fudge topping

Pam spray

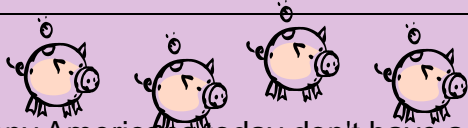
1. Heat oven to 350 degrees. Spray Pam in a 13x9 inch pan.
2. In a large bowl, beat crumbs, brown sugar, butter, flour, and baking soda with electric mixer until coarse crumbs form. Press mixture in bottom of the pan. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes or until golden brown.
3. Remove partially baked crust from oven. Sprinkle marshmallows over the crust. Bake 1 to 2 minutes longer or until the marshmallows begin to puff.
4. Remove the pan from the oven. Drizzle with hot fudge topping. Sprinkle the M&Ms evenly over the marshmallows. Let it cool for an hour and then cut into bars.



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Why You Need An Emergency Fund

By Harrine E. Freeman



Many Americans today don't have a savings account or emergency fund. I heard on the news recently that the Commerce Department reported that Americans spend all the money they have and personal savings rates have reached the lowest level since the Great Depression.

Your emergency fund is your safety net: in case you get sick or lose your job you can use your emergency savings to hold you for a few months until you can find a new job.

Your emergency account should be separate from your checking or savings accounts and should only be used for emergencies such as an unexpected expense, unemployment, medical bills, car repair bills, natural disaster expenses, etc.

An emergency fund should be enough savings to pay your bills for at least 3 to 6 months. Money for an emergency fund should be readily accessible and stored in a checking or savings account, preferably a high-interest savings account, such as Emigrant Direct or ING or a money market account where you can make money while saving money.

To determine how much money is needed to pay 3 to 6 month's worth of your bills do an inventory and write down all your bills and expenses and the monthly amount spent for each. Calculate the total. Use this amount and multiple by 3 or 6 to determine the total amount you need to save in your emergency fund.

You can start off by contributing small amounts to your emergency fund until you are able to contribute more. Start off with a contribution of at least \$20 a month to your emergency fund. Once you are able to contribute more to the fund do so. Make several short-term goals for your emergency fund. Once you have saved enough money to pay one bill, pat yourself on the back. Then keep saving until you have enough to pay three bills and so on, until you have enough saved to pay your bills and

expenses for 3 to 6 months. Having an emergency fund will ensure that you are on the road to becoming financially secure and will prevent you from going into debt when an unexpected tragedy happens or unexpected expenses arises. An emergency fund is the first step to getting out of and staying out of debt.

About the Author: Harrine Freeman is the CEO of H.E. Freeman Enterprises, a credit repair and personal finance services company and author of "How to Get Out of Debt: Get an "A" Credit Rating for Free." Visit [H.E. Freeman Enterprises](http://www.H.E.FreemanEnterprises.com)



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E-File, Free File Now Open to Tax Payers

By Kay Bell (Bankrate.com)



Tax season 2012 officially begins Jan. 17 with the opening of electronic tax filing.

That also means most taxpayers can send in their 2011 tax returns at no cost via Free File. Launched in 2003, this partnership of the Internal Revenue Service and the Free File Alliance, a group of tax preparation software manufacturers, aims to get more individuals filing online.

Free File 2012 basics

You can use Free File to submit your 2011 tax return if your adjusted gross income in 2011 was \$57,000 or less.

The income cutoff applies regardless of your filing status.

Free File is for individual, not business, tax returns. However, a sole proprietor who files Schedule C with Form 1040 can use Free File.

Some participating Free File vendors also offer free state tax return preparation and e-file.

Some Free File companies offer free electronic extensions. But remember you still must pay any due taxes by the April 17 deadline, or you'll be charged interest and possibly penalties on any tax you owe. Access Free File by going to IRS.gov and clicking on the Free File icon. Beware of offers to take you to the free-filing website, as they could be scams operated by identity thieves.

What's available for free

For the last several years, around 20 software companies have participated in Free File.

The key qualification for Free File services is income. This filing season, taxpayers who had adjusted gross income of \$57,000 or less in 2011, regardless of filing status, can use the online program. In addition, each participating company can establish other eligibility requirements. Some offers may be limited by geographic location, military service, specific states or other criteria.

Since not all taxpayers will qualify for all companies, the Free File website has an online search tool, "Help Me Find a Free File Company," that taxpayers can use to find the program that best fits their filing needs.

Free fill able forms remain

While Free File is available to 70 percent of taxpayers, the IRS will again make free fill able federal return forms available to taxpayers regardless of their income.

These are online versions of the most commonly used IRS tax forms and are available through the Free File page.

This option is primarily for individuals who know what should be on their returns. A taxpayer opens a return on a computer, fills in the lines and then e-files the document for free.

Unlike the more detailed software programs offered via Free File, the fill able forms offer only basic calculations of what's entered on the form. They do not automatically transfer that data to other forms.

But fill able forms could be a welcome option for taxpayers who don't qualify for Free File and who don't want to buy tax software.

Read more: [E-file, Free File Now Open To Taxpayers | Bankrate.com http://www.bankrate.com/finance/taxes/e-file-free-file-open-taxpayers.aspx#ixzz1jsxRCg7c](http://www.bankrate.com/finance/taxes/e-file-free-file-open-taxpayers.aspx#ixzz1jsxRCg7c)

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Tips on How to Help Your Child Feel a Sense of Belonging in Your Family



Belonging to a family is an important factor in a child's development, whether he is an only child or one of eight. But even an only child may feel left out of decision-making and other family dynamics. He might be in day care during the mornings, with a babysitter in the afternoons, rushed through dinner in the evening and put to bed at night, without ever getting the sense that he is an important part of the family. In effect, his family might be happening around him. When he becomes a teenager, this child may be a "loner," or may turn to his peers for acceptance and love, because at home he has never felt this critical sense of belonging.

1. **Work — and play — together.** Some chores provide a great opportunity to involve your child. If you make the experience a pleasant one, and he knows that he will be able to take play breaks, he may enjoy the experience and prove to be a good helper. Then, after the chores are done, consider a fun activity together.
2. **Build a sense of familial pride by supporting one another.** Allow your child to be your cheerleader once in a while to show her that you are strengthened by her support — when, for example, you are taking on an important project at work or beginning a new exercise program. Moreover, let her know as well that her sibling's needs her support and encouragement too. She will feel more important as a result.
3. **Encourage all family members to be proud of themselves.** Show your child that you support what makes each family member unique, and that each person makes a valuable contribution to the family in his or her own way. One parent might not have regular out-of-the-house job, but is contributing emotionally and educationally, if not financially, to the family. A child might be tone-deaf but has a wonderful sense of humor. Each one should know that the others are valued for what he brings to the family unit.
4. **Teach your child how to be a group member.** Being members of groups does not come naturally to most children; it is not easy for them to compromise their personal desires for the general good. As a member of one group — your family — your child needs to learn to follow the rules established by and for the group.
5. **Plan a party or do something special for another member of the family.** Kids love to be included in the planning of a special event. Your child could help you make breakfast-in-bed for someone, then carry it in himself; he can plan a birthday party for his brother or sister, right down to mailing the invitations, shopping for snacks, and baking the cake; or he can surprise family members by cleaning their rooms for them or by making their lunches.