



Ponderosa Press



Ponderosa Estates Homeowners Association Newsletter

August 2012 Edition



Bonney Lake Days Friday, August 17th & Saturday, August 18th @ [Allan Yorke Park](#)

Friday, August 17th 4:00 pm - 9:30 pm Events Include: Stage Shows & Fireworks

Saturday, August 18th Events include:

The annual parade begins at 9:30 a.m. on West Tapps Hwy, adjacent to Allan Yorke Park. starting at Emerald Hills Elementary and finish at Allan Yorke Park. To register for the parade, please submit a to the City by August 10, 2012. *Registration is free!*

Les Schwab Car Show 10:30am - 3:00pm, The annual car show is full of great classic and custom cars. Come and vote for your favorite car! With the Parade & Sign-In: 8:30 a.m. Car Show: 10:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Awards Ceremony: 3:15 p.m. For details or to participate in this event, please submit the Car Show Application form ([above](#)). Registration is limited to the first 50 cars.



The annual Skateboard competition begins at 10:00 a.m. at the Skate Park in Allan Yorke Park., *Sponsored by the Rainier Board shop*

Kids Zone is full of rides and activities for the whole family. Kids Zone is open all day - come and check it out! All Day Friday - 4:00pm - 8:00pm Saturday 10:00am - 5:00pm

Join us for Bingo in the park all day on Saturday during Bonney Lake Days! *Hosted by the [Bonney Lake Senior Center](#).*

PEHOA Upcoming Events ...

Ponderosa Estates Annual Community Garage/Yard Sale Saturday" August 4th from 9AM - 6PM.

Also join us for the "Party in the Park/Neighborhood Watch info" happening on August 4th, from 11am - 2pm! There will be food, games and the Pierce County Sheriff will have info about the neighborhood watch!

Kids Club at Cedar view Park

July 9 through August 28, 2012

Mondays @ 6:30 pm

Tuesdays @ 11:00 am

Location: [Cedar view Park](#)



Join in the fun this summer! Enjoy great events at the park all summer long. For the second year in a row, Kids Club events are scheduled on both Monday evenings AND Tuesdays during the day, so everyone can have some fun on their schedule. See the Bonney Lake City website for updated schedule of events. http://www.ci.bonney-lake.wa.us/section_community/parks_recreation



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Fort Nisqually's Brigade Encampment

Saturday, Aug. 11, 2012, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

\$31 Family Rate

Journey back to the year 1855 at Fort Nisqually and learn why the Hudson's Bay company Fur Brigades from east of the Cascades camped here. The camp brings the sights and sounds of early Washington Territory back to life. Enjoy entertainment ranging from Fur Trappers' Races to a ladies' tea, from dancing to the music of bagpipes, and much, much more! Brigade Encampment has something for the whole family including the popular "Engage for the Day" program where visitors participate in hands-on activities. Learn new skills, such as flint & steel fire starting, utilizing hand-tools and spinning wool, afterwards sign on as an honorary apprentice for the day with the Hudson's Bay Company.

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Mail thieves spotted!



Mail thieves were spotted on La Paloma and 206th Ave going through Mail boxes @ 4am in the morning. The resident did get a description ... white male with buzz haircut in a white Honda type car...he did not get a license plate number.

If you see people going through our mailboxes Call 911 and get a license plate number if possible! Let's work together to bring These thieves to justice!



Save some \$\$ on haircuts...JC Penney Stores will be offering FREE haircuts for kids in grades K-6 this August! These free cuts are available by appointment only, so call your store now to book one. Don't forget to check out other salons for some great bargains too !

BACK TO SCHOOL LUNCH IDEAS:

Make your OWN Lunchables™



The school year is just around the corner! And all parents are looking for lunch ideas for their children. Here's how to make your OWN version of those popular kid friendly lunch time food.

Combine crackers, different types of cheese, sandwich meats in a Tupperware container

Veggies or Fruit- pre-cut into cubes or coins

Left-over Dinner - such as Meatloaf Sandwiches, Cucumber Sandwiches

For younger kids, to make the sandwiches more appealing use cookie cutters to cut them into shapes, triangles, or mini squares. Use Tortillas instead of bread for the main dish...spread with Fruit Butter, Peanut butter (be careful of allergies), or cream cheese and rolled up a great lunchtime burrito. Use your imagination on ingredients for some tasty additions to your children's lunch time fare...enjoy!



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Living With a Clutter bug

Stop Being the Family Maid and Nag!

Here are several strategies that can help with clutter bugs so that you are no longer the family maid or nag! Teach the children to clean up. Don't punish them for a mess, but reward them when they pick up on time or when requested.

Provide bins for each member of the family. If you have pick up, put the items in that member's bin and let them put their things away. If they decide NOT to put their things away you could do what my Mom did... put all items in a box and we could "earn" them back by doing extra chores. If we didn't miss the items we would donate them to charity.

While you are at it, go through your and your husband's belongings as well, culling items you seldom use. Sell them, donate them, Enlist your husband's support with these measures. His reward is that you won't be nagging any more. If hubby works at home, agree to allow his workspace to be as ordered or disordered as he chooses, as long as the door is closed. If there is no door, then buy a screen to hide that area when not in use.

Everyone will win! For help with de-cluttering and organizing your home visit this helpful site:

www.flylady.net .

Easier, Cleaner Showers

Here in the Pacific Northwest, mold and mildew are constant companions. We have found that the best shower cleaner isn't even a liquid, its a simple rubber squeegee. After every shower, we wipe down the walls with it, (and no, the kids are not exempt!) When mold does eventually begin to build up, a simple solution of bleach and water sprayed on it after wiping down the walls first, is usually all it takes. About once every six months or so I give it a good scrubbing with basin, tub and tile cleaner. Wiping the walls down really doesn't take all that long and its a great way to sneak in a little stretching, besides! If you prefer to use a little elbow grease instead try these methods: The best and cheapest shower cleaner I know of is Mineral Oil. Just dab a little on a rag and bye-bye soap scum build up. It simply wipes away. The second best cheap shower cleaner is Baking Soda. Sprinkle a little on a sponge and scour away tough stains and mineral buildup. The third best cheap shower cleaner is bleach. After all the "gunk" is removed with Mineral Oil and Baking Soda, I spray a little bleach to remove mold and mildew. Ta-da....a clean shower!



How to keep your patio clean It's Time to Power Wash

It's that time of year again when we invite friends and family over for a BBQ or picnic in YOUR back yard. Usually after a winter of rain our patios and walkways need a good cleaning. If you have "power washed" patios and vinyl siding yourself you know how valuable a tool it is to have around. If you don't happen to own one here is another method that can be quite effective on that dirty concrete patio or walkway...

- Get some cheap laundry detergent, a push broom (it's best if you clean the bristles first), and my water hose with a spray nozzle set on full blast. If you don't have a spray nozzle, you can put your finger or thumb over the hose opening for the same effect.
- Simply wet down the area, soap it up, use the broom as a scrub brush, and then rinse a time or two. I make sure the water for the first rinse hits the area full blast. You can see the dirt loosening and I just wash it away.

It might not be quite as good as paying someone to power wash the concrete, but the price is right. It's almost free. You're only out the cost of the detergent and a little bit on your water bill. This is a great chore for a really hot, sunny summer day. Be careful not to slip on the wet, soapy pavement.



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The Big Drought , How Does it Affect YOU ?

America's Breadbasket has become quite crispy as the drought is spreading across the Midwest leaving wilted crops in its wake, struggling to survive. Cattle ranchers are slaughtering their stock, unable to afford the hay and grain necessary to feed them. Perhaps you've seen it on the news; but- are you aware of how this is going to directly affect you and your family?

Here's what you can expect from this drought- beef and pork prices will temporarily drop as ranchers are forced to slaughter their livestock due to the inability to feed/water them. This drop will be quite short lived. The effect on the grocery bill will be rather severe as more than 85-88% of corn and soybean crops nationwide are experiencing massive drought conditions. All products containing corn & corn syrup will likely increase by the first of the new year. This includes products like soda/pop, cereal, chips, salad dressings prepackaged snack foods. It has been said that corn is in more than 75% of all manufactured products, including biodegradable packaging!

Dairy Prices which includes milk and cheese products will also increase for 2 reasons, first- the feed prices will be increasing significantly as farmers are forced to have hay and feed shipped in from other states. Secondly, the increase in heat causes a decrease in dairy production; generally a 20-30% decrease in production past 90 degrees.

Corn is a primary feed for livestock and poultry, which means that you can also expect a sharp increase in the cost of beef, pork and chicken. In addition, you can expect a rise in pet food costs as well. Corn is also used in 40% of gas production in the USA (ethanol)- so as a consumer, you can expect to see gas prices increase again as well.

If you live in one of the drought stricken areas you may see a significant increase in your electric bill. The plants that are generating electricity use water for cooling. Without the proper levels of water these plants are forced to reduce their output, causing electricity shortages and increased rates.

Unfortunately, the effects of the drought will likely be felt in your wallet long after it finally lifts, expect high grocery stores prices for 3 years for beef and at least a year and a half for pork.

There's little doubt that prices are on the rise but you might be wondering how you can counteract them. 1. If you haven't already, switch to generic brands.

2. Cut out Junk Food- corn syrup is in a high number of products including cereal, peanut butter, soda/pop- aside from the fact that they offer very little nutritional value, they're going to continue to be a major drain on the grocery budget

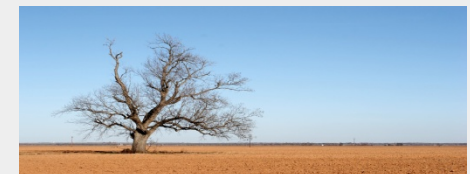
3. If you have a freezer, stock up while the prices are reasonable; While this is a temporary solution to an ongoing problem, it will give you the opportunity to be "choosy" about the sales and grocery budget. Keep in mind that you must repackage the meat prior to freezing. We recommend using a [vacuum sealer](#) as you can store meats up to 18 months and still have them taste as fresh as the day they were packaged.

4. Make your own [Mixes & Convenience foods](#) to avoid fillers (such as corn syrup solids) as well as the outrageous expense

What we're doing 1. Filling the freezers with beef, pork & poultry

2. Stocking up on Flour (Wheat & White)

3. Planting additional veggies (Tomatoes, Lettuce, Cucumbers)





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Summer's End, Stock up for Winter and Reap the Savings !



The summer days are waning and fall is almost here. The change from summer to fall brings changes within the home - children go back to school, vacations end, new work projects begin, and the frills of summer go into storage. A change of season can also mean big savings for the organized food shopper. With a little planning, you can find good deals this fall season and save time during the busy months ahead. Here are some inexpensive tips to try at home.

Produce

Take advantage of the low prices of in-season fruits and vegetables at farmer's markets and grocery stores. Consider canning and freezing today's in-season produce to enjoy all winter when produce prices are at their peak. Fruits that freeze well are peaches, berries, apples, cherries, grapes, apricots, and pears. Apples, apricots, peaches and pears need to be peeled before freezing. Toss pears and apples with lemon juice, toss apricots with honey, and toss peaches with a small amount of honey and lemon juice to prevent browning. Frozen fruit is delicious in cakes, muffins, crisps, breads, and pancakes.

Most vegetables freeze beautifully but do require blanching first. Blanching involves immersing vegetables in boiling water for a matter of minutes. This process inactivates their enzymes so that they don't lose their quality in the freezer. Frozen vegetables are wonderful on their own just steamed or use them in recipes like stews and casseroles.

Canning involves more effort and equipment than freezing and is a bit more costly. With canning, jars must be sterilized first. Once they have been filled with fruit or vegetables, lids with rubber rings are screwed on top of the jar. Jars are then placed in a pressure cooker or boiling water bath for a specified amount of time until a seal is created.

Mothers with babies who are on solid foods or will be can puree in-season fruits and vegetables, freeze in ice-cube trays, then pop out the cubes and place them in baggies for later use. Homemade baby food is much cheaper than store bought and more appetizing too. Your baby can enjoy asparagus, beets, cauliflower, and broccoli for example; none of which are available in store bought baby food jars.

Investment Cooking

When the fall schedule begins again, you may be surprised at the lack of time to cook. Instead of reaching for high cost, low flavor convenience foods or eating out, try investment cooking. Make large batches of dishes and freeze them in individual or family size servings. Because this task can be labor intensive, try sharing the work with a friend and splitting up what you make. Spaghetti sauce, chili, homemade tortellini, soups, meat pies, sauces, lasagna, muffins and breads all freeze well. Having a freezer full of meals will take the pressure off trying to run home and whip up something when you only have an hour.

There are some great websites that offer recipes and instructions to help with the investment cooking process. You can also look for recipes that do double duty. For example, you may roast a chicken one night, then use the leftovers for soup or a casserole the next night. Don't forget about the crock-pot either. Throw in meat, some of your frozen vegetables and broth and you have a meal by the end of the day.

Use the summer's end as a springboard to savings and for staying ahead of the grocery buying game. The savings are out there so take advantage of them. Having a freezer full of food for the busy fall schedule can be a godsend. A little planning can go a long way towards living a less stressful life in the winter months ahead.