

Ponderosa Press

Ponderosa Estates Homeowners Association Newsletter

February 2013 Edition

IT'S FREE!



LOWE'S

BUILD AND GROW



Valentine Chocolate Surprise

Saturday, February 9TH, @ 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 availability 11 as of this printing

FEBRUARY WORKSHOP

Wheel of Love

Saturday, February 09 (10:00 AM)

Valentine's Day is right around the corner! Bring your child to Lowe's and they can build this Wheel of Love!

Monster Jam®, featuring Grave Digger®

Saturday, February 23 (10:00 AM)

Your child will love the Monster Jam® kit featuring Grave Digger®! Bring them to Lowe's this weekend to get closer than ever to one of their favorite Monster Jam superstars!

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.



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Let's Ride! Motorcycling the Northwest at the Washington State History Museum

Occurs every Saturday, Friday, Thursday, Wednesday, Sunday, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, cost: \$7.00-9.50 @1911 Pacific Ave

Tacoma, WA 98402. For more info: Call 1-888-238-4373 or visit their [Website](#)

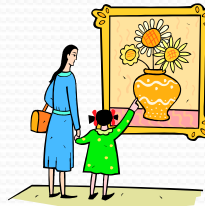
Ladies and gentlemen, start your engines! Opening Saturday, January 26 at the Washington State History Museum, Let's Ride! Motorcycling the Northwest takes visitors on a journey of discovery to explore the past century of motorcycling, its culture and its communities. North westerners have been enthralled with the adventure of riding since the early 1900s, both for business and for pleasure, and the activity has played an important part in shaping our young region's history. With nearly two dozen rare machines on display through June 23, 2013, Let's Ride! Motorcycling the Northwest combines the artistry and science of motorcycles with the history of motorcycling.



Valentine Tea at Fort Steilacoom



Re-enactors will portray daughters of the fort Commander Col. Casey and Mrs. Casey, and friends from Steilacoom, Fort Nisqually and the Territory. Tea and cakes will be served at 2 p.m. There will be a "Fancy Fair" silent auction and a hat and bonnet display. Quarters 2 at 2 p.m. Reservations required. \$15. Link www.historicfortsteilacoom.org...



Late Play Date

Thursday, Feb. 28, 2013, 6 – 8 p.m.

[White River Valley Museum](#)
918 H St. S.E., Auburn WA 98002

Enjoy an evening of family fun activities and crafts at the museum. Perfect for kids age 3 to 12. Admission and activities are FREE! Link www.wrvmuseum.org...

Family Nature Walk

[Titlow Park Lodge](#)
8425th Sixth Ave.
Tacoma WA 98465



Explore Tacoma's Parks during this free naturalist-led walk. Discover amazing plants and animals and how they adapt to the seasons. Walks are organized and led by Tacoma Nature Center staff. Not recommended for strollers or children younger than age 3. FREE, pre-register. metroparkstacoma.org...

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The No Spend Month Part 1



Could you go a whole month without any discretionary spending?

Frugal families across the nation are taking their dollar stretching further. For the month of February, the plan is to spend nothing. There will be no discretionary spending at all. That means eating all meals at home or packing a lunch, finding free entertainment or going without, and no trips to the mall or late night online shopping sprees.

February is the perfect month for a spending freeze. With only 28 days, it will seem to fly by. By this time, the holiday bills are paid. Vacation days are months away. A one-month spending freeze is a good way to see just how frugal you can be. However, it is a big commitment and takes some planning. The whole family needs to be on board to make it work.

The first step in a spending freeze is to stock up your pantry and freezer. Another crucial step is meal planning. You don't want to make it halfway through the month and find out that you are out of flour or some other staple. Keep your costs low by buying on sale, using coupons, and stocking up when products are at their lowest price point.

Next, decide in advance what you do need to pay: monthly bills, weekly gas for transportation, sudden illnesses or trips to the doctor, and perhaps \$10 or so for fresh milk and produce. You can rely on canned or frozen vegetables, but it is good to have some fresh fruit as well.

This goes way beyond being frugal. Instead of budgeting and spending less, you are spending nothing. You need a whole new mindset. If someone needs a gift, get creative. Anything handmade is appreciated far more than yet another scented candle, although it is easy and fun to make your own candles.

What if a pipe clogs or your water heater goes out? Check with the Chamber of Commerce if your city has a bartering system. Often, you can barter your skills for something you need. Even if there isn't an established system, you could ask your handy neighbor to help in return for babysitting his three kids or doing his taxes for free.

What if the weather outside is frightful, and you're stuck inside with nothing to do? Devise some old-fashioned ways of passing the time. Try board games, charades, eating s'mores around the fireplace, or a rousing game of cards. You could watch old home movies or dust off the family photo albums. Have a picnic in the living room or make a fort out of blankets in the dining room. Continued on next page

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The No Spend Month Part 2



You could invite friends or family over for a cost-free potluck or just desserts. Curl up with a good book from the library, or watch a free movie. Libraries often have free guest speakers or presentations. You can also check out the local happenings for free music concerts or plays put on in your child's school.

Perhaps committing to a whole month of no spending is too daunting. Could your family do it for a week? How about two weeks? Or maybe you could do a pantry challenge and only eat what you have on hand. Another challenge would be to only pay cash, using no credit cards for a month.

When you successfully complete your challenge, you will discover exactly how much you can save in a few short weeks. Your home will be less cluttered, because you're not rushing out to buy something new. You will be more conscious of your spending and cut way down on impulse buys. If you don't need it, don't buy it.

You will find that it is easier to live on less. You'll get creative instead of always reaching for your wallet. A bonus is that you'll get control of your spending. Your mindset will change as well. You once asked, "What am I depriving myself of?" Now, you'll ask, "What can I use that I already have?"

So take the challenge, either this February or anytime you feel the need to go on a spending freeze. You'll be surprised at the unexpected bonuses. You'll have more time with your family, eating together, sending less to the landfill, and getting creative with what you already have. Even though I hate cold weather, I'm ready for a February freeze.

Ideas for Active Winter Fun

Drop in for Tot Open Gym Time or Story time at the local Library

Enjoy spending time with your toddler as they experience interacting with others and learn social skills.

Go for a Swim

You'd be surprised how much energy kids burn when they are splashing around in the water. Dive for rings, play Marco Polo or just swim some laps; an afternoon at the pool will wear them right out. Check the public swim schedule at your local parks department for family and open swim times. For a mere \$3 to \$5, you'll have a blast on a rainy day.

Enjoy a Hike!

Get out into nature and enjoy the fresh air around your neighborhood or on a park trail. Add a nature scavenger hunt for some Great fun!

Roller skating in the park

Get out the rollerblades /skates and head to the park for some fun times together... can you think of MORE to do??

