

Ponderosa Press

Ponderosa Estates Homeowners Association Newsletter

November 2015 Edition

Zoo-lights 2015

November 27 - January 3

Hours: 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm.

Bundle up and stroll the Zoo as it comes aglow with more than a half-million lights.

Explore seas of dazzling lights and see breathtaking light displays of ice-skating puffins, playful tiger cubs, the massive flame tree and a Giant Pacific Octopus. Warm up in the steamy [South Pacific Aquarium](#). Ride a [camel](#) and take a spin on the antique [carousel](#)!

Scuba Diving Santa can be found swimming with the sharks during the first three weeks of Zoo-lights on Tuesday and Wednesday nights at **6pm**.
FREE with Zoo-lights admission.

Fall Lego Fun

Thursday, Nov. 12 @ the Buckley Pierce County Library
From 4-5:30 p.m.

Use LEGO blocks and Straws + Connectors as well as your imagination to create fabulous may enter for a chance to win a door prize.
No registration required.

All ages; under 6 with an adult
piercecountylibrary.org

Free event sponsored by
The Friends of the Buckley Library



Happy Thanksgiving

From the desk of PEHOA President Brad Doll

As you all know our neighborhood sign was damaged by vandals last month I am pleased to announce our new sign has been ordered, and should be ready for installation in about 2 weeks. A local company, Signs in Wood located in Bonney Lake is creating the replacement sign. When completed we'll be looking for a few volunteers to help with installation.

On another positive note, Jeff and Aimee have asked us to move the date of the November meeting to Monday, November 23rd, because their church will have Thanksgiving meal baskets available at the meeting. More info to follow.
Please let one of the directors know if you'd like one!

Thanks, Jeff and Aimee! I just received word from a homeowner on 203rd, she said a car was blocking her driveway this morning. She called the sheriff, and he said it was reported stolen out of Parkland. This is the 3rd stolen car that has shown up in our neighborhood in a months time. It almost certainly means that the thief either lives in our neighborhood, or knows someone who lives here. Keep your eyes open, be vigilant! Especially in the early morning hours. These things seem to be happening after 2am.

Braddoll@msn.com

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How to Winterize the Vegetable Garden



CLEAN

Remove plants and weeds from your garden. If you have a compost pile, toss plants that are disease and bug free onto it along with any weeds that have not gone to seed. **Burn any plants that are diseased or buggy.** If you live in town and cannot burn, bag them and place them out for trash pickup. Carefully gather weeds that have gone to seed and burn or bag them as well. We use [heirloom seeds](#) for several things so we don't want any volunteer plants the next year. For this reason, our heirloom plants are not tossed into the compost but rather burned as well. How much plant residue you remove is up to you, but getting out the weeds, diseased plants and woody stalks are a must.

CULTIVATE

If you have a tiller, use it to deeply work the ground and turn under the remaining plant residue. Some years my husband will spade the garden which works it deeper than a tiller can reach. Use a garden rake to remove visible root stalks from plants and weeds. Proper preparation of the ground *now* will get you in the garden that much sooner come next spring. Proper tilling loosens the soil and allows it to drain and dry, making it ready for planting!

FEED YOUR GARDEN

There are two main ways to feed your garden each fall. Composting and cover crops. There are different benefits to each. Feeding your garden is important if you want it to feed you. Typically this is the most expensive part of gardening, but considering how much [we save each year by growing our own foods](#) and by [reusing food scraps whenever possible](#), this cost is minimal.

Let's look at the benefits of composting first. Have your soil "seed ready" before applying compost. Then spread on compost, manure, straw or other organic material. Make sure to have a minimum of 4" up to 6" of compost spread over the entire garden. Use [this beginner's tutorial for composting](#) if you're new to the idea. During the winter months, the organic matter will decompose and feed your garden. In the spring, rake the compost back in rows and [plant your seeds and seedlings](#). As the seeds sprout, slowly begin pulling the compost back beside the seedlings. Not only will this continue feeding your plants during the next growing season, it is also a great way to control weeds.

Planting a cover crop is also highly beneficial. Cover crops are planted 30 days before the first frost, and turned under in the spring just after flowering. Also called green manure, cover crops restore fertility and humus to the soil as well as controlling erosion from winter rains. Cover crops are grown thickly, thus choking out most of the weeds that try to pop up in the spring. Your local garden center is most likely to know what cover crop will grow best in your area. We've planted buckwheat and rye in the past. Both of them died during the winter, but still added lots of organic material to the soil. A common blend is annual rye and hairy vetch.

How to winterize your vegetable garden is summed up in 3 easy steps:

Clean

Cultivate*

Compost

**soil testing is good but optional*

This should take no more than a weekend to accomplish and the rewards next year will be even greater!



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Do-It-Yourselfers

Join us for a day of hands-on fun and learning at the 2nd Annual DIY Fest

Are you interested in cake decorating, fiber arts, bike repair or making your own sauerkraut?

Do you like to build or fix things?

Are you the creative type?

Come join us at DIYfest, where we celebrate the do-it-yourself culture in Pierce County.

Experts and aficionados will showcase their skills through hands-on activities. Learn fun and useful things on a variety of topics

from crafting and sustainable living to cooking and home renovation. The event also features local authors, kitchen demonstrations and food trucks for hungry do-it-yourselfers.

Sponsored by Pierce County Parks and Recreation.

Sprinker Recreation Center, 14824 C St. S., Tacoma, WA, 98444

Saturday, Nov. 7

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.



Saturday, November 14, 2015

Creation to Donation All-day Sewing Event

Sumner Library 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Sewers of all skill levels are invited to give back to our community. Work alongside volunteer instructors to create simple, useful items to donate to a local charity. All supplies and equipment provided.

Presented in partnership with the Sumner-Bonney Lake Family Center and the Pierce County Clothing and Textile Advisors.

•**This event requires registration.**

Limit 20 per session. Current Availability: 20

WorkSource Workshop: Job Hunting for Mature Workers

Buckley Library Thursday, November 19, 2015, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Are you concerned that age is affecting your job search? This workshop addresses apprehensions mature workers have related to their job search, including employer assumptions about age and over-qualification.

Participation in this workshop gives you an invitation to attend the once monthly ENCORE job club.

•**This event requires registration.**

•Current Availability: 7

Job Seekers Guide to the Cloud

Buckley Library Tuesday, December 01, 2015 from 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Explore different cloud technologies including Google Drive, Microsoft One Drive and Drop box. Learn how these new features can assist you in your job search.

•**This event requires registration.**

•Current Availability: 10

•<http://www.piercecountylibrary.org/calendar.aspx?id=281>

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Getting your home ready for the winter months Fast Fall Fix-Ups

The trees are a burning cauldron of color, like a dying fire giving one last gasp. Winter reaches out with icy fingers to frost the branches with a hint of what is to come. Now is the perfect time for some fast fall fix-ups to ensure a cozy winter and pumpkin pies; brewing hot spiced apple cider (I can smell it simmering just thinking about it). Caulking is easier than ever. It comes in a clear, paint-able formula for exterior use, in the traditional caulking tubes, or in easy squeeze tubes for small areas. Just fixing tiny cracks near windows and doors can significantly reduce your heating bill during the cold months. Check exterior walls and the foundation for any gaps or spaces and fill those as well.

Check your gutters and make sure they are clear of leaves, branches, and dirt. A clogged gutter causes all kinds of problems, including ice dams, where the rainwater or melting snow has no where to go, so it backs up under the shingles. This leads to leaks, water damage, and maybe even the need for a whole new roof. Cleaning the gutters in the fall and again in the spring ensures the water and melting snow goes where it is supposed to go. Raking leaves can be a fun family activity. Gather plenty of rakes, large bags, some inexpensive or old gloves, and add some boisterous music with a boom box. The leaves will be bagged in no time, with the kids begging for more. Head over to your neighbors if you want to extend the fun.

Save a few leftover leaves. They make excellent mulch to cover vulnerable plants and the roots of shrubs. Damp newspaper helps keep the leaves in place. Leaves make beautiful decorations to brighten dreary days. Collect colorful examples and mount on construction paper. You can create collages or showcase a single brilliant leaf.

Another easy decoration is a fall wreath. Purchase an inexpensive foam wreath that can be found at craft stores and discount outlets. Use craft or hot glue to attach leaves. Finish with a gold or brown velvet bow. You can dress it up as much as you like with mini pumpkins, tiny scarecrows, baby corn, or other gourds.

Mow the grass one more time before the snow flies. Long grass can mold and cause your lawn to die over the winter. This is an excellent time to fertilize the lawn as well. Check with your local garden center for specific needs for your area.

Another simple step is to cover your windows with plastic. You can do this from the inside or outside. Applying heat, like from a hair dryer, will shrink the plastic to form a tight seal. Most window kits costs less than five dollars per large window and can save hundreds of dollars over the winter. If you're organizing your garage or shed for the winter, don't forget to look up. Over 80% of space is wasted in garages. One easy way to double your storage is to add shelves to the open rafters. Another is to stack sturdy shelves all the way up to the ceiling. Remember to secure them to the wall for added safety. Put little used or summer items on the higher shelves.

Hang shovels, rakes, and other tools on special hooks or large nails. The twelve-inch space between the posts is perfect for this. Hang kids' bikes and scooters to free up floor space and protect your vehicles from accidentally getting scratched if one falls over against it. (I speak from painful experience.)

Now is a perfect time to dig out snow shovels, ice scrapers, antifreeze, ice-melt, kids' ice skates, hockey gear, sleds, snowboards, and warm winter wear. You don't want to wait until there is a blizzard raging outside! Add your Christmas decorations to the list, and you'll be one step ahead of the game.

A lot of families hang their Christmas lights in the fall, so they don't have to contend with high winds and freezing temperatures. Still others leave them up year-round, which is either a sign of resourcefulness or of laziness. I bypass the issue entirely by hanging my Christmas lights on the inside of the windows. They still light up the night and provide a warm glow inside without all the hassle.

Finally, straighten up your yard. Turn in your recyclable cans for some quick cash. Tidy the storage shed so that it is easily accessible. Prepare your garden and flower beds for next spring's planting. Store the patio furniture and summer toys.

Fall is a season of winding down, but it can also be the perfect time to fine-tune your home and have fun with nature's fabulous show of colors. Take advantage of the last few days of warm weather and try some fast fall fix-ups today !