

Ponderosa Press

Ponderosa Estates Homeowners Association Newsletter

February 2016 Edition



HOA Meeting News



Barking/roaming dogs: We all love our furry companions! But lately, there have been complaints about barking dogs and dogs defecating on neighbors lawns/porches. The HOA Board sent a letter a “dog etiquette” to help our friends and neighbors better cope with this issue. Please be courteous to your neighbors and help keep our neighborhood safe, clean and friendly by keeping your pets under control. Your help is GREATLY appreciated!

Animal Control can be contacted at (253) 798-7387. For additional information about Pierce County Animal Control please visit www.co.pierce.wa.us/animal.

New Parks Committee formed at the last PEHOA meeting !

Members and Officers voted on forming a new Parks Committee at our January meeting. Anyone who wants to be involved should contact Kelsy Schmidt @ auntkelsy@gmail.com.

Having a group focused on improving and maintaining our Community Park enables our community to Bring improvements quickly and with budget limits. Improvements discussed were trimming branches from some trees or possibly take some down to open it up the area and get more light from the streetlights into the Park; upgrading the toys; a area for cars to park. If you have any suggestions for improvements to the Park please contact Brad @ www.ponderosaestates.org

Annual Members Meeting Update: To Facilitate our ability to move forward with projects it was decided to move the Annual meeting up to April. This will help get a budgets approved and move forward with improvements to the Park as soon as possible.

Annual Party in the Park event update: contact Kelsy Schmidt @ auntkelsy@gmail.com our NEW Chairperson for the Party in the Park! Thank YOU Kelsy for volunteering! Be sure to email Kelsy if you have ideas or would like to help put on the event of the Summer for our Community!

Resources available after our next meeting on February 15th ...Hope you can join us for our monthly meeting! Your HOA has food available each month for those in need. The food will be available following each monthly HOA meeting. It is generously being provided by Puyallup Foursquare Church to Ponderosa residents. We will see you there!

*** Visit our Website: www.ponderosaestates.org for more news and community information.

Ponderosa Press

Ponderosa Estates Homeowners Association Newsletter

February 2016 Edition

Pierce County Spay Station Bonney Lake

February 25 @ 6:45 am

Event Navigation

[« Pierce County Pet Food Bank](#)

[Pierce County Spay Station- Puyallup »](#)



FREE Spay and Neuter!!! And Flea Treatment!

Are you low income? Low Income For Pierce County is:

(1 person \$39,700) (2 persons \$45,400) (3 persons \$51,050) (4 persons \$56,700) (5 Persons \$61,250) OR are you on Public Assistance of any type? Then let us Spay/neuter your dogs/cats for free!

If you have a dog or cat that you would like to have spayed or neutered, it's a wonderful time to take advantage of this low cost option! If you are on public assistance or are low income then the surgery is FREE! We also offer vaccines, flea prevention, and microchips!

Every day we try hard to get on as many pets as possible. IF we are unable to get your pet on board, we will get you set up with a guaranteed appointment for a future date. Because we can fit on more cats than dogs, **you can make appointments** for your cats (**CATS only**) on our website:

<https://hs4.humanesolution.com/ScheduleOnline/Start/970>

***Please arrive at Pet Pros, Bonney Lake 21201 Hwy 410 Bonney Lake, WA 98391 [± Google Map](#) Start time is 6:45am! It is NOT first come first serve.

Pierce County Library Sponsored Events Just in time for Valentines Day

Friday, February 12, 2016

[Valentine's Day Origami](#)

[Buckley](#) 4:00 PM

Ages 6 and up

Learn to fold paper into Valentine's Day shapes to give to your Sweetheart or someone you love for Valentine's Day! No registration required



Make Your Own Valentine Days Cards

[Bonney Lake](#) 2:00 PM

Join in the fun on Saturday, February 13th and learn to make an old fashioned Valentine just in time for Valentine's Day. Go online and register to secure your spot!

[On-line registration required.](#)

•This event requires registration.

Hurry and get your spot reserved today!!

HOME DEPOT KIDS PROJECT

[Valentines Mailbox](#)

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Saturday, Feb 6, 2016

Join our hands-on workshop and build a wooden Valentines mailbox to hold all your child's valentine cards from their favorite friends. After the mailbox is built, your child can personalize their project with paint. All kids get to keep their craft, receive a FREE certificate of achievement, a Workshop Apron, and a commemorative pin while supplies last.

Children must be present at the store to participate in the workshop and receive the kit, apron and pin.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED! Go to:

www.homedepot.com

Ponderosa Press

Ponderosa Estates Homeowners Association

Newsletter

February 2016 Edition



5 Free Projects Inexpensive Home Improvement

Take a walk down the aisles of a home improvement center, and you're likely to get the impression that sprucing up your home has to be a costly affair. Fortunately, this just isn't so. With a little creativity and work, you can make improvements to your home without spending any money at all. Read on for five free projects to get you started.

Yank and trim.

A professionally landscaped yard looks great, but can be quite costly. If you can't afford the expense of professional help and new plantings, put your focus on making the most of your existing plants. Often, all it takes is a little trimming and shaping to give your bushes and shrubs the neat, well-manicured look of a professional job. You can even expand upon your existing landscaping by swapping plants with your neighbors. Negotiate a trade of your unwanted plants, or dig up divisions of your favorites.

Wash away a redo.

Are your walls covered with ugly scuffs and smudges? Before you invest time and money repainting them, give a quick scrub a try. To get started, just fill up a bucket with warm sudsy water, and go over the dirty areas with a sponge. Semi-gloss walls will clean up best, but even flat-painted walls will respond to a little scrubbing. To give your home that fresh "just painted" look, be sure to scrub around light switches, behind your kitchen and bathroom sinks, along-side the dishwasher and around doorknobs and handles. These areas typically show the most signs of use and abuse.

Use your leftovers.

It's fairly common to end up with leftover paint after a paint job, and while it may seem like a good idea to save this paint for touch-ups, this probably isn't the best use for your leftovers. Just like food, paint has a limited shelf life. Check the can, and you may even find an expiration date. (Bear in mind that this date is for unopened cans.) Once a can has been opened, and the paint has been exposed to air, it will break down at a faster rate. Mold and rust are just two contaminants that can compromise the quality of your paint supply. To make the best use of your paint and the money you've spent on it, look for other ways to use the paint around your house. For example, a small quantity of paint might be used to redo a piece of furniture, while a larger quantity of paint might be used to brighten up the trim throughout the house or to paint a second room.



Freshen up a fan.

If you've got your eye on one of the new designer ceiling fans on display at your local home improvement center, but don't have enough cash to justify an upgrade, why not give your current fan a make-over? It's simpler than you might think and doesn't have to cost a dime.

Tired of the color of your fan blades? That's easy enough to fix. Just unscrew the blades from the fan, and flip them over. Often ceiling fans feature a different color on each side of the blades to give consumers a little flexibility in their decorating. So, if you've spent years staring at white fan blades, just flip them over to the wood-stained side (or vice versa) and enjoy a new look.

If you've got leftover paint, this is also a great place to use it. Just apply a coat of paint to the fan blades, and you have a custom-colored fan. This is especially nice if you have leftover paint in the color of the room where the ceiling fan hangs.

Give your doors a do-over.

Do you crave the look of open storage in your kitchen, but lack the funds for a total cabinet re-do? Then, you may be happy to learn that obtaining this look doesn't have to cost anything. Just remove the cabinet doors from your cabinets, and fill in the screw holes with a little wood putty. (You can use some of your leftover paint to jazz up your cabinets if you'd like.)

Finish by placing some storage baskets inside your cabinets, and you'll have the perfect, high-style kitchen without the high-style price. Spend more time thinking and less time spending, and you're sure to come up with lots of other ways to improve your home for free.

Ponderosa Estates Homeowners Association Newsletter

February 2016 Edition



Romantic Date Ideas for Valentine's Day...And Beyond

This Valentine's Day and throughout the month of February, get ready to restore the passion that is so vital to keep the flame burning brightly. Whichever your current situation, don't despair. It's never too late to be romantic; nor is it too late to be romanced.

Remember, it is often the thoughtful things that are said or done that stand out the most. For example, the rose you spontaneously purchase for your date will outdo the fanciest dinner, and the love note you give will outshine nearly any activity that money can buy. Below are several creative ideas and suggestions aimed to add romance to any dating relationship for Valentine's Day and throughout the year.

Valentine's Day Dates

Decorate your Valentine's dorm room, office, or bedroom with a barrage of paper hearts, balloons, and crepe paper streamers. Leave a card and a heart shaped picture frame with your favorite picture of the two of you surrounded by rose petals for your Valentine to discover.

Buy a box of chocolates for your Valentine but remove one or two confections. In its place, leave some heart earrings or a locket to be discovered. Be sure to carefully repackage the box to avoid the appearance of tampering.

Write your sweetheart a love note on a sheet of pink or red construction paper. Intermittently throughout your letter, glue down candy hearts that say, "Be Mine", "I'm Yours", "True Love", etc. in places where you would otherwise write them in.

Leave the card in a special place, accompanied by a vase full of flowers, for your date to discover. Your Valentine will be captivated by your creativity and charm. Fill up the house with red heart-shaped balloons that you bought discount from a wholesale party store. Consider doing the same with flowers from a wholesale outlet.

Place handmade hearts with loving messages on them and leave them in many places for your Valentine to discover, such as in the car, briefcase, purse, and mailbox.

More Romantic Date Ideas

Looking to add a little romance to your new relationship? Or perhaps you've been in a long-term relationship and feel it's time to rekindle the sentimental and amorous moments from the early stages of your courtship. Consider one or more of the following creative dates to get the romantic juices flowing.

Sentimental Flashback Date

Step back in time to relive the advent of your relationship with the Sentimental Flashback Date. Recapture every moment of your first date. Go to the same restaurant, wear the same clothes (or similar outfits), and visit the same fun places. Play songs from that era that'll elicit warm thoughts and memories from yesteryear.

Romancing the Snow Date

Regardless of the season, every woman loves to be romanced! In the winter season, consider the Romancing the Snow Date. Take a day trip to the local mountains for a romantic date at a ski resort area nestled amid the pristine snow-capped mountains.

Experience the charm of main street villages that provide casual, friendly, and down-to-earth hospitality. There's always a lot of "off the slope" action awaiting you. Boutiques, galleries, bistros, coffee houses, and restaurants are great places to visit.

Fireside Date

A warm, crackling fire illuminating the living room, a CD carousel set with hours of romantic background music, a platter of freshly prepared hor d'oeuvres, and a kettle of hot brewed apple cider is all you need to put this date into action.

Enjoy a splendid time of scintillating conversation. Read a favorite short story to each other. Be entertained with a friendly game of backgammon or chess. Enjoy many laughs combing through old school annuals and photo albums. For more ideas go to:

<http://www.stretcher.com/stories/03/03jan27e.cfm?FPTue>

Ponderosa Press

Ponderosa Estates Homeowners Association Newsletter

February 2016 Edition

Are you a rain-safe driver?

With an El Niño weather pattern parked in the Pacific, winter driving challenges should be more wet than icy in the Northwest this year.

Great news for First Snowflake Freak-out Lady. But the truth is, rain-slick roads wreak plenty of traffic havoc, too, contributing to 1.2 million traffic crashes every year.

These 10 tips can help you get a grip whether you're caught in drizzle or a downpour:

- **Back off on the gas.** If you do one thing – and one thing only – to stay safe when driving in rain, do this: slow down. It reduces your risk of hydroplaning. According to AAA, conditions are the most dangerous during the first 10 minutes of a downpour when road oils loosen, lift, and coat the roadway.
- **Increase following distance.** It takes longer to slow down and stop on wet surfaces.
- **Choose the right tire with the right inflation.** When asphalt is covered in just one-twelfth of an inch of water, your tires have to displace one gallon of water per second to maintain contact with the road surface. Good tread allows water to escape from under the tires. Inflation counts, too. Under-inflation causes treads to squeeze together, narrowing their channels and reducing your tires' ability to shed water.
- **Stick to the center lanes.** Most roads are "crowned," meaning they're higher in the center than on the edges, causing rainwater to drain toward the inside and outside shoulders. Also, if possible, drive (at a safe following distance) in the tracks of the car in front of you. Its tires already have cleared some of the water from the roadway, improving your traction.
- **Avoid driving in flooded lanes.** Sure, it's tempting to keep going, but if you can't see the pavement under the water or it's rushing across the roadway, you could put yourself, your passengers, and your car in serious peril. Just six inches of moving water is enough to knock you off your feet, and 12 inches can float your car. And if you do decide it's safe to drive through shallow, standing water? Keep your speed slow and steady. A wave or splashed water can drown your engine.
- **Turn off cruise control.** There's some debate whether cruise control can actually cause loss of control on wet roadways, but at minimum, it slows your ability to recognize and respond to changes in road conditions. Using cruise control also means you can't subtly control speed by simply easing your foot off the accelerator.
- **Change wiper blades once a year.** Go much longer than that, and you'll likely end up with skips and streaks that obscure your view.
- **Brake steadily.** With antilock brakes, "plant and steer." Don't pump the pedal. Antilocks pulse automatically to maximize stopping power.
- **Skip the aftermarket siping and choose factory-siped winter tires, instead.** "Sipes" are small slits cut into the tire tread to improve traction. Some tire dealers offer (for a price) to sipe newly purchased tires, but overly aggressive siping can damage tires, shorten tire life, and may void your warranty with some manufacturers.
- **Turn on your headlights and keep them clean.** Headlights, of course, make it easier for other drivers to see you when visibility is poor, but dirt spatter kicked up from other cars can reduce your headlights' brightness by 90%. If you're on a long rainy drive, stop periodically to clean your headlights.