

Ponderosa Press

Ponderosa Estates Homeowners Association Newsletter

April 2016 Edition



Celebrate Spring see the 83rd Annual Daffodil Parade

Saturday, April 9, 2016

Parade Start Times:

Tacoma – 10:15 AM

Sumner – 2:30 PM

Puyallup – 12:45 PM

Orting – 5:00 PM



The Daffodil Festival Grand Floral Parade is an annual celebration of the community, history, traditions, and growth, of its home of Pierce County. The Parade travels through the four cities of Tacoma, Puyallup, Sumner, and Orting, the Parade consists of over 180 entries, both local and from out of state including floats, bands, marching, and mounted units. Linking one generation to another in tradition, floats are decorated with thousands of fresh-cut daffodils, just like the daffodil flowers that grew in the Puyallup Valley since over 80 years ago.

BIGGER SPRING FAIR! MORE SPRING FUN!

Shake off your winter blues at Washington's biggest celebration of Spring, the Washington State Spring Fair in Puyallup, April 14 - 17, 2016. The Spring Fair is **better than ever** with the opening of Silly Ville and four new acres of fun! Enjoy many of your favorite rides like the Wild Cat, Giant Slide and C.P. Huntington Train, plus 12 additional food booths to wake up your Spring appetite. Join Quigley the duck (and family) to take in adorable baby animals, tons of free entertainment from leaping Dock Dogs to the new Timberworks Lumberjack Show, garden workshops, the action-packed Motorsport Mayhem shows, and much more.

Gate Admission- Pre-Fair Price (available online through 4/13/16) Adults - \$7.50; Students (ages 6-18) - \$6.50; **Regular Price** Adults - \$10.00; Students (ages 6-18) - \$8.00 **Kids 5 & under - FREE**

Our next HOA Annual meeting is April 18th, 7 pm at the Bonney Lake Library meeting room. We will be discussing the plans for improving our park including tree removal and new playground equipment options. Our special guest speaker will be Kathy Martin from Safe Streets. Please plan to attend...See you there!

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Repurposing Items for Your Garden and Outdoor Living Space

Buying garden art, outdoor furniture, and other outdoor decorative accessories can be expensive. You can add beauty and intrigue to your outdoor space by repurposing some of the hidden treasures you find while doing your spring/summer cleaning. The following DIY projects are just a few of the many creative ways to repurpose items that might otherwise be disposed of without their new potential being realized.

The Garden Trend report indicates that container gardens will be even more popular in 2016 than they have been in previous years. This is due in part to the fact that those who rent, those with limited outdoor space, those with a shortage of time to devote to gardening, and those with physical limitations find container gardening the ideal way to join in with the increasingly popular healthy living trend that includes growing your own fruits, vegetables, herbs, and berries.

Rather than spend lots of money on garden art or outdoor accessories, let your creative mind run free and reinvent some of the items you find while cleaning the basement, workshop, garage, or other area. Items that would otherwise end up being thrown away can be used in your casual garden and relaxed landscape design. One excellent example of an item you can repurpose is an old ladder. Obviously, you don't want to risk climbing on a ladder that is shaky, unstable, or missing one or more rungs. However, you could place that ladder in your garden and use it as a tiered plant display.



Painted Vegetable can planters

A step stool that you no longer use can easily be transformed into a table. You can simply attach a board to the top of the stool to create a table. You can take this repurposing idea a step farther by painting a tic-tac-toe pattern on the tabletop and reviving and enjoying a favorite vintage pastime. Painted stones can be used as game pieces to make this ideal for outdoor use. There are numerous online sites such as [Dishfunctional Designs](#) and [YouTube.com](#) that provide ideas and instructions for ways to make decorative and functional items for your garden and outdoor living area using old plates, cups, light fixtures, and other glass items. Projects such as these fit ideally into an eco-friendly lifestyle that focuses on repurposing items rather than hastily disposing of them. Using paint to refurbish your finds can do wonders.

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My lord! The cost of living the way they do on 'Downton Abbey'

We'll never know if "The Real Housewives of the Edwardian Era" would have topped the ratings had television been around a century ago, but the drama and opulent problems of the rich and privileged of previous generations have sure made for successful TV today.

"Downton Abbey," PBS' critically acclaimed and wildly popular series featuring a fictional English estate in the early 20th century, has reached the cobblestone-paved end of the road after 6 seasons.

Though the family and estate are fictional, the aristocrats who enjoyed such wealth and grandeur in England were quite real until the period of "Downton Abbey," when death duties (or estate taxes on the dead) and other taxes were primary factors that led to their decline.

Before such large English estates went belly up, how much did it actually cost to operate and maintain a place like Downton? Right this way, lords and ladies. The actual castle portrayed as Downton Abbey sits on a property of more than 1,000 acres -- larger than Central Park.

Though the building itself is extraordinary, with more than 50 bedrooms, it was the land that often held the true value of an estate and was its best source of income, according to Evangeline Holland, author and owner of the historical website EdwardianPromenade.com.

"During the 1880s to about 1900, an agricultural depression caused the rents to decline dramatically, and coupled with increased competition from foreign goods, the traditional land-based economy sharply decreased," Holland says.

The decline was a reason for the rather common phenomenon at the time of wealthy American women marrying into renowned English families, as is highlighted in the book, "To Marry an English Lord."

American-born women, such as Cora Crawley, would certainly be a financial lifesaver for many troubled estates, as the book points to overall monthly costs reaching well over \$3 million in today's figures. That cost would cover anything from allowances and staff to taxes, entertaining and utilities. One might presume that compensation for the staff at an estate like Downton would be more than adequate, considering the employer's need to maintain a highbrow image and the servants' impeccable service.

In actuality, wages in the basement servants' quarters were remarkably modest; many Downton-era servants would easily qualify as poverty-stricken by today's standards. Then again, they wouldn't be concerned with saving up for anything more fun than a deck of cards because when you work 16-hour days and don't know what a "weekend" is, why bother? Regular footmen and maids could earn the equivalent of about \$2,100 in a year. The lady's maid and valet, trusted and depended on, fared slightly better with a wage of up to about \$3,200.

A first footman's earnings were comparable to that of a valet, though wages would often be higher for taller or otherwise physically commanding first footmen.

And what about our good friend, Mr. Carson the butler? For all his hard work, loyalty and groveling, he could expect up to around \$9,200 per year. The Crawleys and other aristocrats of their time looked to burgeoning technology and began to ask, "What is a party without music and, for that matter, light?" Many estates' electricity was supplied by cost-effective private generators. But it was initially provided only in rooms for entertaining and serving guests, while bedrooms and servants' quarters were left dim.

"Cities were the first to have electricity, and large estates would only have it if the owner preferred it over gas," Holland says. "Many did not, so Robert Crawley was very progressive in that aspect." The gramophone and similar machines were just gaining widespread use. Basic machines could cost around \$1,500, or about 6 weeks' pay for a police constable of the time.

And how else to spread the word about a ball than by the exciting new telephone? A relative few besides the Crawleys could afford such technology, which befuddled the dowager countess as she wondered whether it was "an instrument of communication or torture." A phone in early 20th century England could cost about \$460. To read more go to:

<http://www.bankrate.com/lite/smart-spending/costs-living-downton-abbey-1.aspx>

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Raven: A Trickster Tale from the Pacific Northwest

Saturday, April 23, 2016

Sumner 10:30 AM



Bring the kids and see what happens when Raven steals the sun in this children's puppet show based on the Caldecott Award-winning picture book by Gerald McDermott. Craft activities follow each performance. All ages.

Squishy Circuits x 2!

Create circuits and explore electronics using Play dough and your imagination.

Wednesday, April 6 @ 2 p.m.

Buckley Pierce County Library
123 S. River Ave. 98321
253-548-3310 or 360-829-0300

Saturday, April 9 @ 2 p.m.

Bonney Lake Pierce County Library
18501 90th St. E. 98391 • 253-548-3308

To register...go to

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



Auto Repair Resources

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

Bonney Lake Library 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Save yourself hundreds by learning how to locate and print critical auto and truck repair information from our premium Pierce County Library databases, Mitchell's and Chilton's. Current Availability: 8



Register Now

Get Certified: Excel MOS!

Thursday, April 28, 2016

Bonney Lake 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM



Gain confidence with Excel in this class designed to help you prep for the Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) certification exam. Participants are eligible for free MOS certification.

If you would like assistance creating an email account, please call 253-548-3381 to schedule a one-on-one appointment.

Please contact gethired@piercecountylibrary.org with any questions. **Note: A VALID EMAIL ADDRESS IS REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM**

*** This event requires registration.**

Current Availability: 10



Register Now