

Ponderosa Press

Ponderosa Estates Homeowners Association Newsletter

September 2016 Edition

Around the Ranch:

Our next HOA meeting will be Sept. 19, it will be our "Volunteer Appreciation Party" hosted by Jeff and Aimee. Hot dogs and a campfire, weather permitting. Should be lots of fun! RSVP if you need childcare.



Party in the Park Big Success!

A great time was had by all at the annual Party in the Park celebration. Thanks to ALL who took charge and coordinated this enjoyable event!



POINT DEFIANCE ZOO AND AQUARIUM

End of Summer Splash

September 3 - September 5
9:30 am - 6:00 pm

Join us in an end-of-summer celebration jam-packed With special activities! Get up close, talk to keepers, and be amazed by animals of all types.

Fort Nisqually Living History Museum In Her Shoes: The Women of Fort Nisqually

Thru Sept. 10, 2016

The women of Fort Nisqually were the wives and children of company men – the managers and laborers of the Hudson's Bay Company.

Nearly all of the women had mixed Native American and Euro-American heritage. The women labored for their families and for the company. Some planted potatoes, washed the laundry, and cleaned wool. Others were hostess to visiting dignitaries.

This family-friendly exhibit explores the heritage and lives of the women at this early-mid 19th century settlement on Puget Sound. Follow the footprints to discover the stories of specific women, engage in hands-on activities, and witness their legacy. Admission charged \$7 pp or \$22 for Family 2 Adults up to 6 children.



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Energy Saving Tips for Homeowners like You

Looking to lower your energy bills? We can help! Whether you're building, buying or upgrading your current home, these simple tips, ideas and programs will help you cut your bill and reduce your home's energy use.

Appliances and electronics

Reduce dryer time. If your dryer has a moisture sensor or auto shut-off feature, use it.

Clean the lint filter in your dryer every time you use it. A clogged filter increases drying time.

If you have an older refrigerator or freezer, listen to see if the motor/compressor runs constantly. If so, you may need repair service to check for low refrigerant. Another cause may be a leaky door gasket.

Think about whether you need that second fridge or freezer in the garage or basement. Older units can cost more than \$100 a year to power.

When cooking, match pots and pans to the right-sized burner. Use a microwave or toaster oven to heat food whenever possible.

Many electronics use power even when turned off. Plug items like TVs, DVD players and game consoles into power strips that you can switch off when not in use. Special "smart" power strips do this automatically.

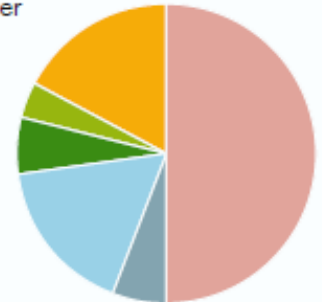
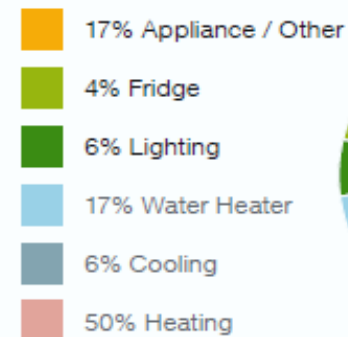
For more energy savings tips go to:

http://pse.com/savingsandenergycenter/tips-tools-ideas/Documents/1230_EnergySavingTips.pdf



Tip

CFL bulbs contain a very small amount of mercury. Don't put used bulbs in the household garbage or recycling bin. Recycle them for free at participating retail locations, household hazardous waste facilities and select PSE offices in your area. See pse.com/recycle for locations.



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4 Reasons to Stock Up on School Supplies



Is it just me or does anyone else have a hard time resisting a box of new Crayola crayons for 25 cents this time of year? Or how about a package of markers for just a little bit more. Then there's glue and scissors and notebooks, oh my! In July, August, and September, the deals on school supplies abound! I've been shopping school supply sales since long before I had kids in school (and after I was out of school myself). I have my school supply stash all in its own special box. That helps me keep it under control and also makes it easy to know exactly where to find what we need. Here are 5 reasons that I like to stock up on school supplies.

1- Make Art Kits– A Fantastic Frugal Kid Gift I love putting together little art kits for kids. When one of my kids goes to a birthday party and I don't have time to make something handmade (like a skirt, t-shirt, apron, etc), then we usually put together an art kit for the birthday girl or boy. Sure, there are some kids out there who don't like to get creative and crafty with art supplies, but most kids do. It's fun and inexpensive to put together an art kit and it's always well-received (at least for ages 3 to 7 it's been a hit). **Container**– During back-to-school season, you can find pencil boxes for a dollar or less. You can also find the plastic "shoe box" size containers with lids with all the other sizes of plastic bins and they are generally a dollar as well.

2 - Art Supplies – Of course the sky is the limit here. Some of the things we put it are: Markers; Crayons; Colored Pencils; Glue or glue stick; Scissors (if the recipient is old enough to use them responsibly) By stocking up on the supplies during back-to-school sales, I not only get rock bottom prices, but I also have everything on hand to put together a gift. That's a major bonus when you're an hour away from Target and you get a last minute birthday invitation!

3- Road Trip Entertainment - I don't know about you, but I love new crayons. There's something special about a new, sharpened crayon that just entices me to take a break and crack open a coloring book. My kids feel the same way. A box of new crayons is magical. Before a long [road trip](#), I pull out a new box of crayons for each child from my stash. I bring along a new coloring book or tablet of plain paper as well. For older kids, a blank composition book and a new pen is exciting. They can keep a journal, take notes, write stories, or just doodle. With the digital age that we live in, I think it's nice to pull out some honest-to-goodness paper every once in a while so our kids don't forget what it is!

4- To Create Other Gifts - There are lots of creative tutorials out there to show you how to make some pretty awesome handmade gifts.

One year, I made my kids and my nieces and nephews crayon rolls to put in their "quiet bags" for church. I've seen some neat marker holders that hold a sketch pad as well. Another time, I made my kids their own journals by decorating the front of a composition book for them. (I wanted to get a picture of them, but the kids are asleep and I don't know where they keep them). They love having their own journals where they can write (or dictate) the things that are important to them. It cost me 50 cents, plus a little time and love. If you really want to have fun, search "melted crayons" on Pinterest and see all the creative melted crayon art that people have done. You'll want to have some extra packages of new crayons on hand, for when the artistic mood strikes!



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Being Prepared for Emergency's Begins with a Well Stocked Pantry

Emergency preparedness is a big, big topic with many variables. Dozens of books, magazines, and websites exist to deal with this subject alone. What I'm going to do is suggest a few general ideas, then provide a list of resources where you can find guidance and instructions for creating an emergency preparedness plan that is uniquely suited for your family's dynamics and location.

Emergencies such as house fires, terrorism, civil crises, and epidemics can occur just about anywhere. Other hazards, such as severe winter weather, tornadoes, flooding, hurricanes, earthquakes, or tsunamis are more likely in some parts of the country than in others. Part of preparedness is an understanding of your highest risks. Begin preparing for those first. A well-stocked pantry is foundational to a well-run home, not just in time of emergencies, but day in and day out.

So, you're convinced that stocking a pantry is a good plan, but *how* are you going to do it? For one thing, you may be stretching to buy groceries as it is, never mind stockpiling extras. For another, you may be short on storage space. Well, let's look at a few creative solutions. Plan a really cheap stretch of eating.

For one week do not buy anything extra at all. Drink water. Eat from what you have on hand. Really scrimp. Do rice and beans, scrambled eggs, lentil soup, bean burritos . . . really hold the line on the food bill. Any money saved from the grocery budget can be used to buy pantry stock. Allocate any extra income, like a reimbursement check or tax refund, to buy staples to stash away. Get extra coupons; buy additional newspapers if necessary when a product you'd like to stockpile is on sale. Look for a grocery store that doubles coupon values, and you can really get those prices down. Most groceries have "loss leader" items each week. Pick up a few of those at a time. Week by week, you can slowly build stock this way. Don't forget to check the reduced bins and clearance shelves.

Rethink portion sizes. Instead of using a pound of ground beef in a casserole, try cutting back to a half pound. When you freeze your ground beef, package it accordingly. Maximize freezer space by putting the beef into sandwich-size bags and flattening it out. Incidentally, leftover chili, soups, and sauces can be frozen the same way. Fit a lot of food in a little freezer space! *Where* will all this food go? Not all of us have a walk-in pantry waiting to be filled. Any area that is relatively cool and dry can be used to store canned and dry foods. Save glass jars for storing rice, beans, pasta, cereals, etc. Staples like flour can be stored in the freezer or in food-grade buckets with tight lids. I've seen an old chest, used as a coffee table, stacked full of canned food. Put the beds on risers (or large cans) and use the extra space underneath for storage. Place the jars and cans in cut-down boxes like trays so they can be easily accessed. An extra closet, a space under the stairs . . . take a good look around for little niches that can be used for storage. And finally, **when** should you be stocking food supplies? *Now* would be an excellent time to start! One of the immediate benefits of a well-stocked pantry is the ability to survive a short-term emergency, should one arise.

It really is wise to have at least a few days' worth of provisions on hand at all times. Weather crises, civil emergencies, or other disruptions can happen at any time, and often with little warning. Would you be able to feed your family? Keep the makings of a few meals on hand, as well as basic staples. A gallon of water per person, per day is also necessary. Make sure you have a non-electric can opener, candles and matches, and a working flashlight with extra batteries. A battery-operated radio is helpful too. How would you prepare food if your electricity were out? Have a plan. How would you stay warm? Again, have a plan! It doesn't cost much to be prepared to care for your family should the unexpected happen. Take the time this month to be prepared.

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Easy Emergency Preparedness Kit

In keeping with this month's emergency preparedness theme, I found an article about a gal who put together simple grab-n-go mini kits for each member of my family, using upcycled food packaging containers. She wrote: "I don't typically buy powdered drink mixes for our family, but I have friends and relatives who do, so I'm able to scrounge a supply of re-sealable Crystal Light containers. The plastic label slips off easily, leaving a handy cylinder-shaped container. I also used dollar store cookie tins to pack slightly larger kits. It's amazing how much can be packed into a tiny space. I was even able to add a package of ten wipes to the cookie tin kits!

Here's what I was able to fit into the mini kits:

- A emergency contact card with names of in state and out of state contacts
- A stack of quarters
- A mini LED flashlight
- Two glow sticks
- (can be used both as a comfort light and as a beacon)
- A whistle
- A pack of peanuts
- Apple juice

So much stuff in such a small space—I was quite impressed! A kit for each member of your family can be easily tucked away in your vehicle's glove box, under a car seat, or in the kitchen junk drawer, or it could be added to a larger evacuation backpack.

Here's a word of caution: If you're anything like me, as you start into emergency preparedness, you'll be thinking about all the other things you wish you could include. Don't get bogged down.

Remember, even if these kits are far from comprehensive, they're much better than nothing—and could save a life. Just do what you can and keep the preparedness momentum going!"

