

# Summerwind Homeowners Newsletter

March 2000

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Thanks to those of you who responded to the informal survey in the December newsletter. Mail theft problems have been documented back to 1992 and are continually getting worst. Five of us had letters from the Postal Inspector in December and about seven more called to report problems – two even had charges on stolen credit cards! And I'm amazed at the number of furnaces/hot water heaters being replaced (about 10 each were reported but I know of others).

My latest problem was a leak in the hose that feeds my water dispenser/ice cube maker on my refrigerator (time to upgrade to a copper tube instead of a cheap plastic one). Still waiting for my repairs to be done. Understand particle board subfloors leave a lot to be desired – they really can soak up the moisture. The linoleum industry doesn't even accept it as a subfloor material nowadays.

A few things I want to share from this experience: most water damage claims come from the hoses leading to your washing machine failing. For a few dollars, you can replace yours periodically and prevent any major damage. And if you're heading off for a vacation, turn off the faucet right there behind your machine and play it safe!

Another hint: If you have noticed a dark discoloration along the wall on the edges of your light-colored carpet, that means there is too large a gap under your baseboard and the edge of your carpet is more or less acting like a filter for your house ventilation. You can pull out the edge and caulk or grout the area, but if you're like me and don't want to mess with getting the carpet to go back as it's supposed to after the fact, you can try to be creative and somehow close the gap and stop the problem.

## Calendar

**Neighborhood Garage Sale** – This year the neighborhood garage sale will be the weekend before Mother's Day, Friday and Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. If you want to be included in the map of sale locations, please give me a call before April 28<sup>th</sup> so I can make it up and get copies to you. Your \$1 contribution will cover the costs to advertise in the Little Nickel and sign materials. If you plan on only doing one day, let me know that also.

I'm not sure when the Olympus neighborhood sale is but they agreed not to have it during our sale. It will probably be the weekend after Mother's Day.

**LNO (Ladies Night Out)** - First Wednesday of every month. Call 226-2926 to reserve, meet at Connie Friesen's (2030 Field Avenue NE) by 6:30 pm to join the carpool. Our group has grown real small, averaging about five to seven women but it's still fun. In fact, we can actually hear the *whole* conversation now.

**Men's Poker Night** – Unless we have a new contact for this, Men's Poker Night is no more. If you want to volunteer to try to bring this back to life, please give me a call. Otherwise, you guys are on your own to try and find a new bonding experience!

**Playgroup** – This is hard to believe but after 11 years, playgroup no longer exists. Years ago, us then stay-at-home moms (mainly in Divisions 1 and 2) used to look forward to the weekly interaction with other adults and neighbors with babies and preschoolers the same age. We grew to know each other's families and became close over the years. A decade ago, our homes were less expensive and allowed more of us mothers to be at home with our children. With the newer Divisions in Summerwind costing significantly more (with a lot of interior/exterior upgrades), the equation shifted to more double-income families. I still hope that someday, the baby boom will hit hard on the rest of the neighborhood and someone will start up playgroup again.

**H.O.A. President** - (Jim Riley, 793-7511): I was reminded of something while away on vacation recently in Arizona: boy, do you learn to appreciate the summers living here! Spring has been in the air, even if ever so slightly. Makes one want to dust off the BBQ, turn the hose bibs back on, and get out the patio furniture. OK, well, at least it hasn't rained for 87 straight days this winter!

I have noticed several projects sprouting up around the neighborhood already this pre-spring (lots of siding jobs). Looks like it might be a busy summer for the Architectural Control Committee (and I'm sure you all will remember to submit your applications prior to starting your projects, right?) I know the committee is also beginning to look into some roofing products to prepare for some of you with upcoming reroof projects. Check out the ACC report for more info and feel free to contact them to get more involved or provide your input. They certainly would welcome everyone's opinions on these matters of aesthetics of composite roofing and such.

The Traffic and Safety Committee is looking to slow us all down and keep our mail safe. See their report to learn about speed bumps and locking mailboxes. And jot down the chairman's phone number to call if you happen to get a ticket while speeding through our neighborhood!

The Landscaping Committee will be starting up here as usual with a lot of the same cast of characters. We have submitted an application for some matching funds from the City of Renton for neighborhood beautification (i.e. flower bulbs) and are hopeful we receive it. We will have some kind of work party to help plant these bulbs so if you see your neighbors working at the entrances or islands, stop by and help out if you want.

And the Membership Committee is always looking for a few good men or women, to help out in the committees, that is. If you want to become part of Ron's welcome wagon for new residents, or be a barkspreader with Brian, pick colors with Wes, or bust speeders with safety Stacey, either Ron (our membership chair) or any of the committee chairs would be glad to help you get involved.

I want to close this month's report with a huge thank you to all of our new board members. We have such an enthusiastic and energetic group of people, really making for fun board meetings each month. We still have some room for improvement on our one-hour time frame goal but I'm sure we'll get there. So thank you to all as we look forward to spring and summer!

## **Committee Reports**

**Architectural Control** (Wesley Bye, 235-3787) The ACC has been getting requests concerning siding projects and also inquiries about possible roofing in the future. Some of the roofs in Division 1 will be ready to be replaced in the next couple years. We are gathering possible acceptable roofing materials as alternatives to wood roofs for people who do not want to go back with the wood. We have some that have been OK'd but are not sure of the integrity or appearance at this time. We are also reviewing our paint color book to make sure it reflects colors we will be proud to have in our neighborhood.

As a reminder, architectural projects must be addressed and approved by the ACC before they begin. We can provide the appropriate application if needed. If you are confused as to what needs to be approved, please review your by-laws or give us a call. We welcome your comments and ideas. Furthermore, anyone interested in helping with ACC projects, let us know! Thanks!

**Landscaping** (Brian Mead, 255-5830 or e-mail [lyndamead@msn.com](mailto:lyndamead@msn.com)) The Landscape Committee is proudly beginning with four of our members from last year: Charles Henne, Mark Bennett, Annop Chaipatanapong. We are planning a few small improvement projects as well as overseeing the landscape contractors who care for our parks and entryways.

We would love to have some more new members this year. Even if you would just like to sign up for any of our volunteer projects throughout the year, please let us know. We are also welcoming any ideas for improvement in the neighborhood. If you have any suggestions for improvement or to volunteer please give me a call or send me an e-mail.

**Membership** (Ron Jones, 277-8292) Nothing to report at this time.

**Traffic/Safety** (Stacey King, 237-8896 or 5738) Hello Neighbors! The Traffic and Safety Committee met for the first time in January. This is a new committee made up of four people, including myself. This committee hasn't met in several years, so we are starting with a fresh new outlook with all new members.

First of all, I'd like to review a few general rules of our Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions (CC&R's) regarding the Traffic and Safety area.

The speed limit is 25 MPH in the neighborhood. Please adhere to the speed limit for the safety of all.

If you have an inoperable vehicle parked in your driveway or in front of your home (this includes unlicensed vehicles, i.e. tabs expired), please have it moved into the garage or another location. The City of Renton has a restriction of 24 hours if these vehicles are parked in the street and has the right to tow them. If it's in your driveway, the rule is 48 hours per the CC&R's.

For recreational vehicles (boats, RV's, or any non-street licensed vehicle), the CC&R's state that it cannot be parked for more than 48 hours in your driveway. For the City of Renton, it's 24 hours if it's parked on the street. By the way, for those concerned about the RV that's used quite often at a home on Field Avenue NE, this issue was addressed at a recent Board meeting. The owners are very aware of the restriction and presented a schedule of when the RV will be present. It does not violate the 48-hour rule, but allows them adequate time to load and unload for their weekend trips.

Also, I receive a report from our security company, Western Security, each day. They patrol the neighborhood 4 times an evening. They report on burned out street lights and park pathway lights, open garage doors (they'll contact the owners), vehicles that appear to be abandoned, and any suspicious activity. You can call them directly if you have any concerns or questions at 425-235-1731. You can also call them if you're going on vacation, so they can keep an extra watch on your residence. Western Security encourages residents to talk to them anytime, which will lead to better service and a safer environment for all of us.

The two main topics we discussed at our committee meeting were speeding and mailbox theft. We are still investigating ways to help control speeding, from speed bumps, to increased police patrol (yes, that means speeding tickets). Speed bumps have been investigated before with prior committees; however, we want to take a run at it also. We will continue to discuss alternatives at our committee meetings and report back to the neighborhood through these newsletters.

As for mailbox theft, there are several homeowners who have had their mail stolen. For this reason, please do not have your checks sent to your home when you order new checks. Have them sent to your bank, if possible. Also, I tend to mail bills at the post office as well, especially the bigger ones. We are looking into locked mailboxes, but what we've discovered is that each homeowner would have to pay \$50 - \$75 per home. This would have to be voted on at our next annual homeowners meeting in October. We know this may not be viable and that some homeowners would not like this option, but the option is available.

Another suggestion is that you can purchase a mailbox that has a mail slot for the mail carrier to slip in the mail. This was discussed with a mail carrier and they didn't have a problem with this solution. One price quote I got from a neighbor was a slotted mailbox was only \$15 at Home Depot. Also, when you go on vacation, you can have the Post Office hold your mail while you're gone.

Please feel free to contact me with any comments or you may contact our management company, WPI, Larry Slough at 206-522-8172.

### **Congratulations to Our Christmas Decorating Contest Winners!**

We loved having more prizes this year because the judging gets harder and harder – you guys are getting good at really dressing up Summerwind for Christmas! Thanks to all of you and our generous sponsors!

The Roszonits	1606 Field Ave NE	Sonics Tickets worth \$120 (Thank you to the Bradfords for the donation!!)
The Letterers	5185 NE 20 <sup>th</sup> St	\$30 Gift Certificate from the Jewelry Exchange
The Pieratts	4828 NE 23 <sup>rd</sup> St	\$25 Gift Certificate from the Family Fun Center
The Costales	1617 Hoquiam Place NE	\$25 Gift Certificate from the Family Fun Center
The Kawamotos	5104 NE 18 <sup>th</sup> Ct	\$25 Gift Certificate from the Family Fun Center
The Footes	5027 NE 21 <sup>st</sup> St	\$25 Dairy Queen Ice Cream Sheet Cake
The Jones	4900 NE 19 <sup>th</sup> Ct	\$18 Papa John's Family Pizza Package
The Williams	1825 Ilwaco Ave NE	\$25 Country Flower Shop Poinsettia
The Mayers	5214 NE 23 <sup>rd</sup> Ct	\$15 Gift Certificate from Gourmet Wok
The Cappellis	5011 NE 21 <sup>st</sup> St	\$10 Bottle of Champagne from Sunset Safeway
The Bevans	5007 NE 21 <sup>st</sup> St	\$10 Bottle of Champagne from Sunset Safeway

### **Highlands Revitalization Survey**

Have you heard about the large effort underway to improve a 140-acre area down on Sunset, from approximately the KFC to Rite-Aid? The complete details can be found on the City of Renton's website, along with a survey form where you can send in your thoughts, comments, and suggestions. Go to [www.ci.renton.wa.ednsp.survey](http://www.ci.renton.wa.ednsp.survey). This is your opportunity to help shape the future of the Highlands. Have you been dying for better restaurants close to home? A TJ Maxx' clothes store, an upscale book store, .... Let the City know. Hundreds of surveys are already tallied but it's not too late for you to have your say so do it today!! If you don't have access to a computer and want a form mailed to you, call 430-6580 or 6575 and ask for one.

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### **WPI** (Submitted by Larry Slough, WPI Vice-President)

WPI has been with Summerwind for one year now and would like to thank everyone for the continued opportunity to be your management company.

We have a few personnel changes within our company. I will continue to be your Property Manager. However, Sharon Wong, your Assistance Property Manager, is going on maternity leave for a few months. "Congratulations, Sharon!" Your new Assistant Property Manager is Steve Apodaca. Steve has over 8 years experience in property management, a Washington State Real Estate License, and an AA degree in Business.

WPI's goals for the year 2000 include:

1. Keeping your community, safe, enjoyable, and well maintained.
2. Provide clear, accurate, and timely communication with all homeowners and board members.
3. Ensure that your association dues provide you the best value of goods and services.

All residents are welcome to call WPI. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Steve Apodaca at 206-522-8172 or e-mail [larryslough@wpirealestate.com](mailto:larryslough@wpirealestate.com).

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### **Kids for Hire!**

Justin and Taylor Milnor (271-0637) and Peter, Jenny, and Katie Miller (235-4936) are starting a rent-a-kid service. The older boys will do lawn mowing and the girls and Taylor will be happy to pet-sit for you while you take your summer vacations. Both of these services will come in handy so make a note by your phone. Some days, you just can't spare the time for mowing the lawn. And when you take a trip, and Fido's all alone, who'ya gonna call? Kids for Hire!

### **Entry Sign Incident** (Submitted by Jim Riley)

So you may be wondering ... what happened to our entry sign off Sunset? Well, I know the answer to that question all too well (NO, I didn't do it!) I was peacefully sleeping on Christmas eve morning when my doorbell rang at 3:30 AM! I answered the door still half comatose to a very awake and spunky police officer from the City of Renton. He came to inform me that some kids were speeding and had crashed into our sign. Everyone was okay but the car was somewhat undriveable. Officer friendly came by to give me the case number (which I later thought I would have much more gladly accepted the following day!) and to answer my only important question in such an event, that yes, they did have insurance. So after a somewhat lengthy delay of insurance stuff and contractors bids, they got to work and did a fine repair job. The grass is seeded now and must still grow back in but it looks great. We are now looking for volunteers to run into the other three signs!!

**Fairwood Greens Spring Bazaar** at the Aquabarn, March 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>, Thursday and Friday, 10 – 7 and Saturday, 10 – 5. Join them in their 13<sup>th</sup> annual spring craft show at the Aquabarn. They have merged with the Lake Wilderness show to add variety and new crafters. Shop for year round home decor, spring and summer holiday items, homemade goodies, and more.

### **Slurry Seal – Divisions 3, 4, and 5**

Do you remember back in 1995 when Divisions 1 and 2 had their street surfaces re-tarred? Just want to give you guys in Divisions 3, 4 and 5 a heads-up that the City intends to treat your asphalt this summer. They will let you know when your street is scheduled to be tarred as the date gets closer. It wasn't too big of a hassle as I recall.

First, the City spreads lines of tar and seals the cracks, which prevents water from penetrating the asphalt and thereby extends the useful life of the street. Without the sealing process, eventually pot holes would develop and end up costing us taxpayers more. Then they apply the "slurry seal" to the entire street surface. While most cities do crack sealing, Renton is proactive and takes extra steps to keep our streets in top shape. Call Michael Stenhouse at 430-7400 if you have any questions about the slurry seal schedule or general observations you wish to share with the City Street Department regarding Renton's existing streets.

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Dave Miller is now home and doing as well as can be expected. The Millers submitted a very nice note for the December newsletter thanking everyone for being so supportive and for their prayers, but I somehow deleted it and didn't even notice I had until after the fact. Sorry! Dave, we're so glad you've pulled through this ordeal and are still in our thoughts and prayers as you go through the long, slow mending process.

I have a nice collection of Christmas card fronts to send to St. Jude's Ranch for Children again this year! Thanks to all of you!! Have a wonderful SPRING!!!