

Summerwind Homeowners Newsletter

September 2000

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Remember my fight with moles? I never got the hang of setting traps (safety issues/myself, the kids, the dog) but I found the cure!! The sonic emitters that CostCo was selling in a two-pack for \$40 did the trick. They've been working effectively since early spring and I've had no moles since, even though I've been fighting them for at least three years.

Hope you got to see one of the 80 shows Cirque du Soleil held while they were in town, along with the 220,000+ other people that did. They were totally awesome!!

Calendar

Annual Meeting We are busily preparing for the **ANNUAL MEETING** – to be held this year at **SIERRA HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY** (due to construction at Hazen) on **WED. OCTOBER 25th**, 7:00 PM. Please mark your calendars for this meeting. We will once again be holding a drawing for those in attendance for both one full and one half year of **FREE DUES!** (This year we will hold the drawing at the first meeting, without the confusion of last year). Please either come to the meeting or sign and send back your proxy. Your one vote is important! Last year we were only 7 people/votes short of a quorum on our first meeting. That was the closest ever to not having to hold a second meeting, and this year we intend to get our quorum the first time. But we need **YOU** to be able to do it! So come and win your free dues. We are also lining up some guest speakers on a couple of topics that may interest you. It's also a great way for those of you new to Summerwind to meet your neighbors and your Board.

Bulb Planting – CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!! Saturday, October 7th, 10:00 AM – 12 Noon. We need 100 volunteer hours for our \$1,000 worth of bulbs and soil amendments that we got through a City of Renton Neighborhood Grant. Volunteers need to be age 16 or older (for insurance purposes). There will be 11 separate planting areas – the seven traffic circles, the two entrances, and the two neighborhood parks. Bulbs will be delivered to each location beforehand, with a coordinator named for each location. If you want to volunteer beforehand, please call Debra Mikolaizik at 425-430-6580 (work/days) or 425-226-2926 (home/evenings). Or just grab a shovel and join in if you see us out there. There will be a sign-in sheet at each location to log hours worked.

The task should be quite simple. Bring your shovel. A tarp will be provided to remove some dirt from the area. You will pour in some Cedar Grove Compost, mix in some bulb food, plant the bulbs in groups of 20 spacing them about 5 inches apart, 6 inches deep, add some more compost to the dirt removed and cover the bulbs back up. Since we are planting in quantity, shovels will work nicely. The traffic circles will have a variety of bulbs, 320 to 380 bulbs each, the Duvall entrance will get 670 bulbs, the Sunset entrance 810, the two parks, only 160 each (they weren't included in our original plan, plus the kids play pretty heavily in the area). (I've already expended 10 hours in purchasing, dividing and sorting the bulbs so we only need 90 more hours!)

Best of all, after we finish planting, we will have a pizza party at the Division 1/2 Park at NE 23rd and Graham for all volunteers. Pizza will be there at 1:00 PM so you can run home and wash your hands beforehand! We can brainstorm ideas for a request for additional funding next year. How about some barrels with trailing petunias on the side of each of our 38 mailboxes or something like that?

LNO (Ladies Night Out) - First Wednesday of every month. Call 271-6406 to reserve, meet at Connie Friesen's (2030 Field Avenue NE) by 6:30 pm to join the carpool.

H.O.A. President - (Jim Riley, 793-7511): I hope you all enjoyed another wonderful summer. And just when we thought summer was over a couple of weeks ago, we had some nice sunny afternoons and evenings to polish off the last of the charcoal for the year. The board has had a mostly quiet summer - things all seem to be going well throughout the neighborhood. **Hope you all can make the Annual Meeting on October 25th**. Come and see the newly remodeled Sierra Heights Elementary School if you haven't had the opportunity yet (off of Union Avenue).

A few items to report since the last newsletter – a minor incidence of vandalism occurred in Div's 1,2 and 3 early in the summer. Someone removed some storm grates and water meter covers and had strewn them around the neighborhood. WPI responded rapidly to getting them all put back so quickly. Thank you for that!

Then we had an issue with a house that appeared to be abandoned (not naming names but if you lived next door to them you'd know...). Their dues hadn't been paid, nor had their yard been maintained for a significant period of time. They had received and not responded to all violation notices. Just when the board had reached the point of needing to provide (at the homeowner's expense) lawn mowing/weeding, again WPI finally contacted the lender who had now taken ownership of the house. The lender agreed to pay all past dues as well as provide yard maintenance as required. Our concern was that if the owner was gone and could not be located that we may never see our dues (or reimbursement of landscaping maintenance costs), but now thanks to WPI it seems we will get both issues resolved.

And lastly, the mailboxes around the neighborhood are all in process of being repaired and repainted to look nice again. They have currently all been repaired (with one possible exception which may require some rebuilding) and are in process of painting. The one in front of my house was done last week and looks great!

One final item of note: Thank you to all of you homeowners who have performed a variety of home improvement projects over this past summer (ranging from painting to re-siding to decking) and have obtained ACC (Architectural Control Committee) approvals for such projects. (I do also offer our apologies to those few who we misplaced their application and did not get back to them maybe as timely as we wanted). These projects all improve the neighborhood appearance when done right, and this is a big reason why the ACC exists – to ensure that these projects are done in accordance with the rules of Summerwind. Wes Bye has done a great job going the extra mile to ensure that homeowner requests are dealt with as easily and quickly as possible. Thanks, Wes, and good job!

Committee Reports

Architectural Control (Wesley Bye, 235-3787) Thanks to everyone who submitted applications for projects this year. You can tell summer is over by the reduction in applications.

We are attempting to have a representative from a roofing supply company to come and address any questions you might have about the new products that have been approved by the board at the annual meeting.

Remember, if you have any question for the ACC, you can call me at 235-3787. I appreciate the calls I received from people who have expressed interest in getting involved with ACC. This committee does not meet on a regular basis but will hopefully have new issues to address after the first of the year. I may be calling on peoples participation at that time. Again, thank you for your interest!

Landscaping (Brian Mead, 255-5830 or e-mail lyndamead@msn.com) This summer most of the landscape committee tasks have been coordinated through WPI Real Estate. This has made the job of the landscape committee very easy. Over the past few years that I have been involved with the committee we have had no new volunteers to the committee. The feeling that we get from the neighborhood is that they would rather we hire out projects rather than rely on volunteer labor. In the last newsletter we asked for volunteers to help put down bark at the division three park. We had "0" volunteers (other than the hard working landscape committee). For this reason we hired someone to deliver and spread the bark (\$380.00).

The work of the committee will be getting even easier next year, as we will probably hire out all of the projects. If we have any new volunteers for this committee for next year we may re-think this. We look forward to hearing from the neighborhood at the annual meeting.

Also, a friendly reminder – please do not post campaign signs in your front yards. They are in violation of our CC&R's.

Membership (Bob Rossi, 277-1048 or sabreblack@aol.com)

Traffic/Safety (Stacey King, 237-8896 or 5738)

WPI (Steve Apodaca or Larry Slough, WPI Vice-President, 206-522-8172 or e-mail larryslough@wpirealestate.com.)

Western Security Patrol 235-1731

REFERRALS

- Contractor - CURTUC, C & R Tile & Cabinet for work/remodeling in your Kitchens, Bathrooms, Floors
Call Nate Collins here in Summerwind at (425) 277-5771. Free Estimates #CRTILC-084KD.
Licensed, Bonded, Insured – Referred by Dennis Behrends
- Berger Paperhanging Installation and Removal, Simple Interior painting, Free estimates, 20 years experience. License #BERGEP202LB – Call 253-838-7587 – Referred by Connie and Jim Friesen.

GAME TESTERS

Did you catch this article in the paper recently? Microsoft is looking for thousands of volunteers willing to spend a few hours testing video games and giving feedback on ways to make these games better. It'll couple take a couple of hours every few months or so. No you don't get paid, but you do get to take home a free video game. Plus, you get a sneak peek at some of the latest and greatest games before they hit the stores. The only requirements are:

- You live in the Puget Sound area and are able to get to the Microsoft campus during test tests (which may be days or evenings on weekdays or Saturdays).
- You are older than 13.
- You do NOT work at Microsoft as an employee, temporary staffer, independent contractor or vendor.

If that sounds like you, then go to www.microsoft.com/games/playtest or e-mail playtest@microsoft.com.

CLEANING HINTS

Several neighbors have complained about their dishwashers looking orange and rusty inside. There is an easy way to fix this. Buy some Tang (an orange-flavored powdered drink mix) and run a cycle with this in the soap dispenser. You'll be amazed at the results. It REALLY works!

I also noticed since we have the new water chlorination process that bleach tablets in your toilets will damage the inside of the tank. Not sure why but now I just pour bleach into the bowl every so often instead.

DSL (Digital Subscriber Lines) SERVICE What IS The Truth for Summerwind Residents??

Are you getting a lot of junk mail offering you a high-speed Internet connection through your phone line known as a DSL? An Internet service provider, or ISP, typically sells the service, then contracts with one of the three big DSL companies, Covad, Northpoint, or Rhythms, to connect the customer. The DSL companies in turn need the collaboration of the local phone company to do some of the installation work, and use its facilities for their equipment. Customers whose installations run into problems often complain that these companies hardly seem to talk to one another and pass blame instead of fixing problems. *The Daily Journal of Commerce* states a lot of people feel it's a big, fat mess. There are Web sites devoted to the grievances of DSL customers, and newsgroups are full of tales of incompetent tech support, installation no-shows, and service outages..

According to information from www.dslreports.com, (this web page gives a lot of information and rates different services), we are 21,660 feet to our closest wire center located in downtown Renton off of Third and Williams. This means we *are* wired for DSL, however since we are more than 18,000 feet away from the CO, our option may be slower IDSL service, if available.

A better option for us would appear to be contacting AT&T directly and using their broad band cable modem service. It runs about \$50 a month and you are limited to using their Internet service. If your somewhat satisfied with your current speed of connection, I'd wait a bit until the all the bugs are worked out with high speed options, whatever you may choose.

I've been happy with Fox Internet, and don't know if a high-speed connection would be worth the extra cost for me or not. Fox provides Internet access as low as \$8.25 per month and domain hosting for only \$99 per year. Plus you can train for a new job or improve your skills by taking affordable courses over the Internet starting at \$4.95 per month. Over 400 courses available, including all essential Windows-based programs, such as MS Office 2000, Desk Top Publishing, Photoshop, "EASY" Internet usage courses. Other advanced programs are available, such as MCSE Preparation, SQL Server 7, Exchange Server 5.5, IIS 4.0 and Networking Essentials. Check out Fox University link for details at the Foxinternet.com web page. (By the way, if you use my name as a referral, Debra Mikolaizik, I'll get a credit for \$20.) I've used it for a year now and not once have I gotten a busy signal when dialing on and have no complaints to speak of, except my teen-ager won't share!!

HAZEN REMODEL

This is an artist rendering of what our new improved Hazen High School will look like by mid-year 2001. It's going to be great!

Visual was attached separately.

A bit of trivia – did you know that Summerwind was originally proposed to be named Sunset Trails (back in 1986)?

Gems of the Day: (from the Hegel Report in the Dick E. Bird News)

- Always remember you are unique, just like everyone else.
 - The hardness of the butter is proportional to the softness of the bread.
 - Why do bills travel through the mail at twice the speed of checks?
 - The problem with the gene pool is that there is no lifeguard.
 - What happens if you get scared half to death twice?
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