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Another year has hurried by. And I have learned the value of sitting still in one place without doing a thing for more than five minutes. Not in front of the T.V., the computer, or with blaring music. Just thinking my thoughts or having a quiet conversation about nothing significant. Just watching life unfold, observing. Don't think I'll ever stop being a Type A person, taking the most direct route, chipping away on my mile-long to-do list as fast as I can... but I'm beginning to understand that even if I stop and slow down and don't maximize every minute, that too should be on my list. Hope with the hectic holidays approaching, you slow down, treat yourself to some "you" time. It's a gift you can afford and everyone around you can benefit from it.

## Calendar

**Annual Christmas Decorating Contest** – 7:00 PM, Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> - have your lights on and looking festive for the judges to make their decisions. Thanks to everyone for making Summerwind look so wonderful this holiday season.

**LNO (Ladies Night Out)** Instead of going out this month, Connie Friesen at 2030 Field Avenue NE plans to have a gathering at her house 7 PM, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Bring your favorite beverage, appetizer or dessert to share.

**H.O.A. President** (Brian Mead, 425-255-5830 or [bmead10@attbi.com](mailto:bmead10@attbi.com)) I wish everyone in the neighborhood a happy holiday season. Thank you to Debra Mikolaizik for her many years (15!) of service as the Entrance Decorator. She has retired and will be replaced this year by "Three Wise Men". I am very proud of our neighborhood as it is very festive. Thank you to everyone who is participating. Best wishes to everyone in the New Year.

## Committee Reports

**Architectural Control** (Rob Richardson, 425-793-9702 or [RobertR@abkj.com](mailto:RobertR@abkj.com) or [summerwind\\_acc\\_rdr@attbi.com](mailto:summerwind_acc_rdr@attbi.com)) Did not receive a report from Rob this newsletter – his email box was full and he didn't receive written notification. Rob was checking to see if garage door colors have to match house colors since the topic came up at the annual meeting. We all received with the HOA dues mailing an ACC application/request for approval form on exterior home improvements so put it someplace handy for when you start thinking about a new project so you can submit it for review and approval.

**Landscaping** (Don Schultz, 425-277-1078 [don@autolegal.com](mailto:don@autolegal.com)) Also at the annual meeting, it's good to hear the Board is going to address the sprinkler system shortcomings next summer. The parks get heavy use by our younger residents so be a good neighbor and clean up after yourselves when leaving. Welcome to Don as the new chair!!

**Membership** (Becky Letterer, 425-277-4122 or [ralnsg@aol.com](mailto:ralnsg@aol.com)) HaPpY HoLiDaYs!!

**Traffic/Safety** (Michael Silence, 425-227-4369 or [msilence2000@yahoo.com](mailto:msilence2000@yahoo.com)) According to the latest Block Watch newsletter put out by the City, day-time break-ins and attempted break-ins have increased quite heavily in the last month (not specifically in Summerwind but in the Highlands). Remember to secure your home and take a few precautions. Report any suspicious activity and trust your instincts. If something seems to be out of the ordinary, check it out! Let your immediate neighbors know when you're going to be gone for a few days so you can keep a watchful eye. They should do the same for you in return.

**WPI** (Larry Slough, WPI, 206-522-8172 or [lslough@wpirealestate.com](mailto:lslough@wpirealestate.com)).

**Western Security Patrol** (235-1731) Report all incidences to them, after calling 911 as necessary.

**City of Renton Neighborhood Liaison** (Jerry Rerecich, 425-430-6615 or [jrerecich@ci.renton.wa.us](mailto:jrerecich@ci.renton.wa.us)) Contact Jerry if you have any questions about the various neighborhood programs available to us or if you have general questions for the City and he can help direct you to the right person or department to assist you.

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## Collecting your Christmas Cards (Others Fine Also)

As in the past (about 10 years now), gather your Christmas cards together, cut off the pretty front cover and leave them on my front porch (5024 NE 23<sup>rd</sup> St.). I'll send them in the spring to St. Jude's Ranch for Children to recycle them for resale. Thanks for helping!!

**Contact Joyce in Summerwind @ 254-0654 or [jsvitak1@attbi.com](mailto:jsvitak1@attbi.com) if you are interested in the following:**

- Are you looking for music lessons (piano, violin or voice), dance lessons or an after-school program for your children? Look no further – these are conveniently offered in your Summerwind neighborhood! Located near the school bus stop (two houses away). Please visit [www.seedsoflearning.com](http://www.seedsoflearning.com).
- Are you planning to remodel your house? I recently replaced my kitchen countertop with granite and doubled its size. I also replaced the carpet with hardwood floors (bought high quality material from Home Depot and finished by ourselves – very inexpensive, allergy-free). I was able to do these because I found a very good person who charges reasonable rates for fine work. If you are planning some home improvement project and would like to have an estimate done, call to arrange a time to get a free quote.
- Are you in need of a dependable and responsible person to clean and organize your house? I wouldn't recommend my cleaning lady to anybody if I were not 100% happy with her work. She is very efficient and thorough. Best of all, her fees are reasonable, at half the current rate for the normal amount of work.
- Do you want to carpool? My husband is looking for somebody in Summerwind to carpool to Microsoft or nearby.
- Do you want to do Yoga? No need to drive far. Children and adult lessons are available here in Summerwind.

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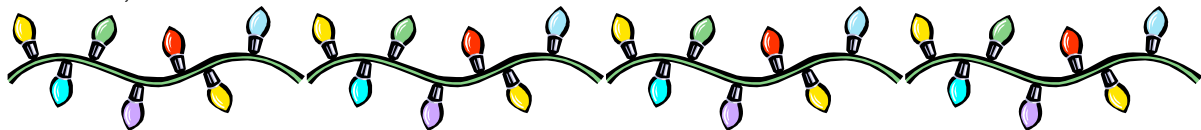
**Looking for Help Around the House?** 14-year-old Lauren and Andrea do most house and yard work. Some of that includes pet sitting, walking animals, cooking meals, tutoring kids, etc. If you need help with something or are looking for someone to employ for a part-time job, they are open for work. Call them on their cell phone 206-713-4278.

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**New Summerwind Babysitters:** Katie Brandt (226-7272) and Leslie Mikolaizik (226-2926) have completed the Overlake Hospital's Babysitter Class and are now available for hire. They prefer to work as a team to start out so give them a call if you are looking for some eager and competent sitters.

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Do you need a large Sauder computer desk? It looks like oak and has an open sectional shelf across the top with a door on the right hand side, a keyboard tray, a pen drawer, two letter size file drawers, a separate small printer cart for underneath, plus a comfortable office chair. I purchased this from Sears about four years ago and now I'm downsizing to a little computer table. Come by and see if it will work for you. And the price is right – free!! Debra, 425-226-2926, 5024 NE 23<sup>rd</sup> St.



*Happy Holidays!!!*