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Fourth of July is going to be different with our new laws in force. Hope you have a safe and happy holiday celebration!

So did you know garage door springs have a lifetime of about ten years? That's especially true of those doing double duty, like mine, across the front of your garage lifting a doublewide single door. So when one of my 16-year-old springs broke, with a huge and awful noise, we scrambled to find the front door keys since the keyless entry wasn't an option. I was very impressed with the company I called, Garage Door Service Co. They responded right away, even though it was a weekend, and we scheduled an appointment during the week (cheaper than a weekend call). They replaced both springs that now have a lifetime warranty. The man who worked on mine happens to be Summerwinders Kevin & Debbie Williams' nephew, Brian, so I highly recommend them (206-714-9410).

Calendar

4th of July Block Party So how about we try something different this year? We're going to play board games – Scrabble, Balderdash, Mexican Train Dominoes, Bunko, you name it. We'll be looking for tables, chairs, games, players, canopies, etc. And we can do the other fun stuff we usually do – badminton, basketball, water balloon volleyball. The Steklenberg's are checking into karaoke again so maybe we'll have that too.

Come join us at the Division 1 Park off of NE 23rd Street. Graham Street will be blocked from **noon until midnight**. We can still light up the street with torches, candles, strings of party lights, and have a festive time without fireworks. And if you need to leave at dusk to watch the fireworks display downtown or wherever, maybe you can carpool with some of your neighbors.

We will start up the barbeques about 6 PM or so. Bring whatever meat you wish to barbeque, a dish to share, a jug of pop, whatever you feel like bringing. Utensils, plates, cups, and napkins will be provided.

National Night Out – August 2nd, 7:30 PM. Come participate in our annual get-together where neighborhoods across America unite in their stand against crime. We invite the Renton Police Department to show up with a variety of kid giveaways and a police dog (if they aren't too busy fighting off the bad guys). We will have a dessert social so bring a dessert to share. This is the one time a year where you are encouraged to leave your porch light on all night to show the bad guys we know they are out there and we're watching for them.

End of Summer Vacation Grand Finale – End of August. The last week of summer, we try to plan a few events for the kids to get together and celebrate their last few days of vacation before school starts. Some things we have done in the past are an ice cream social, ice cream floats, bowling at Hillcrest Bowl, decorate your backpack crafting event, an evening at Coulon Beach... We might head to the Family Billiards Center off of Sunset this year.

Don't know if we'll attempt a city-sponsored picnic this year or not since attendance keeps dwindling down. I know that Briar Creek wanted one (off of Duvall) but wasn't large enough to qualify for one by itself so we could always invite them to ours and maybe move it from the newer Division park to the cul-de-sac that backs up to them (Field Ave off of NE 21st). Any feedback on that suggestion? Email me, please. Watch for more info to be posted on the A-boards at the entrances sometime in August.

LNO (Ladies Night Out) The **second** Wednesday of each month. Carpool gathers at **6:30 PM**, at 2030 Field Avenue NE. Call 271-6406 for more info and to reserve a spot. This is a good way for those of you new to Summerwind to meet some new friends close to home.

H.O.A. President (Donald Schultz, 425-277-9187 or don@autolegal.com) In that last six months, several homes have sold in Summerwind. On behalf of the Summerwind HOA, I would like to welcome the new homeowners. The appearance of our neighborhood has been cited as a primary factor in the decision of residents choosing to purchase a home in Summerwind. The short home sales cycle (one day for some!) and rapidly escalating home prices are reflective of overall appearance of our neighborhood. The HOA is continuing to enforce the CC&R's in order to improve the appearance of the neighborhood. I encourage all homeowners, new and old, to become familiar with the CC&R's and to contact a board member or WPI if they have questions or need clarification of a rule. The CC&R's can be found on our website.

Committee Reports

Architectural Control (Steve Wales, 425-277-1880 or acc@summerwindrenton.com) Roof replacement projects are the most active item again this year, and in line with that, we have approved a new material for the accepted replacement list: **CertainTeed Landmark TL**. Please note that this is the 'TL' rated material, NOT the original Landmark material which has been previously disapproved. Color guidelines for this new material remain the same as before for other materials.

Finally, if you have a SUMMERWIND APPROVED PROJECT sign at your house and would like to return it to me, please call or email and I'll be glad to stop by and pick it up.

Landscaping (Brent Walton, Landscaping@SummerwindRenton.com) This Spring you may have noticed some landscaping work in the neighborhood. The common areas have had beauty bark added, the trees in the parks have been limbed and trimmed, and the shrubs in the lighted walkways were cut back. With these improvements, and the efforts of all the homeowners to keep their yards maintained, the development is looking great! As summer approaches, let's work hard to keep our yards maintained in a "park like" condition. Homeowners with yards that are severely out of compliance will be notified, and will need to bring them in compliance.

Membership (Becky Letterer, 425-277-4122 or ralnsg@comcast.net) Our Summerwind homes continue to sell quickly so continue to welcome new owners. I have a welcome packet for them so please give me a call if you have a new neighbor!

Traffic/Safety (David Brownell, 206-992-8071 or Traffic_and_Safety@SummerwindRenton.com) With the longer and warmer days approaching, please be watchful for kids playing as you drive through the neighborhood. Also note that the frequency of security patrols will soon be increasing.

WPI (Shaun Davis, WPI, 206-522-8172x129 or shaundavis@wpirealestate.com) Mailing address: 9500 Roosevelt Way, Ste 100, Seattle 98115. Fax: 206-522-0725

Puget Sound Security Patrol (PSSP) (425-454-5011 24-Hour) Report all incidences to them, our hired security company, after calling 911 as necessary.

City of Renton Neighborhood Liaison (Jerry Rerecich, 425-430-6615 or 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. The City's web page tailored to Renton neighborhoods at <http://www.ci.renton.wa.us/attract/neighbor.htm> features a lot of upcoming events that you might be interested in as a Renton resident.

Know Your CC&R's: Rule 4.1a The Individual home owners shall make a reasonable effort to maintain their front yards, including the side yards forward of any fences enclosing the backyard (for corner properties it will include the entire side yard, facing the street) to at least the same level and quality as the play grounds and entrance landscaping of Summerwind. This maintenance shall include weeding, fertilizing, watering and mowing as required to retain that quality. The watering may be curtailed during periods of officially declared water shortages.

Rule 8.4 Violations as defined in Section 4.1 will incur a weekly fine of \$25 assessed to the owner commencing on the date defined in the written notification. 30 days past that date defined in the notification, the Summerwind HOA could choose to contract work to be performed and billed to the owner in addition to any fines.

Dog Disease – Bacterium Leptospira A neighbor wanted to make us aware that leaving pet food and water bowls outside can be dangerous. This disease has been showing up here locally and can cause kidney disease in both pets and humans, especially kids in urban settings. This is unusual, but a new strain apparently transmitted by raccoons, is reappearing and spreading. The bacterium lives in the kidneys of infected raccoons for their lives and spreads to dogs when raccoons urinate in water.

Symptoms include lethargy, vomiting, acute kidney failure, and can lead to death. There are vaccines available so you might want to check with your vet on your next visit. The bacteria can be transferred to people through pets or from swimming in infected water, camping, or other outdoor activities.

People become sick from two days to four weeks after exposure, with flulike symptoms and fever. Leptospirosis can re-emerge in a second and more severe stage, called Weil's disease, when a person may have kidney or liver failure or meningitis.

Use sound sanitation techniques, including gloves, when cleaning up your pet wastes in the back yard. And a simple precaution, feed and water your pets indoors. Raccoons like pet food so why attract them? Don't know if it is a raccoon but for the past five days, my small carpet outside my front door has been all snarled up in the morning when I get the paper – bizarre! Met a guy at the pharmacy who had to get rabies shots from a raccoon bite last weekend.

Weeds, weeds, weeds! Have you meticulously weeded your sidewalk and driveway cracks one weekend, only to discover by the following weekend, the grass and weeds are back and with a vengeance? I asked the City if they had any recommendations for weed control that is environmentally safe, yet effective. Here's what they had to say...

"Thanks for asking about the best and least toxic way to deal with weeds growing in your driveway and sidewalk cracks. Using pesticide and chemical weed killers may seem effective and quick but come with the consequences of running off into our waterways and potentially harming other plants, animals, and people. Pesticide and chemical weed killers more often than not also become overkill in this area. Our approach is to use the safest, least toxic methods first and then slowly move onto other options. Below are several very effective and safe methods to choose from. Many are very low cost as well.

A method that gardening guru Ciscoe Morris loves is to simply boil water and pour it on the weeds and into the cracks. Depending on the weed, this can be very successful in killing it. You may find this to be an ongoing process but it certainly is cheap, easy, and very non-toxic.

When weeds or grass have built up a thick patch try taking a flat edged shovel and just scrapping them off. This works well.

Many people have found that good old white vinegar works well at killing some weeds. Simply put some vinegar in a spray bottle and spray it on the weed. This works best on weeds with non-waxy leaves and when it is sunny out. You may need to apply it more than once. This kills the weed via the acetic acid in the vinegar. The higher the percent of acetic acid the more effective it is. Common vinegar is around 5%. (*This is what the Master Gardeners I asked also recommended.*)

A great way to deal with weeds coming up in cracks in sidewalks and driveways is to pull or dig the weed out, then clean out the crack or crevice as much as possible, then follow that up by patching or filling in the hole with cement or "cold patch" tar. This works best for cement sidewalks. By eliminating a place for the weed seed and any light getting to it this can be a permanent solution that does not take a lot of time and is very safe.

Weed eaters or weed wackers can work well too. They can be most efficient if you can angle the string or blade to not just cut off the top of the weed but to get as much of it as possible.

A great and very effective method of killing weeds in cracks and crevices is to use a flame weeder. This blowtorch method singes the weed destroying its cells and kills most weeds and seriously damages others. If the weed grows back you can do it again and zap all of its energy. This method has an initial investment cost and runs on propane just like a bar-b-q grill. Biggest drawback is that you have to be very careful in the dry hot months not to start anything on fire you don't want to burn. It is said that husbands find these very addictive (*so what if they can't do fireworks anymore!!*) Try this link for more information on a flame weeder www.flameengineering.com, then look up the Red Dragon Propane Torch. (*Great gift idea for Father's Day – plus it cements whose to-do list it falls on!*)

If you do have further questions you can also contact Spencer Orman at the City of Renton who conducts Natural Yard Care Workshops for city residents. He has a good grasp of knowledge on this subject. He can be reached at sorman@ci.renton.wa.us or 425-430-7396.

Another excellent resource is the Natural Lawn and Garden Hotline. A free service sponsored by the Saving Water Partnership, Local Hazardous Waste Management Program, and the City of Seattle. This free service gives expert advice tailored to the home gardener and landscape professional. They can be reached at 206-633-0224 or email at lawn&gardenhotline@seattleilth.org."

Clean Sweep Don't know if you've been paying attention, but the City tried something new this year. In an effort to help clean up the town, they scheduled a series of events intended to help us with clutter control, in our houses, in our yards, all of Renton. It started with the Community Garage Sale, then there was the Swap Meet the first weekend of June, followed by two weekends where neighborhoods could request a dumpster to be placed in their neighborhoods for easy disposal. And finally, on Saturday, June 25th, you can put anything on the list of accepted items on your curbside, and it will get picked up and hauled away, free of charge. So time to scour your house (and start a stack in your garage for the end of the month where instead of heading to the dump for an item or two, you can have the "dump" come to you. Here's the list of what you can and cannot put out:

Accepted Items: Artwork, picture frames, barbeques, carpet & carpet pad (not to exceed 6'x6' sections), dishes, kitchenware, tableware, furniture, general household junk, litter, mattresses & boxsprings, scrap metal, small amounts of remodeling wastes (less than 10% of container load), styrofoam packaging material (peanuts must be bagged), textiles, toys, tools, garden equipment, flower pots, patio furniture, small amounts of drywall, tiles, vanities, junk doors, sinks, faucets, old sports equipment.

Non-accepted Items: Animal waste, appliances (major: refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, stoves, ovens, water heaters, dishwashers, washers & dryers), asbestos, biomedical waste, burning or smoldering material, cable, computer monitors, computers, printers, construction, demolition & landclearing waste (not to exceed 10% of container load), concrete, asphalt, drum containers, explosives, fluorescent light tubes, motor vehicles & major vehicle parts, oversized materials (greater than 8' in length), sharps, televisions, tires (greater than 20 per container) treated wood, household hazardous waste including paint, solvents, hobby chemicals, oil, antifreeze, automotive batteries, pesticides, weed killer, fertilizer, corrosives, flammable liquid, etc.

You'll receive a flyer in the mail stating all this but it's too good an opportunity to miss. I'm getting rid of a older trampoline that was reaching the end of its "useful?" life.

Babysitter: College student home for the summer and is interested in babysitting this summer. Call Katie Letterer 425-503-0795.

OurRenton.com – Great for classifieds, community events, lost pets.

Craigslist.com – The best bulletin board in the country. Just click on Seattle and you can buy, sell just about anything – lots of free stuff, too.

Have a wonder full summer!