

# Newsletter of the Tiffany Park Neighborhood Association

Renton, Washington November 2015

## Thanks to...

As president of the Tiffany Park Neighborhood Association I want to thank all of the people who volunteer in our community park, Ginger Creek Park, doing weeding mowing, trimming, planting and watering. Quite a few people have contributed this year but we would like to see even more participate. I think we are going to have a work party mid-November to lay down new bark---please look for the announcement on our web page or community email.

I'd like to recognize a few persons whose work this year for the TPNA has made a big difference. Laura Silbernagel has worked tirelessly for years to make our community garage sale a success. Our secretary, Dave Beedon, writes such good meeting minutes and gets them out to us for review in a timely manner. Dave, along with Larry Gorg, a recently-elected member of the Steering Committee, revamped our Tiffany Park web page. Its address is [www.tiffany-park.org](http://www.tiffany-park.org). Renate Beedon did a wonderful job of organizing the community picnic this year, staged as a joint effort with the Cascade Neighborhood Association. I'm curious to know what residents think about that joint picnic effort; please send comments to me at [thorkildson3@gmail.com](mailto:thorkildson3@gmail.com) We could never get along without Bill Roenicke, our treasurer, who is also the point person for anything related to Ginger Creek Park. Marina Higgins and Pam Carino have been part of the steering committee since the beginning and have shared their views and yours at our meetings. I also want to thank Sue Dahlberg for once again joining our steering committee after years of being absent.

A couple of jobs need to be filled for the upcoming year and I hope to get volunteers. First we need someone to organize the garage sale because Laura is bowing out of that role, as is mentioned under "Garage sale." We also need a person to run the

community picnic, as Renate will not be available for it in 2016. The steering committee could use one or two new members. The committee's work is important and gratifying---please pipe up and support what we are trying to do.

Thank you.

Sincerely, Donna Thorkildson

## Cookie Exchange

This year we are having our second annual cookie exchange. The exchange is a fun community get-together, maybe even better than a picnic, although it will be held during a cold season. Hopefully it will become a holiday event your family doesn't want to miss. This year's exchange will be held on Friday, December 11th at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Donna Thorkildson (don't worry, her house should be large enough). It's on a Friday night this year so you don't have to worry about getting home to put kids to bed. It should be finished by 8:30 if everything goes well.

To participate in the exchange, the baker in a house makes three dozen cookies, then packages those cookies in groups of six. They can go in baggies, pretty cellophane bags, or on paper plates with plastic wrap. Cookies contain nuts should be so labeled. The name of the cookie is optional but appreciated. The recipe is optional but if you are willing to share that please do. Cookies will be put display and participants will be asked to share a story about their cookies. Numbers will be drawn. Then each person who brought three dozen cookies take home three dozen cookies made by someone else. You will choose six different kinds of cookies. Hope you enjoy this. If you have questions call Donna Thorkildson at (425) 226-5954. Her address 2621 SE 16<sup>th</sup> Street in Renton.

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## Crime prevention

Today, with so many home invasions, making our homes more secure is important. Renton's Crime Prevention Program has recommended a product over and over again in its block watch information. It is a safety and security film made of Mylar that is applied to the inside of windows to prevent them from shattering when hit, similar to the way vehicle windshields do not shatter when hit. Recently, a neighbor had this product installed on ground-level windows that are in areas hidden from view. Once the film is installed, windows do not exhibit any noticeable difference. Maintenance is the same as cleaning your windows.

Prices are reasonable. More information is available from Seattle Protection, 8814 122<sup>nd</sup> Avenue N.E., Kirkland, WA 98033. Phone (425) 827 5051. The company's webpage for this safety and security film is <http://www.protectionseattle.com/safety.html>.

### City of Renton's crime contact

Looking for suggestions concerning crime prevention? Cindy Parks, of the Renton Police Department's Block Watch program, is the person to talk to. Her phone number is (425) 430-7521. Crime prevention is her business.

## Garage sale

The 2015 garage sale, held on July 17-19, was less busy than last year's. Having it on the same weekend as the Bite of Seattle probably played a role. The date was established by the schedule of the Cascade Neighborhood Association, with whom we decided to participate in sort of a mutual garage sale. Twenty-one TPNA homes signed up by the advertising deadline and six more after that. The garage sale made a tiny profit. In addition, the sale of donated items put a little money in the TPNA bank account (that money is not considered garage sale profit).

For years, Laura Silbernagel has been the driving force behind the garage sale, expending a lot of energy in planning and staging the event. (Thank you, Laura!). Now she is retiring from that job, so we are looking for a volunteer to take over the garage sale for 2016. Laura would be happy to explain what the job involves. If you would like to take on the job of running the 2016 sale, contact the Tiffany Park Neighborhood Association president, Donna Thorkildson at [thorkildson3@gmail.com](mailto:thorkildson3@gmail.com), phone (425) 226-5954.

## Ginger Creek Park

Next Spring, Ginger Creek Park should be more colorful than usual because of the many bulbs that were planted recently. With the City's financial help, we acquired a variety of 450 bulbs. In addition, neighbors donated a couple of hundred more bulbs. Volunteers planted them all in recent weeks. All of these bulbs should bloom every year.

Dale Blair, volunteer extraordinaire, has contributed many hours of grunt work with the goal of getting rid of the persistent stumps of unwanted growth. He has been successful. Previous efforts by various volunteers were less successful, even though they consisted of cutting the unwanted growth down to the ground and spraying it with a herbicide. Thank you, Dale!

There is still work to be done regarding the removal of morning glory roots. If you are fond of maze games, chasing down and removing those roots will provide a satisfying challenge.

The thick layer of wood chips on the raised beds has gone down due to settling and rotting. We hope to add another six-inch layer to the raised beds. There will be "wheelbarrow exercises" in the future to spread the donated chips that tree trimmers deliver. Our next wood-chip work party is on Saturday,

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November 14. Bad weather or a lack of chips will move it to the following Saturday. E-mail notices will advise the status of the work party. If you have a craving for exercise, or simply want some fresh air, come help us spread wood chips. All help is appreciated.

There have not been any more unwanted four-wheel incursions into the park. The heavy stones displaced by motor vehicle accidents still need to be moved back to their proper positions. We continue to hope that this can be accomplished.

Occasionally some interesting events transpire. Around early October, while volunteers conducted a "weed attack," two deer casually walked through the park, passing within three feet of one of the busy workers. The deer did not show any significant surprise or alarm. The worker was amazed at how he was favored by their presence.

The Steering Committee appreciates the help offered by all volunteers in maintaining the park.

## History of neighborhood

(Part 1 of 2, submitted by Larry Gorg)

Tiffany Park is the second name used for the area where we live. Way back in 1967 and 1968, when this housing area was platted and first built, there was a western serial on TV called "Bonanza." It was an hour-long program that ran on Sundays at 9 p.m. Bonanza was a popular show. The show was set on a fictional ranch in Nevada called "The Ponderosa." When this housing area was first platted, it was named after that ranch, thus what came into being was called "Ponderosa Estates."

Unfortunately, the economy tanked and not many homes were built. The nation went into a recession. In Seattle a billboard appeared that stated, "Will the last person out of Seattle please turn out the lights?" Boeing, at that time Washington's largest employer,

lost the SST contract and other work. Thousands of employees were laid off, many of whom simply picked up their belongings and left. House prices fell dramatically and there was no demand for new homes. It took almost ten years before more homes were built in Ponderosa Estates.

At the time, the big apartment complex built behind Benson Road and Puget Drive was called Thunder Hill. Rents were fairly low and those folks that lived there sent their kids to Tiffany Park Elementary, as that was the closest school. The classrooms had about 30 kids in them. When Thunder Hill raised rents, some people moved out, to be replaced by others. This affected the composition of classes. A class would start the year having a certain collection of kids but end the year with a different collection, even if the number of students in the class stayed the same.

(Part 2 to follow in the next newsletter.)

## Holiday Lights Contest

(From Donna):

It is time to start preparing for our annual decorating contest to be held in December ("it's the most wonderful time of the year").

I can't wait to see every house, roof, yard, and fence decorated with lights and characters. If you are new to the neighborhood this is an annual event that we have fun with, so decorate high and decorate low. The judges will be out looking on Sunday evening December 20 after 7:00 p.m. We will try to make our decision and let you know before Christmas. It is getting harder and harder to find the houses that are exceptional. Your prize may be small but you can brag as much as you like. And you will be recognized in the first newsletter of next year. Good luck to everyone, and may your holiday season be merry and bright. If you have any questions call Donna Thorkildson (425) 226-5954

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## Membership

We are always looking for people to be dues-paying members of the Association. At the end of this newsletter is a form to fill out when applying to be a dues-paying member. The form lists the benefits of paying the dirt-cheap dues.

## Picnic

The 2015 picnic was held on July 9 at the park in Tiffany Park. For the first time it was held jointly with the Cascade Neighborhood Association. Turn-out was large. Neighbors brought potluck food. TPNA provided Otter Pops for kids. The City of Renton provided hamburgers, water, and cups. A raffle was held and prizes given out. Potential City Council members attended, stationed at a table to discuss politics or answer questions. In spite of the logistical challenges of staging a larger event, the picnic planner for TPNA (Renate Beedon) considered it a success.

## Safety vests

We now have safety vests for volunteers who engage in Association projects. David Phillips got the ball rolling with initial research. Laura Silbernagel took over from David to nail down what we wanted and then ordered the vests. The fluorescent green (yellow?) vests have "Tiffany Park Neighborhood Association" printed on them to advertise our volunteer actions. We learned that it is possible to borrow safety vests from the King County Adopt-A-Highway program (saving money), but our desire for having the association's name printed on the vests made that approach unfeasible.

## Traffic problems

This year the Steering Committee has been discussing problems concerning traffic in the neighborhood. Speeding cars and dangerous

intersections are often mentioned. The Committee would like to know if residents have any concerns about traffic in the neighborhood. The Committee's goal is to find out what people think in general terms and whether anyone is interested in helping to address the problems (the Committee cannot do everything by itself). A separate page in this newsletter displays a webpage address for taking a very brief survey---only five questions---that will gauge neighbor interest in the matter. That address is also listed on the TPNA website under "LINKS--->TPNA links." If you are interested in traffic, please take the survey. Thanks.

## Website

The TPNA website has general information about the Association, its structure, rules, and events. It also has links to websites having neighborhood-related information. It's at [www.tiffany-park.org](http://www.tiffany-park.org).

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## Steering Committee

The Steering Committee is the body that plans and organizes most of the Association's work. It consists of eleven members, four of whom are the Association's officers. For the 2015-6 year the Committee is composed of the following persons.

Officers:

President: Donna Thorkildson

Vice President: Laura Silbernagel

Secretary: Dave Beedon

Treasurer: Bill Roenicke.

Members at large:

Renate Beedon

Pam Carino

Sue Dahlberg (new member)

Doug Fawcett

Larry Gorg (new member)

Marina Higgins

Dave Phillips

## THIS NEWSLETTER

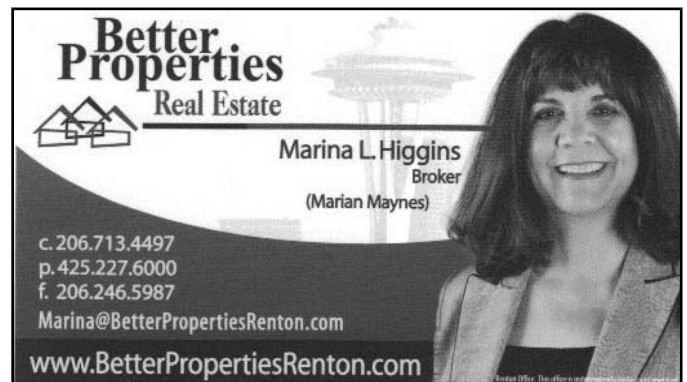
The TPNA newsletter a publication for residents of the Tiffany Park neighborhood . It is published at least twice a year and distributed to all homes in the Association's geographic area. It is also posted on the Association's website ([www.tiffany-park.org](http://www.tiffany-park.org)). Its purpose is to inform residents of Association events and other activities related to the neighborhood.

Comments, questions, and suggestions for articles are welcome: after all, this newsletter is for you. If there is something you'd like to see in future newsletters, tell the Association's president, Donna Thorkildson: phone (425) 226-5954; e-mail [thorkildson3@gmail.com](mailto:thorkildson3@gmail.com).

This issue edited by Dave Beedon with help from Laura Silbernagel and Donna Thorkildson.

## ADVERTISE IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Text advertising in this newsletter is free for all residents of the Tiffany Park Neighborhood. Business-card-size ads can appear in the newsletter for \$25 per issue. To place an ad, talk to Donna Thorkildson at (425) 226-5954.



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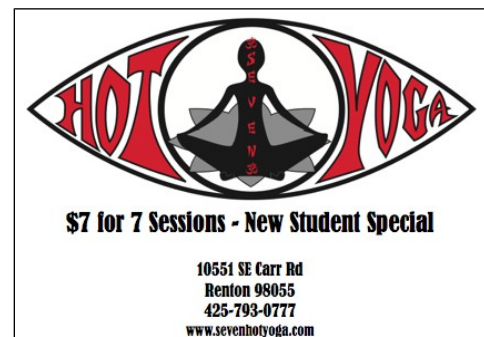
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## Traffic Survey

As described in the "Traffic problems" section above, the TPNA Steering Committee would like to determine the level of interest among neighbors for identifying and working on traffic problems in the neighborhood. The Committee asks you to express your interest in this subject by filling out a very brief survey on-line. The results of the survey will help the Committee decide if there is enough support to pursue traffic issues. The URL at the bottom of the page is the address of the survey.

If you'd like to click on a link, there is one on the TPNA website ([www.tiffany-park.org](http://www.tiffany-park.org)). Go to LINKS--->TPNA links. Thanks!

Please take the five-question survey and be entered into a drawing for a \$20 Starbucks gift card. To take the survey, go to:

[www.surveymzmo.com/s3/2423840/4a2955a43127](http://www.surveymzmo.com/s3/2423840/4a2955a43127)



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## Tiffany Park Neighborhood Association Supporting Membership Form

Note: This is not dues for the Tiffany Park Homeowners Association (TPHA)

Residents of the Tiffany Park Neighborhood are members of the Tiffany Park Neighborhood Association

### Supporting Members of the Tiffany Park Neighborhood Association (TPNA):

- Can vote on TPNA projects, officers and issues
- Can serve as a member or officer of the TPNA Steering Committee
- Get a 10% discount on some items at McLendon Hardware

*Help support neighborhood improvements and activities*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

TPNA Supporting Member contributions: \_\_\_\_\_ \$5.00 per year adult; \_\_\_\_\_ \$2.50 per year senior (65+)

Membership Paid: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Additional Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Please check the appropriate type of membership and indicate the total amount paid.

Please make checks payable to: TPNA

Mail Membership Form and Check to: TPNA Treasurer, 3112 SE 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Renton, WA 98058

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