

Newsletter of the Tiffany Park Neighborhood Association

Serving Ponderosa Estates, the area of the Tiffany Park Homeowners Association, and everything in between
Renton, Washington April 2016

President's Letter...

(by Donna Thorkildson)

Hello neighbors. We have not had a newsletter since before Christmas, and I thought it was time to catch you up on things. First, I want to address a problem that was brought to our Steering Committee by Sue Dahlberg: the residents of Ponderosa Estates have not felt they were part of the Tiffany Park Neighborhood Association. Ponderosa Estates is registered as its own neighborhood of 40+ homes, but was combined into the larger Tiffany Park Neighborhood by the City of Renton just like the Tiffany Park Homeowners Association of 80+ homes was, but it was poorly addressed and our wonderful neighbors were feeling unrecognized for their individual contributions to the whole of the Tiffany Park neighborhood. So I am happy to formally acknowledge and welcome Ponderosa Estates to our larger organizational family of Tiffany Park Neighborhood. We have changed the header for this newsletter to give more visibility to Ponderosa Estates and the Tiffany Park Homeowners Association.

Lately the neighborhood has suffered some mail thefts and home break-ins. News of these happenings have been announced primarily through the TPNA Yahoo group and regular e-mail, but another communication medium is beginning to be used: an on-line social forum called nextdoor.com. I encourage you to be vigilant and get involved with these forms of communication. See "Nextdoor.com" for more information.

On April 23, 2016 Boy Scout Troop 449 conducted a project work party in Ginger Creek Park, making several improvements. I hope you like the result.

See "Ginger Creek Park" for more information. Please read the remainder of this newsletter carefully and mark down dates, times and phone numbers that interest you. Please note that this year we will not have a TPNA garage sale (see "Garage Sale").

Sincerely Donna Thorkildson

Annual Meeting

The Tiffany Park Neighborhood Association will hold its annual meeting for the general membership (all residents) at 7 p.m. on Wednesday June 15th in the RYAC building in the park in Tiffany Park. This is a chance for residents to hear what is going on in the neighborhood, discuss issues, discuss how to do things better, vote for members of the TPNA Steering Committee, and encourage residents to become dues-paying members. The last two subjects deserve more attention.

Steering Committee

Every year the association's officer positions on the Steering Committee are voted on. The positions are president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. New blood is needed on the committee to replace those who have been on it for as long as it has existed (example: Donna Thorkildson). Donna's says: "I really don't put that much time into the goings on of our neighborhood, but I do spend enough to really care about this area. I hope that we can find a few people who want to contribute just a little bit of their time to helping keep things running smoothly around here."

Membership dues

A big part of the meeting is getting our yearly dues taken care of. Our dues are almost nothing, just a token of our commitment, yet they are essential to the operation of the Association. As a convenience

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to residents, dues for the coming year can be paid at the meeting.

Hope to see you there!

Goodbye, Norma McQuiller

(by Donna Thorkildson)

It is with mixed emotion that I inform you that our great advocate in the City of Renton, Norma McQuiller, has retired. As the City's Neighborhood Program Co-ordinator, Norma played a critical role regarding neighborhood picnics (see "Picnic"), National Night Out, and special projects like the restoration of Ginger Creek Park. She will be remembered for her enthusiasm, helpfulness, and positive attitude. She was a wonderful asset to the City.

I worked with Norma on various projects and classes for the betterment of Renton for at least the last 12 years. She has been a light and had a giving personality. She will be sorely missed. Please join me in wishing Norma a happy retirement.

Cookie Exchange

Donna held a cookie exchange at her house last December. It had a poor turn-out and was not very enjoyable. She is not planning to have a cookie exchange in 2016.

Crime prevention!

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.

Free LED light bulbs!

Want to get some free LED light bulbs and a free evaluation of your house's energy efficiency? Read on...

Tiffany Park residents have the opportunity to upgrade their lighting to high-efficiency, dimmable LED light bulbs, and learn how to make their home more energy-efficient. The service is provided by Eco Consulting, performed on behalf of Puget Sound Energy, and costs nothing.

Eco Consulting's nationally-certified energy inspectors will install up to 20 LED light bulbs and look at your home's insulation level, appliances, and heating system to give you a prioritized list of ways to increase your home's energy efficiency. The whole process takes about 45 minutes. A resident can save an estimated \$140 per year just from changing 20 light bulbs.

Eco Consulting does not sell any products or services to residents. To learn more about this no-cost service, call the company at 425-654-5875 or visit the website (EcoConsultingNW.com).

Comments from Donna Thorkildson:

I found out about this program while at the City of Renton Neighbor-to-Neighbor Forum in February. In using this free service I was able to add to the LED lights that I had already started to replace in our household. I also found out that getting a new, more efficient refrigerator had been a good idea along with gas fireplaces up and down for those bursts of heat in living areas was good. Our family could get rid of our ancient extra freezer and change our dryer to gas more efficiency, but that is probably not happening soon. I am not endorsing the company per say, but the service of a home energy

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evaluation. The representative did not try to sell anything, just give stuff away, and they only stayed 30 minutes.

Garage sale

Sadly, there will be no TPNA garage sale in 2016. 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!). She has retired from that position and no one has expressed an interest in taking over that job.

Ginger Creek Park

On Saturday, April 23, Boy Scout Troop 449 invaded Ginger Creek Park to conduct an Eagle Scout project. About 20 scouts participated, with some younger brothers and sisters, and a few adults. A few TPNA members were present to resolve preference questions and help where needed.

The scout effort was directed at several projects---all definite improvements to the park. The scouts pulled weeds, spread wood chips over the raised beds, mowed grass and dressed the lawn, leveled a heavy concrete table that was observed to be slightly tilted, moved most of the errant (displaced) rocks back to their proper positions (they had been displaced over a period of years by wayward drivers), and built an arbor over the east entrance pathway. Moving one rock exposed a garter snake, an amusing curiosity for some of the young labor present. The snake will continue its guard work of eliminating unwanted insects from the park.

Troop 449 brought its own tools: a riding power lawnmower; shovels, pry-bars, a towing strap and a pickup used to move one rock too heavy to move with brute force muscle power, materials, drills, wrenches, saws, and a tent with a full complement

of refreshments. The weather was ideal, with no rain until three hours after project completion, which has left everything with a fresh look.

Our thanks go out to the members of Boy Scout Troop 449, especially to Bradley Blaycock, who proposed the Eagle Scout project to the TPNA Steering Committee. The needs of the Troop 449 and TPNA meshed: the troop receives credit for completing a worthy community project, and TPNA benefits from the significant park improvements. One expense for TPNA was a \$20 hauling fee to assure the timely delivery of a large load of wood chips.

Troop 449 holds its meetings at the Nativity Lutheran Church in Fairwood. Troop 449's website is at <https://www.scoutlander.com/publicsite/unitcontact.aspx?UID=35300>.

The Troop has a Facebook page, which can be reached from its web page.

History of neighborhood

(by Larry Gorg)

In the Beginning

This is a rehash of what I wrote in the first part of this series (see the November 2015 newsletter). After it was published I discovered errors that had to be corrected, and this article does that. Please forget what was written before. You never know what you don't know, until you know it.

In the beginning of time for the neighborhood, there was a boundary---the old city limits---and that demarcation was also the boundary for fire protection. Inside that city boundary was a small pie-shaped area south or west of the City of Seattle pipeline and not part of the existing Cascade Vista Neighborhood. That pie-shaped area was known as

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Ponderosa Estates. It began life around the end of 1962 and today remains a distinct City of Renton neighborhood.

When Tiffany Park was first being built in 1969, it was defined as all the homes north or east of the City of Seattle water pipeline. There was no Puget Drive, but it was under development. Royal Hills Drive also didn't exist---it was planned much later. SE 16th Street was a big cul-de-sac with only one way in and one way out.

Signs were established to identify Ponderosa Estates and Tiffany Park. The Ponderosa Estates sign was installed at the corner of 116th Avenue SE and Edmunds Way SE and remains there to this day. The Tiffany Park sign stood on the northeast corner of Beacon Way SE and SE 16th Street. In the early years, about Christmas time, some Tiffany Park neighborhood residents wanted to put up Christmas lights on a tree by the sign. The sign, I have been told, was not as nice as the Ponderosa Estates sign, and, impeded placement of the Christmas light, so it was temporarily removed. However, after the season passed, no enthusiasm could be found to replace the removed sign. Thus from that point on, the neighborhood remained sign-less.

The next installment: Tiffany Park Elementary School

Holiday Lights Contest

(By Donna Thorkildson)

The decorating of houses was pretty good in 2015. I was impressed when Pam Carino and I drove around judging the lights and decorations that were adorning our neighborhood.

This year's winner was Dave and Patty Phillips at 1517 Newport Court SE. They won two years ago

too, but this year they topped their previous effort. Lights decorated their front stairs, front yard, side yard, and trees. There were deer in the yard. An item of the Star Wars theme was present and an angel was suspended in the air. It may help that they have a corner lot, but having a corner lot is not the only way to make an impression. In fact I think we have an inflated character war going on in the cul-de-sac, and a house at 2708 S.E. 16th Street has been on the cusp of greatness for years and really just went over the edge this last year.

Congratulations and thanks to everyone who took the time to decorate their house.

Membership/dues

(by Bill Roenicke)

The annual membership renewal time is here. Renew your membership for the next year - \$5.00 under 65, \$2.50 per year for those 65 and older. Your membership, your ideas, and your help all contribute to maintaining and improving our neighborhood.

If the TPNA has your e-mail address, it can inform you by e-mail when there is some event of interest to our neighbors or some problem that affects our neighbors. Typical problems are homes broken into, pets stolen, vehicles damaged, and mailboxes robbed. Alerted, watchful neighbors have resulted in apprehension of the offender.

Some volunteers periodically walk the area picking up trash in the street left behind by the inconsiderate. Volunteer help maintains Ginger Creek Park, and the pathway to the Tiffany Park School from Index Avenue SE Street.

Your attendance and input at our bi-monthly

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steering committee meetings is welcome. Come along, join, and be a part of neighborhood government at the foundation level.

NextDoor.com

(by Renate Beedon)

Nextdoor.com is a free website containing information about and for neighborhoods. It acts as a bulletin board and forum for buying and selling things, discussing topics of interest, seeking advice, offering advice, and other such stuff. Nextdoor is the best way to stay in the know about what's going on in your neighborhood—whether it's finding a last-minute babysitter, learning about an upcoming block party, or hearing about a rash of break-ins. NextDoor is a private environment designed just for us and our neighbors. It exists to serve neighborhoods throughout the country.

Sometime during last year, several NextDoor sites popped up in the Renton area. Even the City Police and Fire Department have a link on Renton's NextDoor site.

We recently set up a NextDoor group just for Tiffany Park and you're all invited to join. When you join you can choose which and how many neighborhoods in the Renton area you want to see or be seen on. You have the option to show as little or as much information about yourself as you want, yet still be able to see most of the comments other people make. You sign up with an e-mail address, if you don't want your regular e-mail address connected, create one just for this purpose. This is a secure site and no information is sold or passed on to other parties.

You can get recommendations for businesses, opinions about services and voice your opinions

about those things. You can sell items you would sell in a garage sale or buy items that other people post. There are so many ways our neighbors can help us, we just need an easier way to connect with them. I like to call it an electronic bulletin board for the neighborhood. Recently, topics on the Tiffany Park site were break-ins, high utility bills, discussion about a repair shop in the area and more.

The Tiffany Park Neighborhood Association could use this tool to send out information that needs to be disseminated in a fast way, if all of us join. This could nicely supplement the newsletter, website, and Yahoo e-mail group.

Hope to see you on NextDoor.

Picnic

At the time of publication we do not know the details of the 2016 picnic. The City of Renton's Neighborhood Program is a bit unsettled at the moment because the City does not have a person to replace long-time Neighborhood Program Coordinator Norma McQuiller, who retired this Spring. Thus there is no one at the City to deal with picnics. In addition, we've heard that the City might change its picnic support process. As a result, we might have to stage a picnic without the help of the City.

One thing we know for sure is that we will *not* stage a joint picnic with any other neighborhood: we like the neighborhood closeness of our park and how our identity is connected to it. More information should be available by the time we have our annual meeting in June. If we know more before then, we'll post an announcement on the TPNA website (www.tiffany-park.org). Stay tuned.

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Website

The TPNA website (www.tiffany-park.org) has general information about the Association, its structure, rules, and events. It also has links to websites having neighborhood-related information. In addition, its home page has time-sensitive announcements.

No Advertising

Oops! This issue has no advertising, partly due to a software problem. The problem will be rectified before publishing of the next newsletter. Apologies to persons or companies who were expecting their advertising to appear in this issue.

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. *New officers will be elected at the general membership meeting on June 15, 2016.*

Officers:

President: Donna Thorkildson

Vice President: Laura Silbernagel

Secretary: Dave Beedon

Treasurer: Bill Roenicke.

Members at large:

Renate Beedon

Pam Carino

Sue Dahlberg

Larry Gorg

Marina Higgins

David Phillips

THIS NEWSLETTER

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

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

Editor: Dave Beedon.