

Newsletter of the Tiffany Park Neighborhood Association

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

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President's Letter

Hello friends and neighbors, my name is Marina Higgins and I am the president of the Tiffany Park Neighborhood Association for 2016-17. I have lived in this neighborhood approximately 24 years. I want you to join our Tiffany Park Neighborhood Association to help us keep this neighborhood from deteriorating.

A little refresher on the association. The City of Renton divided the city into designated neighborhoods for the purpose of helping residents with things such as grants for neighborhood projects. It is a very generous gesture on the part of the city. Grants received from the City have enabled us to improve our neighborhood and its parks and communicate with you through this newsletter, our website, etc. Our neighborhood, as defined by the City, includes Ponderosa Estates (along our western border) and the area to the southeast whose houses belong to the Tiffany Park Homeowners Association. In all we have about 500 houses, one of which is yours.

I envision our neighborhood as a place we can be

proud of, a place where we are not afraid to take walks alone at anytime and where children can play safely, a place where parks are clean and welcoming, a place where property values remain high because of our reputation, a place where we know our neighbors and help one another. Without you we are not as effective as we would like; but together we can achieve the things mentioned above and be heard as a viable and visible association.

One thing the Steering Committee has done is purchasing bright safety vests for us to use while we work on Ginger Creek Park or perform periodic litter patrols. Speaking of safety, we publish articles of interest on the TPNA website (www.tiffany-park.org). And we have a new tool to promote safety and other neighborhood issues: nextdoor.com. These two media will keep us well-informed on crime in our neighborhood.

Are you a supporting member of the TPNA? If not, we'd love to have you become one. The article "Membership/dues" has more info.

Sharing information about crime and suspicious activity is one way to care for our neighbors. In mid-October I witnessed something that seemed worrisome. One Saturday night around 1:30 a.m., an SUV drove into our round-about and three males got out. They were suspicious-looking and seemed to be up to something undesirable. As I turned on the light and raced down the stairs to confront them, they sped away. I called the Renton Police. Officers responded and patrolled the area. We must stay vigilant to keep our homes and street safe.

Helpful, caring neighbors create a positive atmosphere for all. A great example is Erik Thorkildson. Erik has been mowing the Tiffany Park Homeowners Park for a few years. (This is the "common area" on Pierce Avenue SE.) Erik asked

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permission to use this park as his Eagle Scout project. Of course we agreed. Erik with the help of other Troop 449 members: 1) cut overgrowth 2) cleaned the drainage ditch 3) repaired and painted benches and tables 4) spread wood chips 5) cleaned and re-enforced the playground equipment 6) cleaned up garbage 7) weeded and raked. We are so appreciative and thankful to Erik. I was impressed with the hard work and good character of Erik and Troop 449. Thanks again.

Another example of a good neighbor is Sue Dahlberg, a long-time resident who has been meeting with the City of Renton to get more control of the traffic and pedestrian crossings in our neighborhood. A great big thank-you to Sue for her determination to try to get some issues resolved!

Looking forward to meeting you. I hope you will help with the work of the Association (more info on joining under "Membership"). Please call me or send me an e-mail message to join or to share any ideas you have for improving the neighborhood.. Remember: sometimes it is better to have a neighbor close by than family far away! .My phone number is (206) 713-4497 and my e-mail address is marina.higgins@comcast.net. Together we can keep our neighborhood great!

Sincerely, Marina Higgins

Can't decide what to give someone for Christmas or another festive occasion? Why not give a supporting membership in the TPNA? The recipient will love you for it. The article "Membership/dues" has more info.

Garage Sale

To date, no one has stepped forward to take over the annual TPNA garage sale, so we intend to make it simple enough to conduct without needing a lot of planning. A tentative date for the sale is for a weekend in mid-July. There will be A-frame boards available for advertising that can be signed out at no charge. More information about the sale will follow. and will appear the TPNA web site, in the next newsletter, and on Nextdoor.com. Questions can be directed to any member of the TPNA Steering Committee (listed on the last page).

Ginger Creek Park

We've had a few changes at Ginger Creek Park in the past year, mostly due to the Boy Scout park improvement project that was reported on in the April 2016 newsletter (available on the TPNA website). The most visible change has been the installation of an arbor over the gravel path, one of the things done by the Boy Scouts. The arbor's appearance might change, as a neighbor close to the park has volunteered to attach a vine to it and maintain the vine.

There is a bit of a mystery associated with the park. Last spring approximately 1000 bulbs were planted in the raised beds. Some bulbs were purchased, some were donated. For some reason, none of them appeared.

Neighborhood volunteer efforts did more thinning of the growth on the raised beds. The Renton police have asked us to keep visibility through the park open so they can monitor as they drive by. Anyone needing fresh air and garden exercise...come to Ginger Creek Park! There are weeds that await your attention.

A new task has opened up for next summer,

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mowing of the grass at the park. Eric Thorkildson, who has been mowing the lawn as a community service, was just granted his Eagle Scout Award and is expecting more demands on his time for college and work, forcing him to retire from his grass-mowing work. The result is that we are looking for another person or persons to take over this valuable function. If anyone is interested, please contact one of the TPNA Steering Committee members (listed on the last page).

History of Neighborhood

(by Larry Gorg)

A weird address in Tiffany Park illustrates one aspect of our history.

The way roads are named in this area is based on a Postal Service system. East/West roads are called streets and North/South roads are called avenues. If a road does run in one of those directions, it might be called something else, like "court," "lane," or "way."

Address numbers increase as you move away from whatever road is designated as a baseline. Odd numbers are on the west side of avenues, and south side of streets. Even numbers are on the east side of avenues, and north side of streets.

Being a supporting member of the TPNA entitles you to get a 10% discount on most things at McLendon's Hardware. What a deal! The article "Membership/dues" has more info.

These rules are intended to facilitate the process of navigation. However, there are occasional oddities that defy the rules. An example of this exists in our neighborhood---the address of Tiffany Park Elementary School (1601 SE Lake Youngs Way). The street grid system leads a person to believe that

the address of "1601" would exist on Lake Youngs Way immediately south of SE 16th Street, but it lies a block or two farther south. Why is that? Did the city fathers know something that we didn't.

The answer isn't all that clear. However, I can tell you that it wasn't the city that handed out that address, it was King County. When the school building permit was issued in 1962, there wasn't anything in the area except wet lands and trees (but few trees). (We will discuss the wet lands in a later column.) The school was one of the first things built in 1964, and you could see the school from Lake Youngs Way and SE 16th Street.

One can surmise that if the area had no streets, the county guessed the address for the school, not really knowing they might be a little off. We know that the school actually uses its old main entrance, prior to the 2001 rebuild, as its address. This driveway is the current the service entrance at the rear of the cafeteria. When school starts or ends, this is the end of the one way road that exits onto Lake Youngs Way SE from the front of the school.

If the address is incorrect, what should it be? Again, we can put some logic into this, knowing Post Office regulations. The driveway is the first driveway you encounter when passing SE 18th Street. If you apply this logic, the old driveway is actually 1801 Lake Young Way SE.

You could ask the question, "why wasn't this address corrected?" That can be answered in a short, three word answer, cost and benefit. What benefit would be derived from picking up the school and moving it two blocks further East? Since the school has resided since 1964 at the incorrect address, obviously people can find it. There is very little benefit, but there is a huge cost in changing an address.

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Something else to consider when changing addresses. It might make more sense to move the school only a half a block, and give it an address for its new main driveway. That might be 1651 or 1653 Lake Youngs Way SE. Someone in the district would have to determine what they might want to do. Since it obviously isn't a big deal, they have let old dogs sleep, and not pay for something that has very little benefit. Its much more cost effective to educate our youth than spend money on an address change.

In the past, some have argued that the school should be 1901 Lake Youngs Way SE as the Park at Tiffany Park has an address of 1902. However, this isn't really a good answer. Remember that addresses should increase over the last address. So, going to 1901 would foul the Post Office, as the next house on Lake Youngs Way SE is 1843. This would not solve the Post Office requirement of increasing the addresses. It would still cause confusion of having a larger address before a smaller address. Another consideration you might want to think about is, if the school has a bad address, might the Park also have a bad address? If you use the driveway to the park as its address, you would think that it would have an address of 1844 Lake Young Way SE.

These Post Office requirements evolved over time. The Post Office had to solve the problem of delivering mail, and wanted consistency from city to city. However, there are some exceptions. Lets take New York City as an example. This city has been existence for some time, way before the Post Office came into being. In New York, there is a street that is defined as the street that begins the numbering system. The streets may have ascending numbers, and the address may have ascending numbers, but the addresses have no correlation to the streets. The addresses may increase by a couple of hundred in one block. Bear in mind, I have not been there, and only heard about this fact. If you are on one street

that has 700's in the address, and you go one block over, you find that its addresses are not in the 700's. The inhabitants have a cheat sheet so they can find their way around.

*The dues for a supporting membership in the TPNA are chicken feed, so no one can complain that the expense is too much to bear. Do your civic duty and sign up now!
See the article "Membership/dues."*

Another exception to the rule is when the grid gets a little off, as it does in Tiffany Park. The street grid is tilted a little to the left which causes the Avenues to mostly run Northwest to Southeast, and Streets to run Southwest to Northeast. Sometimes you have to tweak the grid to efficiently utilize the land.

Now that you know a little bit about streets and addresses, you should have an easier time determining just where you should be, when you go to a new address when you are out and about.

By the way, Ginger Creek Park has no address.

Holiday Lights Contest

Every year the TPNA stages the "Holiday Lights Contest" just before Christmas to honor the owners of the three best-decorated homes in the neighborhood. This year is no different. Get out the decorations and create a visual feast for your neighbors!

Judges will go through the neighborhood on Tuesday, December 20, after 7:00 p.m. and observe the displays. After comparing notes they will do their best to announce the three winners before Christmas. Modest prizes will be awarded and the names of winners will get at least 10 minutes of fame when their names appear in the first newsletter published in 2017.

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If you would like to be a judge this year's contest, contact Donna Thorkildson at 425-226-5954

Membership/dues

Neighbors, have you considered becoming involved with the Tiffany Park Neighborhood Association? The continued maintenance and improvement of our neighborhood is dependent on neighbors like you to offer ideas, support of events, and muscle power. The more volunteers we have to get things done, the smaller everyone's contribution can be.

At the present, most neighborhood business and maintenance is handled by a handful of people consisting of members of the Steering Committee and a few other dedicated individuals. We encourage you to consider helping out, even if it is limited to providing ideas for improving the way we get things done. Every person has a unique outlook on things and can therefore "bring new information to the table." We can all benefit from new perspectives.

Anyone wishing to help in another way can become a supporting member of the neighborhood by paying the dirt-cheap annual voluntary dues. That money goes into our bank account, from which we pay for supplies and equipment related to event support and maintenance of Ginger Creek Park. Being a supporting member entitles a person to vote at the annual meeting of the general membership (usually held in June), whether the voting concerns changes to our bylaws or selection of new officers for the Steering Committee.

Another benefit is being eligible for a 10% discount at McLendon's (good for most items), an arrangement that can easily save you enough money to repay your dues several times over in a year. When you pay TPNA dues, we inform McLendon's of your membership. The cost for being a supporting member is \$5.00 per person for those

under 65 and \$2.50 per person for those who are 65 or older. Note that it is per person, not per household. *Membership forms are at the end of this newsletter* and can be downloaded or printed from the TPNA website.

It's almost time to make your New Year's resolutions. Becoming a supporting member of the TPNA should be at the top of your list. It's easy and inexpensive. The article "Membership/dues" has more info.

Whether you prefer to be a general member (by virtue of living in the neighborhood) or a supporting member (by virtue of paying dues), we welcome your participation. Why not attend a meeting of the Steering Committee to see what's going on and get an idea about how you can contribute? Anyone can attend. Meetings are held every other month at the home of a Steering Committee member. Information about meetings is posted in advance on the TPNA website under Announcements.

The greater our membership, the more influence our neighborhood will have if an issue needs to be addressed before the city government. Join us!

NextDoor.com

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.com is a great tool for finding a last-minute babysitter, learning about an upcoming block party, or hearing about a rash of break-ins. Nextdoor.com is a private environment designed just for us and our neighbors. It exists to serve neighbor-hoods throughout the country.

In 2016 a Nextdoor.com site was established for

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Tiffany Park. All residents within the Tiffany Park neighborhood are 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. Hope to see you on Nextdoor.com!

Becoming a supporting member in the TPNA is easy---just fill out an application and give it and the appropriate amount of American dollars to our treasurer. Checks are OK. The article "Membership/dues" has more info.

Picnic

2016 was not a good year for the TPNA picnic. In fact, it was as bad as it could get (we never had a picnic). Two or three things conspired to make this happen. First, we lost our experienced picnic organizer (Laura Silbernagel) to retirement and no one else volunteered to replace her. Even if we had found a volunteer, it would have been hard to duplicate the fine job she did over the years. To add fuel to the fire, the City of Renton lost its long-time and neighborhood co-ordinator (Norma McQuiller) to retirement. It took quite a while for the City to get a replacement for Norma and during that process the City decided to change the way it supports neighborhood picnics. All these things caused too much disruption, forcing us to cancel the picnic. To make up for that loss we attempted to have an ice cream social in September but it, too, was a victim of difficulties and never came to fruition. We're hoping that 2017 is a better year.

But we still lack a volunteer to manage the 2017 picnic, so the current plan is to make it simple enough that staging it will be relatively easy. It will probably be held in June, after school is out for the summer. Details will appear on the TPNA website and in the next newsletter, to be published in the spring.

Website

The TPNA website (www.tiffany-park.org) is a treasure trove of information about the Association. There you will find details about the nature of the Association, its structure, the rules (bylaws) by which it operates, a map showing its boundary, and the events it sponsors. Persons interested in getting an idea of its history can find out more on the Records page, which has links to newsletters and meeting minutes going back to the founding of the Association in 2006. It also has links to websites having neighborhood-related information. Time-sensitive announcements appear on its home page.

Balloons, cake, and blowing out candles make a birthday nice, but the thing that makes a birthday special is receiving the gift of a supporting membership in the TPNA. But that's not all---it might motivate the recipient to get involved with the TPNA, which would be good for the neighborhood. The article "Membership/dues" has more info.

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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 up to eleven members, four of whom are the Association's officers. For the 2016-7 year the Committee is composed of the following persons.

New officers will be elected at the next general membership meeting, in 2017.

Officers:

President: Marina Higgins

Vice President: Donna Thorkildson

Secretary: Dave Beedon

Treasurer: Bill Roenicke.

Non-officer members:

Pam Carino

Sue Dahlberg

Kirsten Games

Larry Gorg

David Phillips

[open position]

[open position]

Remember, if you desire to be a member of the TPNA Steering Committee, you must be a supporting member of the TPNA. The article "Membership/dues" has more info.

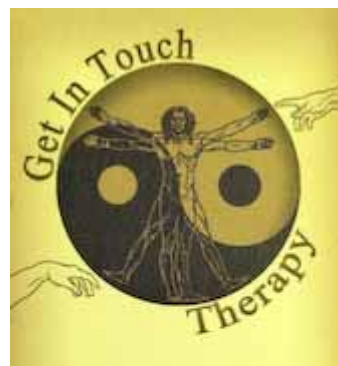
THIS NEWSLETTER

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 and distributed to all homes in the Association's geographic area. An electronic version (PDF file) is posted on the Records page of 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, Marina Higgins: phone: (206) 713-4497; e-mail: marina.higgins@comcast.net.

Inputs for this issue were made by Sue Dahlberg, Larry Gorg, Marina Higgins, Bill Roenicke, and Donna Thorkildson. Edited by Dave Beedon (davebeedon@comcast.net)

Advertising



Get In Touch
Therapy

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Renton, WA 98055
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(425) 277-1123
Call for Appointment
Lic. MA00015543 - AMTA 112226

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 automatically *regular* members of the TPNA

A resident who becomes a *supporting* (dues-paying) member of the TPNA:

Can vote on Neighborhood Association projects, officers and issues

Can serve on the Steering Committee

Gets a 10% discount on many 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 this form and a check to: TPNA Treasurer, 3112 SE 18th Street, Renton, WA 98058

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