

Newsletter of the Tiffany Park Neighborhood Association

Serving Ponderosa Estates, the area of the Tiffany Park Homeowners Association, and everything in between
Renton, Washington June 2017

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President's Letter

Neighbors, my name is Marina Higgins and I am the President of the Tiffany Park Neighborhood Association. I have lived in this neighborhood approximately 31 years. I love my home and it is my goal and my intention this year to improve and protect the value of our homes. I am asking for you to help me in making a concerted effort to make this a most desirable neighborhood. As a real estate broker, I understand more than most how important it is to live in a well maintained neighborhood where each and every house has "curb appeal". Most home buyers drive by a neighborhood before they even decide to preview a home that is in that particular location.

Together we can maintain this great neighborhood! I see a neighborhood to be proud of and where we are not afraid to take walks alone at anytime. I see our property values remaining high because of our cleanliness, location and reputation; where children can play safely; where our parks are clean, friendly and welcoming; where we help each other. Without you we are not effective but together we can: 1)

keep our neighborhood clean; 2) be known as a viable and visible association by the City of Renton; 3) meet our neighbors so we can help each other in case of an emergency; 5) maintain and more than likely increase our property values.

Toward this end, we are hoping to designate one weekend a month where we encourage each other to step out of our homes and pick up the litter that has accumulated around our homes; be it across the street or two houses on each side of you. We would communicate the weekend date via our website (www.tiffany-park.org) and Nextdoor.com.

The Association usually hand delivers this newsletter to approximately 500 homes which includes Ponderosa Estates and Tiffany Park Homeowners Association and we are hoping to make your acquaintance through this distribution effort.

There are wonderful, hardworking people in our neighborhood. Remember: sometimes it is better to have a neighbor close by than family far away!

Please consider helping with the work of the Association (more info on joining under "Membership/Dues"). I would love to hear from you to get feedback about the neighborhood or to help you become a supporting member. My phone number is (206) 713-4497 and my e-mail address is marina.higgins@comcast.net. Together we can keep our neighborhood great! Thanks.

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.

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Garage Sale

By the time this newsletter gets delivered, the Tiffany Park neighborhood garage sale will have taken place (June 16-18). This year the sale was organized by Pam Lew through Nextdoor.com. Although the Tiffany Park Neighborhood Association was not involved with the event, the members of its Steering Committee hoped it was a success.

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.

General Membership Meeting

The 2017 meeting will take place on Tuesday, July 18 at 5 p.m. at the recreation building in the park in Tiffany Park. This meeting, also called the "annual meeting," is designed to inform members of the status of the Association's efforts, give members a chance to meet members of the Steering Committee, and vote for officers of the Committee for the next year. At this year's meeting we will be discussing the decision to raise the Association's dues (see "Membership/dues" for more information).

Ginger Creek Park

Foliage at GCP has taking on its fresh green look. Last year about 1,000 bulbs (some purchased, some donated) were planted in the park but they never made an appearance. Why? This spring some of those bulbs did appear, with leaves clipped. Another

why? Larry Gorg has the answer: deer visiting the park have been lunching on the green growth of the bulbs. If one walks by presently, the bulb leaves have a clipped look, though some are showing flowers.

Several weeks ago, someone raced into the park from the curve at the water tower and moved one of the decorative rocks (they weigh hundreds of pounds) about 35 feet. It presently rests on an inside path. Requests to have City maintenance crews working in the area with capable equipment have not solved this problem. The Boy Scouts have taken on the challenging muscle exercise before and we hope they can help correct this problem again..

Current maintenance issues:

1. If anyone else is willing to take on an occasional mowing, weeding, or other maintenance activity, that help would be greatly appreciated.
2. We are in need of two-three yards of fill dirt (not a load of rocks) for some spots in the lawn at the park. Does any one have some fill they would like to donate?
3. In addition to the fill dirt noted, we are in need of someone with a pickup truck who could haul the dirt to the park. The TPNA would provide the labor to load the dirt into the truck and unload it at the park.

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.

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Thanks to volunteers

The TPNA Steering Committee members are very appreciative of the efforts of the following neighbors who have been making voluntary contributions to the appearance and upkeep of Ginger Creek Park:

1. Dale Blair has become the greatest enemy of unwanted weeds and brush attempting to take up residence in the park. Dale has spent many hours rejecting their tenancy, attempted tyranny. Thanks Dale.
2. Eileen Strecker has added the half barrels and plantings to the arbor. She is also providing their needed upkeep. (The arbor was installed last year during a Boy Scout merit badge project for Bradley Blaylock's Eagle Scout rank.) Thank you Eileen.
3. Darrin Hanson is new to our neighborhood: "Welcome Darrin!" Darrin has volunteered to take on some of the grass mowing at the park. We were off to a late start this spring as our last help, Erik Thorkildson, has taken on the college challenge. Thus Darrin has volunteered and has kept the lawn neatly mowed. Thanks Darrin.
4. Karen Thompson provided the table umbrella, an added feature for those who eat lunch in the park. Thank you Karen.

Picnic

This year's picnic will be on Saturday, July 29, starting at 5 p.m. Location is the park in Tiffany Park. It's a potluck. The folks at Renton Youth Advocacy Center (RYAC) will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, condiments, and grilling service. The TPNA will supply potato salad, macaroni salad, and cake. Our theme, as in past years, is "school supplies," so bring some things that students can use.

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

NextDoor.com

Nextdoor.com is a free website containing information pertaining to neighborhoods. It serves neighborhoods throughout the country but is designed to keep any neighborhood's information visible only to the neighborhood's residents. 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.

In 2016 a Nextdoor.com site was established for 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. The only information you must provide is name and physical address. Your address allows you to see what's going on in the Tiffany Park neighborhood. You also provide an e-mail address of your choice (if you don't want to use your regular e-mail address, create one just for Nextdoor.com). This is a secure site and no information is sold or passed on to other parties. Hope to see you on Nextdoor.com!

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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, help with events, and provide occasional 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. It is challenging to get the needed work done with so few participating. 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.

Another way to help the neighborhood is to pay dirt-cheap annual voluntary dues. This makes you a supporting member. The payment 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 you to vote at the annual meeting of the general membership, whether the voting concerns selection of new officers for the Steering Committee or changes to our bylaws.

The annual 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. After July 18 the dues will increase to \$12 (64 and under) and \$6 (65 and over). Membership forms are at the end of this newsletter and can also be

downloaded or printed from the TPNA website (www.tiffany-park.org).

If you shop at McLendon Hardware, your dues will be quickly paid for by the discount the store gives to members---there is a 10% discount on most regularly-priced items. If you're a frequent shopper there, your dues will be paid back more than once in the year. When you pay TPNA dues, we inform McLendon's of your membership. Then at the cash register you say that you're a member of the TPNA and give your name. The discounts then start rolling in.

This summer you are probably going to hear about "Christmas in July" on the radio or television. Whether you like that commercial theme or not, when you hear it, do something different. Instead of changing the channel or buying something for your home, become a supporting member of the TPNA. 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. Please join us!

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Speeding

We are all bothered by speeding in the neighborhood. Some speeding is by intent (immature exuberance?) and demonstrates a lack of concern for the possible consequences. But another form of speeding is more insidious because it happens as the result of faulty perception: we don't always realize how fast we drive.

Have you ever exited a freeway and realized on the exit ramp that it even though you think you have significantly slowed down, in fact your speed has dropped only five miles an hour? And when you brake a bit more and your speed is still 50 mph, it feels so *slow*? This writer believes that it takes a lot of effort to observe our neighborhood's 25 mph speed limit. Cruising down the street without paying attention to speed can easily result in going over 30 mph, and sometimes that speed seems like crawling. Try to remember this as you drive through the neighborhood---you might be surprised by what you learn. Your neighbors will appreciate it.

Website

The TPNA website 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. The URL for normal computers is www.tiffany-park.org. For touch-screen devices such as smartphones, use www.tiffany-park.org/mobile.

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 Association, which would be good for the neighborhood. The article "Membership/dues" has more info.

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 (July 18, 2017).*

Officers:

President: Marina Higgins
Vice President: Donna Thorkildson
Secretary: Dave Beedon
Treasurer: Bill Roenicke.

Other members:

Pam Carino
Sue Dahlberg
Larry Gorg
David Phillips
[open position]
[open position]
[open position]

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.

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City of Renton Code Compliance

Compliance with Renton's building codes contributes to clean, attractive, and safe neighborhoods. It is in everyone's interest to ensure that their property (land and structures) complies with building codes.

The City has a process for dealing with code violations: a an inspector contacts the property owner in writing, asking that the violation be corrected within an appropriate time frame. The property owner's response determines what the following steps are.

The TPNA Steering Committee encourages property owners to read and observe these codes.. The City's website has detailed information at <http://rentonwa.gov/living/default.aspx?id=200>.

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, Marina Higgins, and Bill Roenicke.

Edited by Dave Beedon (davebeedon@comcast.net)

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."

Advertising

kw MOUNTAINS TO SOUND
KELLERWILLIAMS REALTY

Marina Higgins
Real Estate Broker

16720 SE 271st St. Suite 203
Covington, WA 98042
206-713-4497 cell phone
253-220-8371 office
253-236-4283 fax
Marina.Higgins@kw.com

Each Office is independently owned and operated

Keller Williams Realty has an iPhone app: in the App Store, search for "kw.com."

Get In Touch
Therapy

Dave A. Phillips, LMP

2000 Benson Road S, Suite 200
Renton, WA 98055
office@getintouchtherapy.com
(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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