



SHO And Tell

Winter 2007, Volume 7, Number 4

Official newsletter of Surfside Homeowners Association published quarterly to inform members of matters affecting them, and to encourage communication between the Board and the members.

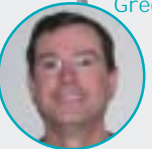
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of
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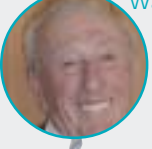
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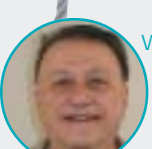
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Land and Buildings Trustee,
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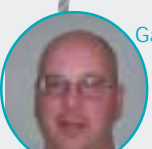
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Derby, RV Compliance
Committees, Compactor/RV
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President's Message

By Warren Olson

Seasons Greetings to all,
At least once a year we slow down and contemplate a world of peace and joy. Given the events of the last year in Surfside this may be a good moment to think more about the idea of community.

At one level community is just about geography. We live in proximity. Most of us didn't get to choose our neighbors. To keep peace we have laws and covenants, hopefully keeping our neighbors from infringing on us too much. Rules work to some extent. The covenant task force looked at member responsibilities and tried to list at least a few things one could expect of a good neighbor.

The list could be valuable should you be stuck with a less than considerate neighbor. You could at least point out, if not enforce, that keeping his dog, light, noise, and smoke away from you felt more neighborly. Unfortunately, your neighbor's perception may be that your pointing out his faults is its own form of un-neighborliness. In the end rules don't really make people into good neighbors or a strong community.

Community has another meaning – and often we see it in the odd internet reference to “on-line communities.” These are places where like-minded persons get together to share. Geography is irrelevant to what concerns or fascinates the participants. Participants often feel closer to their counterparts than they do to neighbors and sometimes even family. Their social needs

are met by a world that agrees with them.

Somewhere between *everyone agreeing with us* and just *glaring over the fence* is a physical, geographic community with shared values and interests that understands and respects its differences and celebrates its common values. Indications are Surfside is making progress, but isn't there yet. The question is how can we get closer to that ideal?

‘ Diversity of opinion need not be a death sentence for civility... ’

One observer of communities notes that when a physical community encounters its differences it feels like chaos (that will sound familiar to some looking back at the past year.) The community then faces the choice of going back to ignoring the differences and avoiding each other, or moving

ahead, acknowledging and confronting the differences, and embracing the opportunity to understand and help each other. In regard to acceptance of differences and understanding each other, I have hope that many in Surfside have already begun that conversation. If you put the differences aside for a moment we really do have much in common from sharing the need for something as basic as drinking water to enjoying the immense beauty of our little edge of the world.

As we pursue a deeper connection to each other and our community let me suggest some starting points (these make pretty good New Year's resolutions in case you were looking for some).

- Assume good intentions: After our

Continued on Page 8

Board Notes

• Trustee assignments, committee oversight and responsibility for 2007-08 have been made, and are listed on the front page by each trustee's photo. (Also in the yellow page insert accompanying this newsletter.)

• The Board reappointed all committee chairs, and appointed Georgia Mourikis and Jane Bowen to co-chair the Community Relations Committee, which has long been without a chair.

• The Board approved creation of a Member Advisory Council as a subcommittee of the Community Relations Committee.

• The Board gave preliminary approval to Surfside Townhomes pending resolution of additional issues.

• In November the proposed 2008 Budget adopted by the Board was sent to the membership with strong message from the president urging everyone to vote. Under state law, budgets adopted by a board are operational unless a majority of the total membership rejects them. To be

consistent with the law, the Board approved a resolution interpreting the "majority negative vote" to mean the owners of a majority of the votes in the association, rather than any smaller number that might be associated with those present or those voting by proxy. Full text of the resolution and State law are available at the business office.

• Acting on recommendations of Moss Adams, SHOA's audit firm, the Board approved transfer of \$190,000 from unspent operating funds to the capital reserve account, which has long been under-funded according to the auditor. About \$135,000 from this account will be used for footbridge replacement, reducing the needed member assessment to about \$67 per lot.

• While it has always made allowances for members who have difficulty paying dues and assessments, the Board will offer a payment plan to all members. Formerly, until the bill was paid in full the member was not considered in good standing, which limited services and voting rights. Now, any member who is current on an extended payment

plan will be considered in good standing, and eligible for benefits. The cost of billing and receiving payments will be covered by a service charge.

Another option for members is to make a single payment by credit or debit card. This will require a small fee to cover the service charge imposed on SHOA by the credit/debit card company (currently 2.98% of the transaction plus a small annual service charge.)

• The Board agreed to appoint ad hoc task forces to make recommendations on the proxy voting process, candidate nomination process, and the role and method of operation of SHOA committees. The need for improvement arose amid considerable discontent expressed at the 2007 Annual Meeting.

• The Board approved a Community Relations Committee recommendation for changes to the SHOAndTell newsletter. Specifically, to produce it in black and white rather than color, and package it as a taped mailing rather than using a printed envelope. These changes will

reduce cost significantly, and permit a more rapid turnaround making the news more timely, according to the committee.

The Board authorized the Committee to complete acquisition of bids from Bon's Graphic Services (current editor) and others. The General Manager will award a contract for services for 2008, starting with the Spring, 2008 issue.

• The Board brainstormed 2008 goals, which are: building trust and satisfaction, replacement of footbridges, limiting growth of the budget, improving the water system, covenant enforcement, improved use of volunteers, preventive maintenance, improving efficiency across the organization, and improving the waterways.

• The Board approved the appointment of Bob Haskin as Water Superintendent, and Gil Gonzalez as Field and Maintenance Supervisor.

• SHOA water staffers Gil Gonzalez, Bob Haskin, and Dan Waterbury have all been notified they passed Department of Health certifications.

Sheriff Patrol

By Deputy Larry Clark

Winter is here and we're back to the rain-wind-snow-ice season. A reminder, if you've forgotten: When the roads are wet or icy, do not use your cruise control. The car will want to maintain your set speed causing the tires to spin and slide, and you no longer control your vehicle. This could put you in serious trouble.

With most of the snow birds gone South for the winter, a lot of homes are unoccupied.

Please keep an eye out for anything that looks

suspicious in your neighborhood. To date, we've had a very low crime rate in Surfside, due in part to neighbors watching out for each other. Keep up the good work.

Thanks to each and every one of you for your help and support since I took over following Ray's passing. Working together we can continue to make Surfside a safe, fun community.

I wish you and your families the very best of holidays, and a happy new year.

Fire

Manned Fire Station

On September 16, Chief Jacob Brundage of Pacific County Fire District #1 briefed the Board and audience on plans to purchase a home adjacent to the current unmanned fire station in Surfside, with closing and occupancy to occur quickly. Brundage indicated the intent is for a full-time manned station to address the heavy needs at the north end of the District. Board and staffers urged the District to consider all required governmental and SHOA approvals.

Fireworks Ban

New covenant changes banning fireworks on SHOA lots are now in effect. The ban applies only to member parcels, and not to roads or beaches where SHOA has no authority.

Large Fires Banned

Large land clearing and construction debris fires are now banned following adoption of covenant changes in 2007. These revised covenants do not affect a member's right to burn tree trimmings in small fires, or to have recreational campfires.



Water System

By Bob Haskin

Winter is coming fast and the Water Department has been conducting maintenance, general repairs, and winterizing for the predicted wet winter.

If you are typically gone for the winter, please turn off your water and all water heaters. Also make sure the office has your current contact information. Last winter, we had numerous occasions where frozen pipes caused leaks inside a home, or a tree had fallen in a yard, and we had no way to inform homeowners of the problem. Don't risk damage to your property without your knowledge—send us your contact information today.

If you have been away and your water quality does not improve after running it for a while, call us at 360 665-5000 so we can help resolve the problem.

If you're having low water pressure or low water flow, or have added a booster pump, please call the water department. We are considering some system changes that could affect your household.

Please practice water conservation. Did you know a leaking toilet is one of the easiest ways to damage a gravity septic system, or overwhelm newer systems? See our tips below. Toilets don't always make noise when they leak. I know. It happened to me.

Six Year Water Plan

The Water System Planning Committee met recently to begin its review of the Six-year Water Plan. Mandated for all large water supplies in the state, the plan is aimed at identifying key issues in the near (six-year) and longer term (20-year) planning horizons.

Issues being addressed are demand increases, replacement of old water mains, enhancement of fire flow capability including looping the system and hydrants, water conservation including metering, the future of the shallow well system, and additional capital requirements.

Under the new Washington

Department of Health water use efficiency rules, all municipal water suppliers have ten years to phase in meters installation for existing connections, and service meters at new connections is required immediately.

Meters assist water systems in tracing production and seasonal variations and account for the use of the resource according to the agency. SHOA is investigating the impact as part of its six-year plan.

Committee members include George Talbot, Stan Jackson, Tom Boyer, Jim Flood, Gil Gonzalez, Bob Haskin, and Ken Karch.

Conservation

Tips

Reduce the water level per flush by installing an ultra low flow toilet, or a toilet tank water displacement device. Use a plastic bottle weighted with pebbles and water. Never use a brick.

Check your toilets for leaks. Place food coloring or a leak detection tablet in the toilet tank. If the color appears in the bowl without flushing, you have a leak that requires immediate attention.

Business Office

Office Expansion

Progress is being made on the expansion by Brian Hart, Surfside member and low bidder on the project. The plan maintains the current Board meeting space and adds two offices at the South end of the building. Trustee Jim Flood worked with the bidder using value engineering methods to reduce the cost to SHOA, which is \$20,000 for 220 square feet (\$91 a square foot) of additional space.

Electronic Minutes

A 2,036 page computer file with Board Meeting minutes from 1969 through 2006 is now available to members. Those researching a subject may use the program's word search feature to locate actions or discussions on any topic without having to read through pages of paper copies.

Hard copies of the document are available at SHOA's normal copying price.

Web Site Changes

Recent additions to the web site include the 2007 General Manager's Report, schedule of SHOA activities for the next year, list of 2007-08 Trustees, links to recent Board meetings, covenant hearing, Annual Members meeting minutes, Operations Manual, Policies and Procedures, Committee Charters and position descriptions, revised 2007 covenants, 2007 budget and the State of the Organization report. Additions will be forthcoming in the weeks ahead.

Customer Satisfaction

The staff has begun an activity and time allocation study widely used in the private sector to identify what activities workers are involved in, what they should be involved in, and what the value is to the customers. Some of the first results (exclusive of an estimated 2,000 hours of volunteer time of staff members) focused on 17 sets of activities with hours per year as follows: water system 3,349; customer services 2,401; covenant enforcement 2,074; deputy sheriff services 1,973; compactor 1,572; field operations 1,443; waterway improvement 1,227; financial management 1,200; support to Board 1,121; support to committees 1,032,

Septic System Repair

The septic system is now complete. The new system is more sensitive in a variety of ways than the old system. Methods to prevent damage and prolong its life are posted in the restroom.

Materials Available

A list of printed materials covering a number of SHOA reports is available at the office.

For the most part, they are available in hard copy, or E-mail as a Word, Excel, or PDF file.

Writer's Guidelines

Guidelines are available to WeekENDER (weekly SHOA E-mail newsletter) contributors. It includes priorities, format, deadline, and other useful information.

Continued on Page 6

Fish and Waterways

Footbridge Replacement

At the September 29 capital projects hearing on the repair or replacement of SHOA's six footbridges, Jim Flood, chair of the Footbridge Bid Task Force, described the bid analysis process and the Board's current proposal. Tom Kennedy, chair of the Footbridge Finance Task Force described the analysis of alternative financing options. A representative from the leading bidder presented his firm's proposal.

The Board's proposal is to replace all six bridges, and take about \$135,000 from the capital reserve account, and supplement it with a one-time capital assessment of \$67 per lot.

SHOA negotiations for some modifications may reduce the cost. Unexpected changes will have to be approved by the Board.

About 50 people attended the hearing, and the audience reaction was one of "overwhelming support for the proposal," according to Ken Karch.

At a special meeting on November 3, the Board accepted the bid of Western Wood Structures in the amount of \$325,000 for the demolition of the six old footbridges, and construction of new bridges contingent on member approval of the budget hearing and vote for December 1.

The Board urges members to make their views known by letter, phone or E-mail on this important issue.

The Board is offering the membership the three payment methods (cash/check, credit/debit card, extended payments) as outlined on page 2, Board Notes, Item 5.

Tidegates, Skating Lake

County Public Works Director Don Larsen has informed SHOA that District #1 Flood Control will continue maintenance of the North and South Surfside outfalls in a manner that provides consistent drainage to the canal system. Larsen indicated the extension of the South ocean outfall has been put on hold due to member opposition.. Larson also described the County's plans to divert some storm water now entering Skating Lake to the Joe Johns ocean outfall. His agency will be responsible for maintenance of the outfall structure to drain the lake.

Note: At a fall gathering of about 20 members and guests to discuss issues related to the Skating Lake drainage problems, President Warren Olson demonstrated a model of the lake shore. Ken Karch presented water level data for the past five years, and information about "mass wasting," a common phenomena in shoreline environments that describes the process of erosion.

Native Plants

By Scott Norelius

To save time, money and enjoy the beach, native plantings are the way to go!

While non-native plants quite often spread aggressively and damage the native wildlife habitat, plants native to our region have evolved the ability to attract native animals that benefit them, and repel organisms that harm them. As a result, they often attract a wider variety of native animals than non-native plants.

Native plants have adapted to growing in this region's soils and climates over thousands of years, and generally require less maintenance such as trimming and additional watering.

Fish and Waterways Education

The first in a series of programs for members.

Part 1 - Plants

By Mary Murrell

In September, the Fish and Waterways Management Committee hosted a shoreline management seminar with Kathleen Sayce (ShoreBank Pacific) whose expertise is native plants, shoreline plantings, and wildlife habitat; and Kim Patten (WSU Research and Extension Unit) whose expertise is mosquito control, aquatic weed management, algae control and fish habitat.

Sayce provided handouts of landscape and native plant recommendations, and with the use of slides, lecture and a "walk and talk" outside, about 35 SHOA members learned how individual property owners can contribute to the health of our canal and lakes.

The group walked the shoreline behind the SHOA office and talked about what was appropriate about the plantings, and what was not. The recommendation for the SHOA property is to have more native

plants along the waters edge and up the bank a minimum of ten feet. Willows and Douglas spirea would be a good addition to the existing sedges, the grasslike plants usually associated with wet places and poor soils. The thick shoreline plants across the canal from the SHOA office are an excellent example of a healthy shoreline.

Trees and shrubs growing out over the water, even the branches hanging into the water make a healthy waterway according to Sayce. By adding a path and a small clearing at the waters edge owners could have water access without disturbing the natural habitat of fish and aquatic life. Also, this would offer protection from runoff of fertilizers and slumping of sand and soil into the waterways.

A complete list of native plants for SHOA waterside areas and landscaping recommendations is available at the SHOA office.

• Maintenance of "fishable" waters is a high priority for many SHOA members. •

Fish and Waterway Committee Briefing January, 2007



• Each year about March 1, the Water Department staff orders about 5,000 trout to plant in the canal and Seabreeze Lake in preparation for the annual kid's Fishing Derby on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend.

• The waters of Seabreeze, Deer and Bear lakes, and canal are artificial, and were created for the enjoyment of SHOA members. No fishing license is required. Skating Lake is considered to be a public water because it is in direct connection with waters as far away as the north side of Oysterville Road, and part of a hydrologic system that existed prior to Surfside being platted.

• While the canal and Seabreeze Lake have traditionally served as "put and take" trout fishing waters, there are reportedly other fish species present, including bass, crappie, and bluegill.

Trees, Brush, Noxious Weeds

Committee Update

By Larry Raymer

As of October 17, the committee had completed its field investigation of 370 outstanding tree height complaints. One hundred twenty-seven were either not valid or had been brought into compliance. Work continues on the remaining complaints, and letters are going out on a scheduled basis.

The committee's main goal is to be proactive working *with*, not against, the membership while still enforcing the covenants. We are putting together educational material that will benefit us all.

We have received material from the State that will help identify noxious weeds, and hope to have control of these weeds by the time spring rolls around. Handouts about our region's native vegetation, tree trimming techniques and gardening myths will be available in the office soon.

Available now, is a list of contractors who provide tree service, along with information about vegetation disposal at Peninsula Sanitation Service if you prefer to trim trees yourself.

The committee has had mostly positive feedback from the softened language in the first letter (notification to an owner that a complaint has been received about trees that are obstructing someone's view.)

Note: Larry Raymer accepted the chairperson position for temporary co-chair John Walsh, who stepped down.

Neighborhood Watch

Several pamphlets from the National Citizen's Crime Prevention Council are available at the SHOA Office: "Starting a

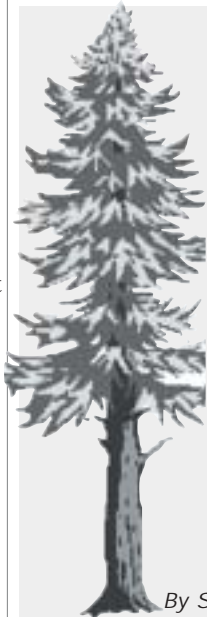
Noxious Weeds

By Scott Norelius

Section 5.4 of the covenants reads "Owners shall be responsible for keeping their platted parcel free of gorse, tansy ragwort and other noxious weeds." That, my friends, is easier said than done.

The Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board web site lists 132 noxious weeds targeted for control. Fortunately, not all of these appear in Surfside or the Peninsula.

Unfortunately, we are sometimes our own worst enemies. My wife planted two butterfly bushes this spring, and guess what? They are considered Class C noxious weeds. She also scattered wildflower seed to beautify our home, and guess what? The assortment included hounds-tongue and leafy-spurge plants. I spent all last week pulling them up. Yep, noxious weeds, Class B.



By Scott Norelius

You will not find a pine tree on our property. Not that I'm against pine trees, but these stunted lodgepoles are genetically destined to be tall. Today, I am encouraging the native huckleberry, red huckleberry, Pacific wax-myrtle and rhododendron. These shrubs normally will not exceed our property's 16-foot height limit, yet provide privacy screening. Also, they are adapted to our beach environment.

I have purchased a variety of young trees through the Pacific County Conservation District. The western crabapple grow slowly and are easily trimmed. The Douglas Firs and cedars are going to end up being holiday decorations. They were inexpensive, but do take a little extra water as they become established.

Misc. Committees

RV Compliance

Annual RV permits are now required in Divisions 8, 14, 15, 16, and Ocean Woods.

Letters, with a complimentary permit went out in November. The change was made following complaints of a number of parcels used as dumping grounds for derelict vehicles.

The change does not affect members who store RVs on their lots—it only requires a permit be obtained and displayed in the window. There is no charge for permits.

Nominating Committee

The committee seeks members to run for the Board of Trustees. Three seats will be open at this year's Annual Meeting. Please think about serving, and let any trustee know of your interest or leave word at the Business Office.

Activities

Beach Clean-up

Cheri Lewis, Surfside representative of the Grass Root Garbage Gang invites Surfsiders to help clean the beach during Beach Clean-up Day. Dates (all Saturdays) are January 26, April 25, and July 5.

Boat Parade

In what is planned to be the first of an annual winter event, Brad and Jolynn Moshner have organized a small, all-lighted boat parade in Seabreeze Lake along I Street. Scheduled to take place December 8, at 5:30 P.M., the parade may have been held already by the time readers receive this newsletter in the mail. We hope spectators and participants will look forward to next year. The couple can be contacted at 503 247-2443.

* * *

Sheriff's Forum

Sheriff John Didion will hold a community open forum to discuss your public safety concerns on Saturday, January 19, at 6:30 P.M. at the Pacific County Fire District #1 Hall in Ocean Park. An earlier scheduled forum was postponed due to SHOA's inability to communicate with the entire membership in a timely manner.

* * *

Regularly scheduled events and committee meeting dates and times are listed in the yellow page insert accompanying the newsletter.

Neighborhood Watch," "A Checklist for Starting a Neighborhood Watch Program," "Taking Back Your Neighborhood," and "Graffiti is Everybody's Problem."

If you're interested in starting a Watch program E-mail Jane Bowen at jungle512@charter.net, or Georgia Mourikis at tgmourikis@centurytel.net.

Community Relations

Committee Update

By Jane Bowen
Georgia Mourikis

Following our appointment as co-chairs, the committee held a meeting on October 10 to discuss ongoing projects and brainstorm new ideas.

At that time, the Foster Children's Christmas Gift Project headed by Marilyn Taylor had already generated eight volunteers to purchase gifts, and ten who committed to financial donations totaling \$722.

Four Welcome Packets full of information and goodies from local businesses have been distributed to new full-time residents since July. If you are a new full-time member and have not received a packet, please call Kerry Amundson at 360 665-2779.

Trustee Cathy Gabrielson reported the Fishing Derby project has been transferred to the Fish and Waterways Committee.

The "Rumor Mill" a new addition to the WeekEnder, SHOA's E-mail newsletter (and possibly the SHOAAndTell newsletter*), has received favorable comments. It is our hope it will put out false rumors that seem to emerge and circulate so easily through the community.

Ideas were discussed for changes to the SHOAAndTell newsletter, including possible redesign, a more frequent schedule, reducing cost, shortening turnaround time to make the news "new," and making it more community friendly. Also discussed, the possibility of distributing it via E-mail, adding timely announcements for upcoming activities, and possibly adding advertising to defray the cost.

A new idea was the Adopt a Cabana (see side story) and maybe work from a theme, incorporate native plants, shoreline plantings, and have a contest to judge the best entry.

A garage sale for Memorial Day was suggested. Possible uses for the proceeds going to finance plants for the "Adopt" project, or for a propane stove to heat the office for members who need a place to warm up when the power goes off.

Although a lot of good ideas were presented, we need more volunteers to move forward. Meetings are the second Wednesday of each month at 1:00 P.M. at the SHOA office.

If you are interested in putting a warmer, happier face on Surfside, join us.

Contact Jane Bowen
jungle512@charter.net, Georgia Mourikis at
tgmourikis@centurytel.net, or phone her at 360 665-5565.

**Editor's note: Too long for our limited space, the condensed version of the scuttlebutt in Surfside follows.*

Rumor #1: The expansion to the business office will cost \$50,000 to \$100,000.

The rumor is not true. The cost will be \$20,000.

Rumor #2: The new septic system for the business office is not needed.

The rumor is not true. The toilet had backed up more than once, and a licensed and bonded plumber, septic system installer and septic designer all agreed the system was saturated. After much consultation, The Board awarded the work to a local, low-cost bidder at a total cost of \$7,811.32. The installation is complete.

Rumor #3: A cougar spotted in Surfside.

Probably not true. Nobody's sure because of conflicting reports. Office staff learned the Sheriff's Office had already received the same conflicting information.

Adopt a Cabana or the SHOA Office

By Jane Bowen
Georgia Mourikis

Did you know that Surfside has available for member use four cabanas—most with water, restrooms, outdoor barbecue, picnic table, and launch area for small personal powered watercraft?

Located behind the SHOA office, on 324th by the twin lakes area (Deer and Bear lakes,) on the corner of 300th Place and W Street by Skating Lake, and on I Street across from 344th Place, these pleasant picnic places, along with the front of the SHOA office need some sprucing up in the landscaping department.

So, we are looking for volunteers who would like to adopt, and beautify one of these areas with low maintenance natural plants (a list is available at the SHOA office.). Maybe your neighborhood, garden club, church or other group would like to become involved. Judging will take place over the 4th of July weekend, and the winning group will receive a prize.

Although many plants are available in the wild, we caution

you not to dig them up—this may be illegal. Likewise, please do not trespass on private property. SHOA recommends contacting Mike Johnson at the Pacific County Conservation District in Long Beach (360 642-9424) about the agency's native tree and plant sales. If money is an issue, you might ask a local nursery to sponsor your group's effort by donating some plants, or contact the Washington Native Plants Society (1 888 288-8022) for a list of Pacific County properties being cleared for development by owners who'd rather give the plants away than plow them under. Also, check with the office, as some SHOA funds may be available to purchase plants.

Now is the time to sign up and begin to plan for this spring project. Then let your imaginations run wild all winter and plan something spectacular for our community.

For more information contact the SHOA office, or E-mail Georgia at
tgmourikis@centurytel.net, or Jane at jungle512@charter.net.

Business Office

Continued from Page 3

management 841, RV storage 543, flood control 458, legal services 303, external relationship management 286, and fire protection 208.

A second tool is the Customer Window process, in which customers are asked to rate two aspects of every product or service they get.

This approach would have each Board member rate the importance of and satisfaction

each of the activities to establish a basis to make decisions about which activities need to be maintained, strengthened, reduced, or dropped.

Similarly, this approach can be used to determine the importance and performance of each of our committees. As for SHOA goals, this activity allocation process should give a high level understanding of what we are about and where we want to go.



Ah, The Modern World

By Michael Cline

At forty-eight years old, I found the channel that can bring me to tears. I have seen those who weep over a sad movie or are touched to tears over a personal story, but for me, it is technology. It is not the magic that it brings into my daily life. It is not the good and productive work that I perform because of the speed and efficiency of modern technology. No, no! It is setting up the new computer or trying to get the thermostat to understand that I want heat in the house now, or just trying to talk to someone over the phone that brings me to tears.

I bought a new lap top computer, and there is no doubt in my mind that if they had consulted me, it would be far more efficient machine. For instance, I am still not sure what key it is that I push that signs me off and shuts my sweet little fold-up computer down in the middle of writing an E-mail. I do know that it is a handy button for getting me in touch with my emotions and helping me to express them until my dogs leave the room, though!

I also like the feature that causes every link that the cursor crosses to open at lightning quick speed—until I have a stack of pages that I have to click out of to get back to the page I really wanted to see. Now that is handy, if I had all day and nothing else to do!

And that is just it, I don't have all day to do nothing. I have lots to do. For example, I

have dozens of pictures of my cheek and eye that I need to clear out of the cell phone. You see, somehow I manage to take a picture of the side of my head during every phone call. Sometimes, I get a little piece of my ear in there, but mostly it is my left eye and cheek. I have actually even E-mailed one of these pictures to my mother once. I just don't know how. She said she was happy to have it, and I am sure she was.

And then there is the matter of that thermostat. I am evidently the last person on earth who wants to just walk up and choose a temperature with a knob. Yes, a good old knob. I think America is losing something really wonderful with the disappearance of the knob. Now we have buttons—that don't even push. They are actually the concept of a button that only needs a wave of your finger over it. Consumers have spoken, and they want programs! Wave your finger over This button 300 times followed by That button and you will get a menu. After that, I don't know what happens because I simply decide the house isn't so cold after all. The goldfish will be fine when the tank thaws in the spring.

What with all that great reception on cell phones, the ability to surf the web, going places I never intended, and losing conscious contact with my icy extremities, I have to admit, technology has made my life so much better because I am now in touch with a wide range of emotions that I never knew I had. I just wish my friends would come back.

Meet Jim Flood

By Pat Goettel

Newly elected Board Member Jim Flood and his wife, Michael, have a fourteen year old son, Benjamin, and have been SHOA homeowners for three years.

Jim is an electrical engineer with PacifiCorp, the country's lowest-cost producer of electricity, and Michael works at Cherry Blossom, an assisted living facility, as marketing director.

At Surfside, Jim is Land and Buildings trustee, and co-trustee of Water and Field Services with Tom Kennedy. Additionally, he serves on the Water System Planning Committee and chairs the Bridge Bid Review Task Force. He is a busy one!

Hobbies, you ask? Jim likes scuba diving and golf. And his family is active in the Columbia River Newfoundland Club, an organization that celebrates the Newfoundland dog by participat-

ing in educational and recreational activities at schools, festivals, parades, and other public events.

Avid pet lovers, the Floods open their home and heart to shelter animals who need foster care between the time of their rescue and permanent adoption through Oregon Friends of Shelter Animals (OFOSA,) an all volunteer organization whose mission is to improve the lives shelter animals.

At our interview, Jim brought his own "lap" dog, Tribble, named for the small, soft, fictional animals on Star Trek (television series) whose cute appearance and soothing purring endeared them to everyone except the Klingons. Tribble sat quietly during our session, looking sweet and adorable. Those Klingons don't know what they're missing.

We welcome Jim, his family, and his expertise to Surfside.

A Surprise

A surprise greeted members one morning several weeks ago when, in excavating for the new tank, a huge buried log was discovered about 6 feet down—whether it was thrust aside during the construction of the SHOA business office, or was laid down by tidal action long before SHOA existed is anyone's guess. Workers for DPR, the low bidder on the project, swiftly cut through the log and placed it in the field across the road—the interior of the log looked as sound as a newly felled tree.

First Winter Storm

Road signs blew down, shingles and siding blew off buildings, uprooted trees blocked roadways and downed

power lines, leaving hundreds without electricity in a major windstorm that hit the Northwest Monday, November 12. According to a report in the Chinook Observer wind gusts ranged from 60 miles per hour to 99 miles per hour. Winds of 70 miles per hour are classified as hurricane force. As of 11:45 A.M. the next day, Ken Karch submitted the following: I just got power back (at home) after 28 hours interruption due to the wind storm. A few other places in Surfside also have power back, but the majority is not expected to be back on until late today or tonight (or possibly tomorrow morning). The SHOA office, at the end of an un-looped line, is still without power, as it was last year for almost 24 hours after the remainder of Surfside was back on.



SHOAndTell

Quarterly Newsletter of Surfside Homeowners Association

Published at the first of the month in March, June, September, and December

Editor: Bonnie Byers

Editor Advisor: Bill Davis

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Founded 2001 by the Community Relations Committee

President

Continued from Page 1

families our homes are of paramount importance in our lives. All of us care deeply about where we live.

- Assume friendliness: A smile, a wave, and a greeting are simple, cost-free acknowledgments of others' presence and value.
- Talk together to learn: In the best conversations each person learns something about the other.
- Share: Each of us has an important insight. Own it. Share it.
- Give respect: It's the best way to get respect.

As we build a deeper community we will have to confront more of our differences and

decide how we want to handle them. We can choose to affirm positive relationships and respect and still talk directly and clearly about our diverse needs.

Diversity of opinion need not be a death sentence for civility and positive relationships. It is just other good people having a different take on an issue.

I'm optimistic about 2008. Together we can make Surfside that special place where people respect and care about each other.

Surfside Artist Wins Art Awards

Local artist Ruth Carpenter, Surfside resident for two years, earned Best in Show at the 37th Annual Peninsula Art Association Fall Art Show, held at the World Kite Museum October 5 through 8.

Carpenter has been painting since age five and finds "constant inspiration for her work around the Peninsula." Her painting "Thanksgiving" earned a First Place award in the Harvest of Art category placing her in the running for the Best in Show award, where she competed with 20 other categories of

first place winners. She thanks Jan Richardson, another Surfside artist, for organizing this very successful show, where a percentage of proceeds from the artist's sale is donated to a scholarship fund for Ilwaco High School graduates. Watch for work by Carpenter and other Surfside artists at the association's Spring show in April, 2008. Peninsula Art Association members meet at the Ocean Park Library on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 P.M. Anyone with an interest in art is welcome to attend.



Happy Holidays

The SHOA Board of Trustees, Staff, Committee Members, and Volunteers wish you and your loved ones a joyous holiday season!



Activities.....	5
Board Notes.....	3
Business Office.....	3
Community Relations.....	6
Fire.....	2
Fish and Waterways.....	4
Flotsam and Jetsam.....	7
Misc. Committee Reports.....	5
President's Message.....	1
Sheriff Patrol.....	2
Tree, Brush, Noxious Weeds.....	5
Water System.....	3

Season's Greetings!



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