

SUNSET PLAZA

NEWSLETTER

Around the Community

Winter is finally here and the weather has gotten colder. With the cold weather also come snow, ice and slippery driveways. This year, as in the past, we have a contract with Sharkey to salt the driveway hills on the property and anywhere else slippery conditions might appear. A shout out to Tim Thaden for salting our driveway the night of December 24th as the snow was falling.

On December 18th, Lincoln Gutters was out to clean some of the clogged gutters we have. They were to clean the gutters and the down spouts from the top. However, they do not work on the ground (footing drains) or the drainage from the building out. If you see any gutters that are still overflowing with water, please let Colleen, Tim or a board member know.

The sauna is finally DONE! It has been a long time in coming but Allwire reports that the sauna was up and running as of December 12th. If there are any issues, please contact Colleen at TMT or a board member.

A shout out to Lisa for the excellent job she does keeping the cabana clean. Please be courteous when you are using the cabana and leave it better than when you arrived.

Safe Streets is gaining momentum. Their meetings are being held the first Tuesday of the month from 6:30 – 7:30 pm at the Cabana. The latest discussions have been about dealing with

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Beginning of a New Year



The year has drawn to a close and 2018 has begun. Some people use this time of year to reflect back on what they were able to accomplish (or not) in the previous year and make New Year's Resolutions. Only 8% of those resolutions are kept according to one commonly cited statistic. These failures can be attributed to several factors including not having a support system, making too many resolutions and making overly ambitious and restrictive goals.

Many of you have probably heard of S.M.A.R.T. goals.

- Specific – Provide enough detail so there is no confusion as to what you should be doing. “Lose weight” is not very specific but “Lose 10 lbs” is.

- Measurable – Choosing a goal that can be measured and progress can be seen. “Be more kind to people” can't really be measured but “Be more kind by giving someone a compliment every day” can.

- Time Based – All SMART goals have a finish line, a time the goal is to be achieved by. In most cases, for New Year's resolutions, the time frame is “by the end of the year” but the time frame can be a week, a month, 6 months or a year.
- Achievable - An achievable goal has an outcome that is realistic given current social, economic, or cultural resources and time available. “Run 1000 miles this year” is not really achievable if you have never run before but “Run 260 miles this year” is.

- Relevant – Goals have to be relevant to you. “Run 150 miles” may

not be relevant to you if you do not like to run

Once you have your goal, break it down into small chunks that are doable in a short time frame. “Run 260 miles this year” can be broken down into 20 miles a month or 5 miles a week.

Always have a reward system set up to give yourself a pat on the back when you have achieved your short term goal as achieving your short term goals help you succeed at your long term goals.

Lastly do not beat yourself up for not making a short term goal. We are all human and fail at one time or another.

Even when you have fallen off the wagon, rolled down the hill into the mud pit, stand up ... clean yourself off and go at it again.

At the end of the year look at what you DID achieve even if you did not quit make it to your goal..

The Month of January

Interesting Holidays

1st – National Hangover Day

15th – Martin Luther King Jr Birthday

24th – Beer Can Appreciation Day

26th – Spouse's Day

29th – Bubble Wrap Appreciation Day

This Month In History

Jan 1, 1735 – Paul Revere was born

Jan 10, 1863 – Worlds first underground passenger railway system opens in London

Jan 12, 1966 – Batman debuts on TV

Jan 24, 1935 – Beer was first sold in cans

Jan 29, 1900 – Baseballs American League is founded

Around the Community

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resident safety concerns, forming a Welcoming Committee to help newcomers to the community and possibly volunteering a few hours a week to hang out in the cabana to talk with owners / renters about Safety Streets and general questions about the Association.

As always, please keep your eyes and ears open to any suspicious activity on the grounds.

If you feel that a crime is in progress or someone is in danger, call 911. If it is not an emergency, you can call the Tacoma line at 311 to report the activity. It would also be good to contact a board member so that they are fully informed as to what is happening.

The work on the rental unit is just about done. Our first walk-through with Sharkey will be on January 2nd and if all goes well, we will have keys in hand and should be ready to rent in the next few weeks. The Board is now looking for a management company that can manage the unit for us.

HOA Dues for January - As most of you may be aware, the budget for 2018 was ratified at the last Board meeting held on December 13th. The Management Trust has not had enough time to get the coupon booklets out to owners. If you have funds going directly from your account to TMT, you do not have to do anything. The new amount will be effective on your January payment when it comes out of your account. If you are among those that send a check, please use the following address:

Sunset Plaza
C/O The Management Trust
PO Box 97975
Las Vegas, NV 89193-7975

What Happened to December



Some of you may be wondering what happened to the December Newsletter. The holidays are a very busy time for everyone and since taking over the publishing of the newsletter in July, my work schedule has changed a lot. At this time, it is easier for me to publish the newsletter at the beginning of the month instead of the middle or end of the month.

Speaking of publishing the newsletter, I am always looking for ideas on what to write about. I have no issues with doing lots of research but I am in need of ideas on what to look for. I am also looking to print articles that others have written. Do you have an interesting hobby you would like to share? Do you belong to an interesting group that others might like hearing about?

Please contact me at:

Teresa Topping

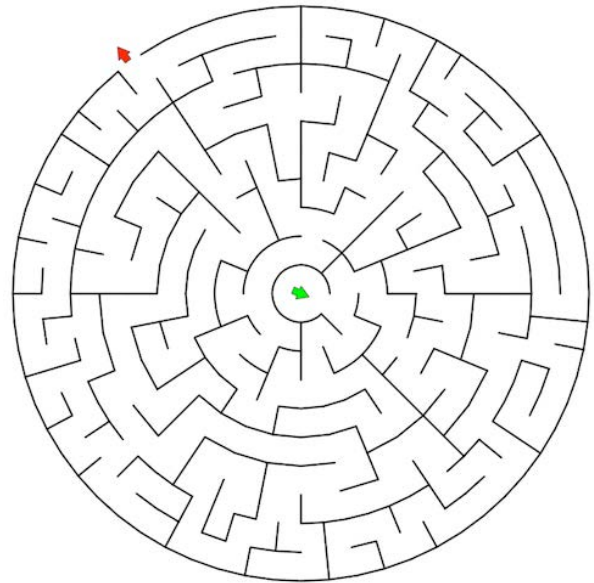
425-628-1163

missflyer2017@gmail.com

If you would like to receive this newsletter via e-mail, please go to the Association website (<https://www.sunset-plaza.org>) under the "News" tab. If you would like the newsletter delivered to your door, contact me at the above phone or e-mail address. As always, there will be 3-5 extra copies of the newsletter in the cabana in the game room. Feel free to take one

Just For Fun

Something a little bit different this month.



Mark Your Calendar

January 10th
Board Meeting
6:30 pm / Cabana

January 15th
Martin Luther King Jr Birthday
Federal Holiday

West End Neighborhood Council
Meeting

January 17th
7:00 pm / Fire Station

Safe Streets
February 6th
6:30 pm / Cabana
(First Tuesday of the Month)

Game Night at the Cabana
Every Monday & Friday Evenings
6:30 pm

Board of Directors

Jean Homan, President
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Colleen Poole, Community Assoc. Mgr
colleen.poole@managementtrust.com
After Hours Emergency Number:
253-472-0825

SUNSET PLAZA

NEWSLETTER

Around the Community

A lot of things are happening around the community now that the New Year is here. Below is a recap of some of the more important and interesting:

1. We now have some better furniture in the Cabana that will replace or supplement the wicker we already have in the recreation room. The furniture was graciously donated by Mitch Mayon and his mother. This furniture is in much better condition than the wicker and will help us get along until we can remodel the Cabana. A big Thank You Mitch!

2. Teresa L'Amarca will be spending time in the office going forward as a liaison. She will be happy to help in any way she can, including providing information to residents and owners, assisting in filling out and submitting forms (Architectural, Complaint, Updated Owner / Resident Information) and helping to get answers to question folks may have. The Board is still creating a "Job Description" but look for posted notices soon regarding times she will be there. Thank you Teresa for volunteering to do this.

3. The Rules and Regulations are in need of updating and Teresa Topping has agreed to begin the process. Most changes will need to be presented to the Board for discussion but if you know of any rule / regulation that needs to be looked at, send Teresa a note @ missflyer2017@gmail.com

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 P3: Safeway News
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 P3: Annual Meeting
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 P4: Just For Fun

The Month of February



The month of February is Black History Month. Also known as Black Achievement Month, Black History Month is observed in the US, Canada, United Kingdom and the Netherlands. Black History Month has its roots in a celebration known as Negro History Week that was started in 1926. Occurring the second week of February, the founders of this event wanted their celebrations to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. By the 1960's the week had turned into a month long observance with the name changing to Black History Month.

In 1976 Black History Month was officially recognized by President Gerald Ford.

February 2nd was Groundhog day, a day that is half way between the first day of Winter and the first day of Spring.

Established in 1887, it is a day where the groundhog emerges from his hole and if he sees his shadow, there will be 6 more weeks of winter. The official groundhog is named Punxsutawney Phil who has his hole in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. Sorry folks, he saw his shadow this year so we are in for 6 more weeks of winter!

February 19th is Presidents Day. Originally starting out as a celebration of George Washington's birthday, it was combined with a celebration of Abraham Lincoln's birthday to become one federal holiday celebrated on the 3rd Monday of the month. Interestingly, before 1752 George Washington's Birthday was on February 11th. However, The Gregorian calendar was adopted in 1752 and his birthday moved to February 22nd.

President's day will never be celebrated on his actual birthday as the latest the 3rd Monday can be is February 21st.

February 17th is Random Act of Kindness Day. Random Act of Kindness Day was first celebrated in Denver Colorado in 1995 as was later mirrored in New Zealand in 2004. This is a day where people are encouraged to do something nice for others. The act of kindness can be anything. It can be something as small as giving a fellow worker a compliment or bringing in cookies for others. It can be a phone call to an old friend or giving someone a smile and a "Hello".



Interesting Holidays

4th - Super Bowl (well, not really a holiday but many people celebrate it as if it were!)

9th - Read in the Bathtub Day

9th - National Pizza Day

13th - Marti Gras

14th - Valentine's Day

18th – Thumb Appreciation Day (think of all the cool things you couldn't do if you didn't have a thumb!)

19th - 3rd Day of Chinese Lunar New Year

28th – Public Sleeping Day

This Month In History

6th - Baseball player Babe Ruth was born. (1895)

6th - The board game Monopoly first went on sale. (1935)

18th - Mark Twain's The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn is published. (1885)

23rd - The Tootsie Roll rolls into stores in America. (1896)

28th - The final episode of M.A.S.H. is aired. (1983)

Around the Community

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4. Jean Homan is in the process of finding a management company to manager our rental unit. We have had several people show interest in the unit and hopefully we can get it rented soon.
5. Peter reported at the last Board meeting that we ended 2017 under budget overall with funds of approximately \$22,000 being retained in the operating account for future needs
6. On January 12th the Department of Wildlife was to come out and assess our property with respect to the woodpecker problem. They will determine what our next steps might be to mitigate the problems we have been experiencing. TMT will share their report as soon as it is received.

Safe Street News

Burglary Facts:

1. Most common entry point (34%) is the front door.
2. 30% of burglaries are through an **unlocked** door or window
3. Most burglaries happen during the daytime when residents are usually out and about
4. The busiest month for burglaries are July and August. February is the slowest month.
5. Burglaries in the US have been on the decline for the past 14-15 years. Even then, there is a burglary every 15 seconds.

How to protect your home

1. Lock your door when you leave and lock it even when you are home
2. Do not "hide" a key near your door. Burglars know exactly where to look. Leave it with a neighbor.
3. Install a deadbolt
4. Equip your front door with a strong strike plate to defend against potential kick-ins

The Northern Flicker



Woodpeckers ... those little medium sized birds that like to noisily tap on tree trunks and our buildings. Our friend, the Northern Flicker, is a native to North America and has a range that reaches into Northern Canada and Alaska in the summer all the way down to Central American in the winter. It is one of only a few woodpecker species that migrate. These woodpeckers are territorial and will drum on trees, metal and homes to declare their territory.

The Flicker is a cavity nester and will typically nest in trees. They prefer to excavate their own homes but will nest in old homes if necessary. The young birds, often in batches of 6-8 eggs, take about 11-12 days to hatch and will leave the nest in about 25-28 days after hatching. The bird's diet can include fruits, berries, seeds and nuts but the bulk of their diet is insects.

Over 45% of their diet can consist of ants.

The Flicker is one of only a few woodpecker species that frequently feed on the ground.

Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting will be held on March 14th at 6:30 pm at the Cabana. At the meeting, the ownership of the community will elect members of the Board of Directors whose terms have expired. In order for the Annual Meeting to be held, we need at least 25% of the ownership to attend or be represented at the meeting for the quorum requirement to be met. If you can't make the meeting, please try to find someone that can represent you in the voting. Packets with proxy forms will be mailed out 14 days prior to the meeting.

Just For Fun

This is a Quotefall. The letters must be entered, or "fall," into the answer grid within the same column that the letter was stored. Black blocks are spaces between words. In the end, you should have a quote by a famous person, in this case, Albert Einstein

L	E	E	D	A	E	C	D	D	A	L	A	A	E	A	E
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Mark Your Calendar

Board Meeting
February 14th
6:30 pm / Cabana

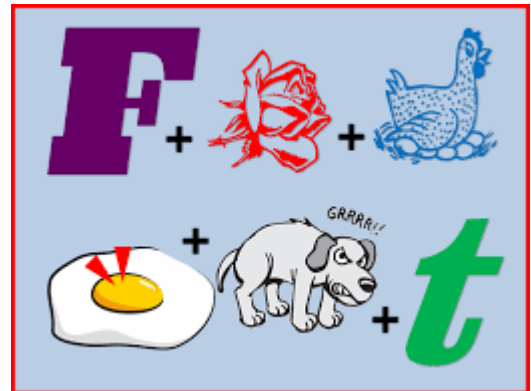
West End Neighborhood Council
Meeting
February 21st
7:00 pm / Fire Station

Safe Streets
March 6th
6:30 pm / Cabana
(First Tuesday of the Month)

Annual Meeting
March 14th
6:30 pm / Cabana

Game Night at the Cabana
Every Monday & Friday Evenings
6:30 pm

Can you figure out the phrase depicted in the pictures below?



Board of Directors

Jean Homan, President
jhoman500@comcast.net
Jody Matthews, Vice President
jodymatthews@gmail.com
Teresa Topping, Secretary
missflyer2017@gmail.com
Peter Schrempf, Treasurer
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Mitch Mayon, Member At Large
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Teresa L'Amarca, Member At Large
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Ande Dunn, Member At Large
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Colleen Poole, Community Assoc. Mgr
colleen.poole@managementtrust.com
After Hours Emergency Number:
253-472-0825

SUNSET PLAZA NEWSLETTER

ANNUAL MEETING

March 14th, 2018

6:30 pm at the Cabana

Come one! Come All ... to the most important meeting of the year – The Annual Meeting of the Owners of Sunset Plaza. The meeting will be held on March 14th at 6:30 pm at the Cabana. Doors will open and sign in will start at 6:15 pm.

What happens at the Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting is similar to the other Board Meetings that are held every month with one big difference: The members of the association (the owners) elect people from the community to represent them. The representatives make decisions that affect the entire community such as creating a yearly budget, approving Architectural Change requests, voting on upgrades and changes to the grounds, processes and procedures in and around the community and working out solutions to issues that arise throughout the year. There are between 5 and 7 members of the Board at any one time, each elected to a 2 year term. This year we will be voting on 3 positions as Jean, Jody and Mitch's terms are expiring.

We are always looking for members of the community to serve on the Board. If you are interested in serving on the Board, please contact TMT or a member of the current board know right away so your name can be added to the ballot.

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- P2: Rules for the Cabana
- P3: Annual Meeting (cont.)
- P3: Around the Community
- P3: T-Town: Play, Explore , Learn
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- P4: Just For Fun

The Month of March

The month of March has been designated National Women's History Month, a celebration of the unique and important contributions women have made to our country. In 1981 Congress passed a resolution declaring that the week of March 7th, 1982 was to be "Women's History Week". In 1987 Congress passed another resolution requesting that the President of the United State declare March as "Women's History Month. The month of March is also: National Peanut Month, National Craft Month and Irish American Month.

Holidays celebrated this month include:

- March 1: Purim, a 2 day Jewish event centered around Queen Esther, King Ahasuerus (or Achashverosh), Mordecahi and Haman. It is a celebration of a major victory against oppression of the Jews in the 5th century BC
- March 17: St. Patrick's Day is a celebration of Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. Saint Patrick's real name was probably Maewyn Succat and was the son of a Roman officer in Britain. He was kidnapped and sold into slavery in Ireland and after 6 years of imprisonment, he escaped back to Britain. He spent 12 years training in a monastery under St. Germaine, the bishop of Auzerre and eventually returned to Ireland where his mission was to convert the Pagans to Christianity. Legend has it that he put the curse of God on venomous snakes in Ireland and drove the serpents into the sea where they drowned (scientists believe that there were no snakes on the island due to the unfavorable climate during the time Ireland was connected to Europe).
- March 30: Good Friday is the Friday before Easter Sunday on which the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ is commemorated in the Christian Church. It is traditionally a day of fasting and penance

- March 31: Passover is the major Jewish spring festival that commemorates the liberation of the Israelites from Egyptian slavery, lasting seven or eight days from the 15th day of Nisan



Rules for the Cabana

Over the past few months we have had some issues in the Cabana with dishes being left in the sink, items being left in the refrigerator and people sleeping on the sofa in the Rec. Room. The Cabana, including the hot tube, the sauna, the exercise room and the Rec Room are there all residents to enjoy. Please be courteous and clean up after yourself and be sure to take all your personaly belongs wi

The Recreation Room can be reserved in advance by submitting a written request to TMT. There is a \$100 cleaning / damage deposit that is required to reserve the room but is refunded if the room and adjoining kitchen are left in the same condition they were in prior to the usage period. In order to use the facilities, an owner must be occupying their unit. All equipment is used at the user's own risk. There is a limit of 4 guests per unit and all guests must be accompanied by an adult resident at least 18 years old. Persons refusing to obey the regulations and policies are subject to removal from the premises, risk forfeiting all privileges and may be assessed fines and fees.

Annual Meeting March 14th

(continued from Pg. 1)



Why is this meeting so important? For this meeting to be official and to fill the vacancies on the board, we must have 25% of the ownership represented at the meeting. Does this mean you have to actually attend the meeting? No. You can, instead, designate someone that will attend the meeting to represent you and to vote in your stead. You can do this by filling out the proxy form that you should have received in the mail. You can either dictate how you want to vote on single matters or you can have your representative vote as they see fit. The choice is yours but in order to make your vote count, the proxy form must be filled out and either mailed to TMT or handed to a board member or TMT representative at the meeting.

Make sure to have your voice heard!! Attend the Annual Meeting on March 14th or designate someone to represent your interests at the meeting by using your proxy form..

Around the Community

1. Colleen has been out for a while dealing with family matters. Our thoughts go out to her and her family and wish a speedy return to her position as our TMT Account Manager.
2. Fields will be out soon starting the roofing project for 2018. The Board has asked for a list of building that will be done this year as well as a list of units with skylights that will need some work done.
3. The Boards is looking at different landscaping vendors as the cost for our current vendor, Pacific, has gone up

substantially. We have 2 bids with Bright View coming in under Pacific's' new costs and Buds and Blades coming in higher then Pacific.

4. The Board is working to getting bids on beauty bark as this has not been laid down in 2 years.

5. TMT will be checking with Sharkey to see if he can build a bicycle shed that would have hanging racks as well as the rack that currently resides behind the Cabana.

6. We now have a working knowledge of the DVR and the cameras that are placed on the property. Keep in mind that the cameras are no substitute for being aware and keeping eyes open. They do have their limitations.

7. The Board has found a Management company to manage our rental unit.

Documents have been signed and things put in place to get the unit rented. The Board was advised that we would be able to put it on the market for \$1,400 - \$1,475.

T-Town: Play, Explore, Learn

The City of Tacoma is hosting "T-Town: Play, Explore, Learn" City Services Expo on March 24, from 10 AM to 3 PM, at the Tacoma Dome. The free, public event is part of an ongoing effort to raise community awareness about the services delivered by the various departments at the City of Tacoma, educate the community about how city government works, and offer an opportunity for community members to share ideas and feedback about how the City should utilize its resources.

More information at :
[cityoftacoma.org/ playexplorellearn](http://cityoftacoma.org/playexplorellearn)

Just For Fun

I was having trouble sleeping last night and I tossed and turned well into the night.

Our local town hall has a clock which strikes on the hour and also strikes just once on the half hour.

During one of my more awake moments I heard the clock strike once, but I could not tell what time it was. Half an hour later it struck once again, but I still could not tell what time it was. Finally, half an hour later it struck once again and I knew what the time was.

What time was it?

Mark Your Calendar

Daylight Savings Time
March 11th
2 am

Annual Meeting
Come One - Come All!
March 14th
6:30 pm / Cabana
Sign- In starts at 6:15 pm

West End Neighborhood Council
Meeting
March 21st
7:00 pm / Fire Station

Safe Streets
April 3th
6:30 pm / Cabana
(First Tuesday of the Month)

Game Night at the Cabana
Every Monday & Friday Evenings
6:30 pm

Board of Directors

Jean Homan, President
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Jody Matthews, Vice President
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Teresa Topping, Secretary
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SUNSET PLAZA NEWSLETTER

ANNUAL MEETING In Review

On March 14th, our community had its Annual Meeting. one of the two most important meetings of the year. It is a time that the owners have the opportunity to offer input into how the Association is operated. As the meeting opened, we did not have enough ownership represented to meet the 25% requirement to hold the meeting. Several people used their phones to call or text neighbors and others started knocking on doors. After 35 minutes we had reached the threshold and the meeting started. The meeting opened up with updates on issues that were important to the community.

Woodpeckers: The balloons, although not doing much to rid us of the birds, served their purpose. They demonstrated to the Department of Fish and Wildlife that we had tried everything to dissuade the buggers from creating holes on our buildings. A member from the Department of F & W will be out in the coming months to exterminate the woodpeckers with air rifles.

Community Liaison: Teresa L'Amarca will be spending some time in the office. She will be able to assist residents in filing forms, providing information and assisting in contacting TMT with issues. If you have any questions, concerns or comments about anything, Teresa will be able to

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- P2: Holidays Celebrated in April
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- P4: Mark Your Calendars
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The Month of April



April is National Volunteer Month. It was George W. Bush that dedicated this month to volunteers in his 1000 Points of Light campaign in 1991. National Volunteer Week was established in 1974 and is observed from April 15 – 21 this year.

It is an opportunity to recognize and thank volunteers that lend their time, talent, voice and support to causes they care about in their community. What can you do to help celebrate?

Here are just a few ideas: Volunteer at a race for charity, give your time to Parks and Recreation, volunteer the library, volunteer at your local school or volunteer for a local committee or board

April Fools' Day, celebrated on the 1st of April, has an origin that is shrouded in mystery and has several theories attached to it. One of the theories goes back to the Julian calendar, the predecessor of today's Gregorian calendar. In the western world prior to the 1500's, New Year's Day fell on March 25th. Because this date was during the Holy week, New Years was celebrated on April 1st. However, in 1582 the Gregorian calendar was adopted and New Year's fell on January 1st.

Those who could be tricked into believing April 1 was still the proper day to celebrate the New Year earned the sobriquet of April fools. Side note: The last country to adopt the Gregorian calendar was Greece who adopted the new calendar in 1923.

Although Memorial Day, celebrated the last Monday in May, started out as a day to honor Union soldiers that died in the Civil War, some of our southern states observe Confederate Memorial Day, a day to honor the 258,000 sailors and soldiers from the south that died fighting in the Civil War. It is unofficially observed in most southern

states but is officially celebrated in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Texas and Mississippi. The date is a holiday to recall the surrender of the last major Confederate filed army at Bennett Place to Union Major General Sherman. For many in the south, this marked the end of the Civil War.



Holidays Celebrated in April

National Holidays

- April 1 – Easter (Christian)
- April 7 – Last Day of Passover (Jewish)
- April 13 – Isra and Mi'raj (Muslim)
- April 2h – Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day

State Holidays

- April 2 - Pasca Floriday Day (Florida)
- April 15 – Father Damien Day (Hawaii)
- April 16 – Emancipation Day (District of Columbia)
- April 21 – San Janinto Day (Texas)
- April 27 – Arbor Day (Nebraska)
- None for Washington that I could find.

Weird Holidays

- April 1 – National Tell-A-Lie Day
- April 7 – International Pillow Fight Day
- April 16 – National Stress Awareness Day
- April 22 – National Jelly Bean Day
- April 28 – Eeyore's Birthday

Annual Meeting In Review

(continued from Pg. 1)

assist. Office hours will be posted in the next month or so.

Rental Unit: The rental unit is ready to go. We have contracted with Olympic Rentals to manage the unit for us, handling all the administrative and day-to-day tasks. They will be putting the unit on the market for \$1545 at first to see if that will work. The unit has been shown but it is unknown to how many people. The HOA dues (that includes utilities) will be paid by the Association.

Ants: We have several buildings still having issues with ant in the units. The Association contracts to have the outside of the buildings sprayed once a quarter.

Spraying inside the buildings has been looked at but unless every unit in the building is sprayed it is ineffective. There have been owners that pushed back on the use of chemicals in the units so the option was tabled. Options to residents include: using Terrobate from Ace, using a vinegar spray where the ants are coming in, using bombs or using traps.

Elections: Mitch decided to step down from the Board. Jody and Jean were elected in 2014 to 2 year terms and were up for re-election in 2016. However, a quorum was not met that year so their terms were held over to 2017. They were both re-elected to what should have been 1 year terms. Both of their positions were up for election in 2018. Jean, Jody and Ron Miller throw their hats into the ring. All three were elected to 2 year terms.

The meeting ended with an open forum for residents / owners to present some of their concerns and issues they have and wanted the Board to address.

Skagit Valley Tulip Festival



One of the most popular things to do in Washington in the month of April is to visit the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival that takes place April 1 - 31 celebrating the million of tulips bursting into bloom.

The festival is designed as a driving tour as there is no one "site" to enter. The fields of tulips are scattered throughout the Skagit Valley. There are many events and activities that comprise the festival. For a schedule of events and activities, you can visit:

<http://tulipfestival.org/>

Due to crop rotation, the fields are in different locations each year. The tulip fields are the crops of RoozenGaarde/Washington Bulb Co., Inc. and Tulip Town. Both RoozenGaarde and Tulip Town have displays of tulips in gardens for visitors to view and photograph

The field tulips bloom in April but it is ultimately Mother Nature that determines exactly when the blooming actually commences. You can check the status at:

www.tulips.com/bloommap

Best times to visit are on weekdays. The weekends are very busy but if you arrive before 10 am you will beat the crowds.

If you have the opportunity to go to the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival, I would like to hear your story and maybe even publish it in next month's newsletter.

Just For Fun

Brain Teasers:

1) A man stands on one side of a river, his dog on the other. The man calls his dog, who immediately crosses the river without getting wet and without using a boat or a bridge. How did the dog do that?

2) What makes this number unique? 8,549,176,320

3) In 1990 a person is 15 years old. In 1995, that same person is 10 years old. How can that be?

Mark Your Calendar

Board Meeting
April 11th
March 14th
6:30 pm / Cabana

West End Neighborhood Council
Meeting
April 18
7:00 pm / Fire Station

Safe Streets
April 3rd
6:30 pm / Cabana
(First Tuesday of the Month)

Safe Streets
May 8th
6:30 pm / Cabana
(First Tuesday of the Month)

Game Night at the Cabana
Every Monday & Friday Evenings
6:30 pm

Board of Directors

Jean Homan, President
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Colleen Poole, Community Assoc. Mgr
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After Hours Emergency Number:
253-472-0825

SUNSET PLAZA NEWSLETTER

Summer Fun is Almost Here

One of the things our community looks forward to every year is the opening of the pool in late May. The actually opening day depends greatly on Mother Nature and making the decision to open with enough time for our pool maintenance folks to get the pool ready. The pool can be a lot of fun for a lot of people but keep in mind it can be very dangerous at the same time if not used properly.

Just a few statistics: Twenty-seven percent of children who suffered injuries while swimming do so at a public pool or spa. Medical costs for near-drowning victims 14 and younger can cost more than \$8,000 and those costs could soar to more than \$250,000 each year if long-term care is needed. If brain damage is incurred, the overall cost of medical treatment, work and quality of life losses could cost as much as \$5.5 million.

Seventy-five percent of the injured will involve persons 19 and under and almost twice as many boys as girls will be hurt. The National Safety Council reports that 600 children and adults drown annually in swimming pools. 57.2% of all swimming pool accidents occur in water that is 4 feet deep or shallower.

Causes of injuries: Many accidents are related to running and roughhousing. Many severe injuries result from falling on slippery walkways and decks and falling from diving boards and ladders.

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- P2: Meet Ron Miller
- P2: Around the Community
- P3: The Month of May
- P3: Summer Fun Is Almost Here
(continued)
- P3: Parking
- P4: Just For Fun
- P4: Mark Your Calendars
- P4: Board Members

Meet Ron Miller



Ron was elected to the board at the recent Annual Meeting, becoming our newest Member At-Large. Ron has lived in the

community for about 10 years and decided to put his name on the ballot because he wanted to learn more about what goes in the community and to have a say in what happens. For the first part of his term he intends to become familiar with all the rules, by-laws and declarations, to take time to acclimate to the position and to just listen.

Ron came to us from Federal Way where he had owned his own home. When it came time to move, Ron was looking for something that was closer to Lakewood where he worked to shorten his commute. He found a unit in building A that was up for rent and decided to take it. He liked the fact that our community was a gated community, that is backed up against War Memorial Park and units had balconies. After about a year, the owner of his unit decided to move back in so he had to move out. Gary, the on-site resident manager, came to the rescue. He told Ron about a unit in building B. Ron loved it and soon moved into his new home. Ron later bought the unit and became an owner in the community.

Ron owns his own business called Exterior Metals, which he bought in 2001. Exterior Metals specializes in outside metals on commercial buildings such as roofing, siding, gutters and sheet metals. In addition to installing these materials, he also sells raw materials to other installation businesses. Ron has been in the sheet metal industry since high school.

We welcome Ron and his wife of 18 months to the Board and hope his time on the Board is educational, productive and enjoyable.

Around the Community

- We would like to welcome Colleen back who has been on a leave of absence since January. We know she will catch up quickly and will enable us to begin moving forward with business very soon. We would also like to thank Denise Rasmussen for going a great job while Colleen was out.
- * Reservations for the Rec Room in the Cabana: The Board is looking to get a Reservation Calendar put up on the website as well as a hard copy of the calendar posted in the office area so that folks can see what days the Rec Room is reserved. This will help those planning events to know if the room is available.
- Three of the four lights at the front gate are not working. All Wire was out to take a look and suspect that there is a cut in the line that is under the asphalt. All Wire will be presenting a bid to do the work in the next few weeks.
- The in-gate was inoperable for a while due to a bad mother board. Because our old board was repairable, we received a \$1,358 discount on the cost of the new board.
- Over the next few months the Board will be discussing improving security and video capabilities around the condo complex. This may include improvements in how the Cabana can be secured and additional coverage of video cameras in parking areas.
- * Sharkey has been out and has patched 38 holes so far. In addition, the Department of Fish and Wildlife has been out and have begun to reduce the woodpecker population.



The Month of May

The Origins of Memorial Day - Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day and has its roots in the Civil War. As a way to honor the more than 360,000 Union soldiers that had died in the War, General John Logan called for a national day of remembrance to take place in late May. The 30th of May was chosen because it was not an anniversary of any major battle. During WWI The US found itself in another major conflict. The holiday was expanded to include American military personnel who died in all wars.

For decades Memorial Day was celebrated on May 30th but in 1968 Congress established the date as the last Monday in the month of May. The first uniform Memorial Day celebration was in 1971. That year was also the coming of the first 3 day weekend.

Cinco de Mayo (May 5th) - In 1861 the Mexican government was deep in debt with European countries. Most negotiated with Mexico but Napoleon of France would not.

Napoleon was intent on expanding his empire and decided to attack a small town in east-central Mexico called Puebla de Los Angeles with a well-armed force of about 6,000. Mexico's exiled leader, President Juarez, cobbled together a band of 2,000 to defend the city and to everyone's surprise they succeeded. The battle took place on May 5, 1862. Cinco de Mayo is a commemoration to those that defended the city and their victory.

In the United States, Cinco de Mayo is a celebration of Mexican culture and heritage. The occasion is marked by parades, parties, mariachi music, Mexican folk dancing and Mexican food. The largest celebrations are held in Los Angeles, Chicago and Houston.

Summer Fun Is Almost Here

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Diving and jumping into shallow water also are major causes of serious injuries.

Following all of the rules posted in the pool area is a great way to prevent some of the common accidents that can happen. They are there for your safety and everyone else's safety.

Keep in mind that the pool area is under surveillance and those that chose to disregard posted rules risk losing their privileges for the season, and in some cases, permanently.



Parking

As most in the community know, each unit is assigned one covered space and may use one uncovered space for parking. Additional parking spots may be used with approval granted by The Management Trust. It has been noted that several units may have more than 2 cars parked on the property (TMT has reported no special permits on file so there should not be more than 2 cars per unit). Please keep in mind that the rules are there for a purpose and will be enforced. A few other rules that need to be mentioned here: Vehicles in uncovered spaces need to be moved at least once every 2 weeks or they will be considered "stored" and can be towed or the owner fined.

All cars need to be in working order and need to have current tags (there are a few that have been noted that are not current).

Just For Fun

Q: What starts with E, ends with E, and has only 1 letter in it

I was wondering why the ball kept getting bigger and bigger, and then it hit me.

Q: What do the craters on the moon prove?

Q: What's Forrest Gump's password?

I decided to make my password "incorrect" because if I type it in wrong, my computer will remind me, "Your password is incorrect."

Whoever invented knock knock jokes should get a no bell prize.

Mark Your Calendar

Safe Streets

May 1st

6:30 pm / Cabana

(First Tuesday of the Month)

Board Meeting

May 9th

6:30 pm / Cabana

West End Neighborhood Council

Meeting

May 16th

7:00 pm / Fire Station

Safe Streets

June 5th

6:30 pm / Cabana

(First Tuesday of the Month)

Game Night at the Cabana

Every Monday & Friday Evenings

6:30 pm

Board of Directors

Jean Homan, President

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Jody Matthews, Vice President

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Teresa Topping, Secretary

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Ande Dunn, Member At Large

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Ron Miller, Member At Large

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Colleen Poole, Community Assoc. Mgr

colleen.poole@managementtrust.com

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SUNSET PLAZA NEWSLETTER

July 4th Celebrations

Summer is here and in full swing with July 4th just around the corner along with the parties, picnics and fireworks. When making your plans for the holiday keep in mind that there are absolutely no fireworks allowed on Sunset Plaza property. This is for the safety of all residents and protection of buildings and property. If you would like to see some great fireworks displays, here are just a few options:

- The Tacoma Freedom Fair – A fun filled day of food, vendors, concerts, car shows and an air show. Around 10 pm, at full dark, a large fireworks show will be set off from a barge in the water.
- JBLM Freedom Fest – For this one day, Joint Base Lewis McCord is open to the public to enjoy carnival rides, entertainment, kid's activities, car shows and lots of food. All activities are at Cowan Stadium. Use exit 119 off of I-5. Fireworks start at dusk.
- Steilacoom Grand Old Fourth of July – For those that do not want to fight the crowds in Tacoma or Seattle, this is for you. Lafayette Street will be open for the festivities which include live entertainment, a beer garden, fun run, parade, ice cream social, lots of food, and, of course, fireworks.

Have a fun and safe holiday!



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P2: Changing of the Guard
P2: Cats, Cats and More Cats
P3: Try Something New and Fun This Summer
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P4: Mark Your Calendars
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Two Board Positions Open



Over the past few weeks, two members of the Board of Directors have turned in their resignations. Ron Miller stepped down as of June 14th due to personal reasons and Teresa Topping stepped down effective July 1st due to health and family reasons. Ande has graciously volunteered to take over the office of Secretary of the Board. As a result of these changes, there are two board positions that are now open to those who would like to volunteer for them. If you or anyone you know is interested in joining the Board of Directors, please send an e-mail to either Colleen or Jean (e-mails are on the last page of this newsletter)

Changing of the Guard



Over the past year, I have had the pleasure of being the editor, writer and publisher for the Sunset Plaza Newsletter. However, I have had to make the tough decision to both leave the board as well as turn the publishing of the newsletter over to a new editor. As everyone knows, life has a way of changing and, at times, very quickly. I am grateful that Ande Dunn has volunteered to take on both of these tasks and I am sure she will do a great job. I plan on helping Ande with the newsletter as much as I am able with writing articles every month. I hope that once life settles down, I will be able to return to serving the community in any way I can.

Cats, Cats and More Cats

On June 13th Jocelyn Bouchard, Chief Program Officer of the Tacoma and Pierce County Humane Society, came out to give a presentation about cats and how to mitigate some of the issues we are having with our population. During the discussion, it was brought out that in the past, cats primarily roamed around in the green belt. However, now they are coming up and spending more time on the property. This has created issues with feces, spraying, yowling and cat fights during the night.

Jocelyn offered several options that might help alleviate some of issues we are having. It has been her experience that trap-and-remove does not work. As animals are trapped and euthanized, other cats come in to take their place. A better option would be to trap, sterilize and release the cats back into the population as these cats would keep others out. This is a free service offered by the Humane Society. Because this option is preferred, animals are rarely euthanized now and will only occur when a cat has a severe medical condition that staff can't treat or make the animal comfortable. The humane society has a 92% live release rate. They even have a Fospice program for those that do not have much time left.

Other suggestions that were made:

- Setting up a "sandbox" area for the cats to use so they will not use other places like gardens or stairwells.
- Planting marigolds, a natural cat deterrent.
- Encourage cat owners to keep their cats inside and on a leash when outside.
- Encourage cat owners to have collars on their pets. If a cat is trapped without a collar, they would be sterilized and released as with other cats that were caught.

Try Something New and Fun This Summer

Looking for something to do this summer that is different, fun for the entire family and kid friendly? How about trying Geocaching? Geocaching is a worldwide hide and seek game played in 186 countries. Basically, participants hide things for others to find. The GPS coordinates are then posted on line on the Geocaching.com website. Other participants use the posted coordinates to find the thing that was hidden. The finder will sign a log that is located inside the cache to prove that they visited the cache and then record the find on their account on line.

Geocaches come in all sorts of shapes and sizes, from a container that is no larger than your fingernail to a 10 gallon tub. Typically the caches that are larger than a deck of card contain swag to be traded. The “owner” of the cache (he who hid the cache) will start the cache out with different small, inexpensive items. The finders will take something but will also leave something. It is always fun to look through the items in the cache. This is the “reward” for the kids as most of the time, the swag is geared towards the younger seekers. However, even for adults, it can be fun. For a long time, I was collecting lapel pins and foreign coins.

There are many different types of caches. The most popular is the traditional cache. This is a container that holds a log and sometimes swag but it is always a physical container. Another type of cache is called a multi cache where you will find one cache that leads to another cache that will lead to a final cache. A third type is a puzzle / challenge cache where you must either solve a puzzle to get the correct coordinates or you must complete a challenge to claim the prize. Other caches include earth / virtual caches

where you are taken to someplace and you learn something about that place. There is no physical cache to find, just knowledge to gain.

Some of the benefits of geocaching are acquiring observation, organization and searching skills. You learn to detect what is not right and what looks out of place. You learn how to put together a caching trip to find the most caches with the least amount of time and effort. You learn how to systematically look at an area to determine the most likely hiding place.

You will visit places you didn't know existed that are both close by or far away.

Although a great many caches are in parking lots and such, there are many that feature scenery, art pieces and historical sites.



Two very creative cache containers



How do you get started? Log onto Geocaching.com and set up a free account. There are several tutorials about how to find your first cache and how to hide your first cache to become a cache owner. A good GPS will cost about \$100-\$200 and a premium membership on the caching site runs \$35 a year (extra bells and whistles but not needed to play the game). Other than inexpensive swag (if you choose to trade) there are no other costs involved. If you have any questions or would like some help getting started, please feel free to contact me at missflyer2017@gmail.com.

Next month: Letterboxing: The low tech version of geocaching.

Just For Fun

A few fun exercises for your brain.

1. Say the days of the week backwards. Now try to say them in alphabetical order.
2. Pick a category such as fruit or flowers or cars. Now, try to think of two objects within those categories for every letter of your name.

A little Dr. Seuss. Try to say these really fast.

1. Imagine an imaginary menagerie manager imagining managing an imaginary menagerie
2. A skunk sat on a stump and thunk the stump stunk, but the stump thunk the skunk stunk.

A few riddles to solve.

1. I have branches, sometimes a few and other times hundreds or more, but I have no fruit, trunk or leaves. What am I?
2. I am the beginning of the end, the end of time and space. I am essential to creation and I surround every place. What am I?

Mark Your Calendar

Safe Streets

July 3

6:30 pm / Cabana

(First Tuesday of the Month)

Board Meeting

July 11th

6:30 pm / Cabana

West End Neighborhood Council

Meeting

July 18th

7:00 pm / Fire Station

Safe Streets

August 7th

6:30 pm / Cabana

(First Tuesday of the Month)

Game Night at the Cabana

Every Monday & Friday Evenings

6:30 pm

Board of Directors

Jean Homan, President

jhoman500@comcast.net

Jody Matthews, Vice President

jodymatthews@gmail.com

Ande Dunn, Secretary

andedunn@gmail.com

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Member At Large - Position Open

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