



The Cormorant's Call

February 2009

Volume 13, Issue 1

*A Publication of Cormorant Passage
Homeowners' Association*

President's Report

Hello Neighbors,

Oh my...what a winter it has been! It is nice to see that everyone came through the storm in good order. We hope the snowy holidays were joyous for you and your loved ones. Though it is still winter, I expect many of you are thinking of Spring and warm sunny days. In my garden, the tulips and daffodils are already sprouting.

If you frequent our Cormorant Passage website, you've probably seen the minutes from our Annual meeting in September. We continue to be blessed with neighbors willing to volunteer their time for our Homeowners Association board. We have welcomed: Kellene Greenwood taking over on the "Welcome Wagon", and Malcolm Whitaker joining Sherry Gimlett and Eva Vanderbilt to form the "Architectural Review Committee". If you are planning a project, please contact this committee; they are volunteers who will help you stay in compliance with the Association's covenants, thereby preserving the integrity of our unique community.

We are also very happy to have the continued services of Norm Gaudreau (Secretary), Neal Snider (Member-At-Large), Jim Van Vleck (Member-at-large, Webmaster & Asst Safe Streets), Judy Foster (Safe Streets), and Mike Peppers (our Newsletter editor/author).

We are looking for our next Treasurer; if you are interested please give me a call!

Meanwhile it is that time of year... our annual dues are due. Details follow in this newsletter and as always, we appreciate your timely payment.

Sincerely,
Karen McIver, President CPHA

Safe Streets

SAFE STREETS is the program to help us keep our neighborhood safe. Cormorant Passage chairpersons are Judy Foster (581-2930) and Jim Van Vleck (582-7475).

NOTICE: On January 26, one of the homes on Gardiner Court was broken into and had items stolen. Apparently the criminals somehow obtained entrance to the garage, where then out of sight they broke open the interior door and ransacked the house. Please insure that you activate your alarms and watch out for your neighbors.

You can proactively call Judy or Jim at any time with safety concerns or to report a burglary, vandalism, or any activity in the neighborhood that you find suspicious. They have lists of block leaders throughout our neighborhood, and our phone contact system can be activated and block leaders will call their neighbors with the news. Our Website has a list of the addresses for your court's or street section's representative who will welcome any inquiry about Safe Streets.

When you are going out of town for a few days or more, use this phone list to inform your neighbors. Ask them to watch your house, bring in newspapers or miscellaneous solicitations left on your front porch. Many garage door openers may have the store 'default' signal code loaded; experts recommend personalizing them.

The success of this program depends on all of us being involved in our own block. We hope you post your list by your phone and use it. If you need a list of your Court or have any questions call Judy Foster.

Annual Homeowners Association Dues Time!

Neighbors it is again time for annual dues for 2009. Dues remain \$50. You will find the detachable remittance form on the last page, and a return envelope enclosed with this mailing. Please remit before 15 March to Cormorant Passage Homeowners Association, PO Box 88704, Steilacoom, WA 98388-0704. A REMINDER: In order to encourage prompt payment, there is a \$10.00 per month late fee.

About the letters at the entrance...

Thanks to everyone for their patience when we have letters fall off the brick monuments at the entrance to Cormorant Passage. We don't like the missing letters any more than you do. Happily, it is not a vandalism issue. Unhappily...it is an adhesion issue - they keep falling off. Jim Van Vleck spends a fair amount of time reattaching letters and trying to find the best adhesive. Thanks Jim for all of your hard work on the letters and lighting at the entrance!!

Neighborhood Bunco



There is interest in starting a monthly Bunco group in the neighborhood. If you don't know how to play, that's not a problem. The game is very easy to learn and it's fast and furious fun. If you want to play, please email Karen McIver through the Cormorant Passage website or leave her a message at 301-3252. She'll collect names/numbers and we'll follow-up with those who are interested. We are also looking for substitutes who might not want to play monthly.

Architectural Review Committee (ARC)

The ARC asks any home owner considering an exterior home improvement project to first read the covenants, and then contact the ARC for the pre-approval. What we need is a written proposal stating what you plan to do including paint colors, siding choice, roofing material, pictures, etc. It is helpful if you also include the covenant that pertains to your project. We're here to work with you!

Sherrie Gimlett is the contact person, but if you can't get hold of her please contact Eva Vanderbilt or Malcolm Whitaker. It only takes two signatures from the committee for an approval. We'd also like to thank the folks we worked with this past year for their cheerful cooperation. You helped make our job as neighborhood volunteers interesting and easy. Thank you! The ARC:

Sherrie Gimlett
581-1288

Eva Vanderbilt
584-7605

Malcolm Whitaker
267-1334

Other Notes from the Annual Board Meeting

- Our interim treasurer (Karen McIver) sought a second signature on the account (Neal Snider agreed), and the routine practice of an annual audit -Board approved.
- The association's Insurance policies have been improved; we have changed carriers gaining better coverage, and at a savings to CPHA -Board approved.
- The Board members seek your ideas and discussion on Cormorant Park. We'd like to have a Spring clean-up day at the park.
- A copy of the Lemay Recycling dates has been posted on our website.

Did You Know?

Did you know... that our Casey Court is named for Colonel Silas Casey, who in 1856 commanded Fort Steilacoom?

Did you know... that our prominent Chapman Loop is named for John Chapman, who as young lawyer in Oregon City in 1851 wrote the first key editorial calling for a new "territory" north of the Columbia River...? He later was appointed by his fellow citizens and wrote the 1500 word petition to US Congress for this new "north" Oregon territory, which would become our Washington State.

Did you know... in our last *Cormorant Call* newsletter we were largely "wrong" regarding the most prevalent local sub-species of our namesake Cormorant seabird family. In our "Did You Know?" segment we discussed the Brandts and Pelagic species as most prevalent (sources cited Wikipedia & Cornell's 'All About Birds' handbook). Many thanks to our neighbor from Henly Court who sent in this more precise and locally accurate info from better sources:

Source: Tahoma Audubon Society's February 2008 newsletter '*The Towhee*'
Results for '07 Christmas Bird count in our area (three different species of cormorants)

Double-crested	557
Brandt's	136
Pelagic	79

Most prevalent local observations ('Area 6'): the only cormorants viewed were 75 double-crested. The key reference on how these birds were distributed around our area <http://www.tahomaudubon.org/DocumentHandler.ashx?DocId=6384> See page 6

Folks this means if you were fortunate enough to see one in the park or on the water - it is most likely a double-crested Cormorant! Keep an eye out this spring!

Steilacoom and Area Events

Steilacoom Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction - Friday, February 20th, 2009 This year the event is from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Community Center at 2301 Worthington Avenue. Serving spaghetti, garlic bread, salad, desert and beverage; \$6.95 adults / \$3.95 children under age 12. Advance tickets are available at Steilacoom Marine & Spirits; for further details call 548-4177.

Learn about the book "The Mosquito Fleet of South Puget Sound" from the authors - Monday, February 9th, 2009 The 7:00 p.m. monthly meeting of Tacoma Historical

Society in the Public Library, 1102 Tacoma Avenue South, Tacoma, WA 98402. Robin Paterson and Jean Findlay, co-authors of this recently-published Arcadia book, will share stories of communities and boats that made up this essential public transportation system on Puget Sound in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

10th Annual Scottish-American Festival - Saturday, March 28th, 2009 This year the National Tartan Day Society of Washington presents the 10th Annual Scottish-American Festival at the Gold Gate Entry of the Puyallup Fairgrounds. The festival will feature bagpipes, highland dancers, musicians, vendors and concessions. Representatives will be on hand to assist guests in finding their clan affiliation with a free name identification service. Further details <http://www.tartanday-wa.org>

Lakewold Gardens "20th Anniversary Festival", and Other Events - March-May 2009, opening 10:00 a.m. MayFest, 2-9 May Be sure to join in the festivities this year as Lakewold celebrates its 20th Anniversary! Don't miss out on special offers, events, and exhibits. **Elton Bennett Art Exhibit, 13-15 March** Visit and admire the work of silkscreen artist Elton Bennett, best known for his depictions of the Pacific Northwest. A Northwest native, originally from Hoquiam, WA, Elton used the working environment he was surrounded by such as fishing trollers, ghostly clamdiggers, tall ships and buoys to capture his love of the area. **Louise Smith Art Display, 16-31 March.** Stroll through the Wagner House and admire plant life from a different perspective - indoors! The inside of the house will come to life as it is filled with botanical artwork from award winning Seattle artist Louise Smith (website <http://www.greenstems.com>). Standard Lakewold admission fees apply. For more information, please contact Amanda Wood at 253.584.4106, x108.

Do you have a useful or important message for our Neighborhood? ...please contact one of the CPHA Board members and share it!!
 We are always looking for ideas, messages, short articles & commentary that help us remain a thriving and safe community...

CPHA Board of Directors
 President: Karen McIver, 301-3252
 Secretary: Norm Gaudreau
 Treasurer: --**VACANT**-- (interim - Karen McIver)
 Member-at-Large: Neal Snider, 583-8293
 Safe Streets Coordinators: Judy Foster 581-2930 and Jim Van Vleck, 582-7475
 Architectural Review Committee: Sherry Gimlett, 581-1288;
 Eva Vanderbilt, 584-7605; Malcolm Whitaker, 267-1334;
 Webmaster: Jim Van Vleck, 582-7475
 Welcome-Wagon: Kellene Greenwood,

Association Address	Newsletter Editor	E-mail Contact Point
CPHA PO Box 88704 Steilacoom, WA 98388	Mike Peppers 964-1175 peppers2@comcast.net	See Web site
Cormorant Passage Web site: http://cormorant.steilacoom.net/		
Steilacoom Web site: http://steilacoom.org/index.html .		

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Please fill in your dues/donation information below, detach this portion, and include it along with your payment in the provided CPHA pre-addressed return envelope. *Thanks Neighbor!*

Cormorant Passage Homeowners Association Dues

Name: _____

Address: _____

Dues (\$50.00)/donation Amount included: _____

Comments for the Board: