

**WESTVIEW ESTATES
HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 5681 Salem, OR. 97304**

**NEWSLETTER
March 2010**

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Darlene Livermore

Every once in a while, there are some really nice warm perks that go with the President's job. One in particular I want to share with you because it is all of your efforts that have made it possible. I have several friends from Portland that visit from time to time as well as locals. They have been doing this from the time I have moved into Westview and observe the neighborhood as they drive through. Additionally, I have people contact me after driving through the neighborhood about how nice it might be to live here. They have all commented on the general improvement, how nice everything is beginning to look...how residents have been improving yards, painting houses, and generally seem to be "keeping things picked up". In this difficult economic time, anything that we can do to help our property values and help sell vacant property helps us all. Thanks to each of you that has been striving to make us look good.

There are some new things that the Board hopes you are aware of.... This winter, the couple of heavy wind storms we had took out about a 40' section of our fence along Wallace Road. That has been repaired and we took the precaution of putting in 130 mph wind load posts. Some more section may come down in the future, but I can safely say we won't see that section go again. An electrician fixed our front entry light so now both halves of the entry wall is again lite. The HOA has a new web site; www.westviewestatesha.org. The development of the site as well as the hosting cost were donated to the HOA. All of the newsletters, By-Laws, CC&R's, related resolutions, forms etc. are posted on the site. You will be able to go to the web and get what you need at anytime. There are also helpful links to various city and county information. Take a few minutes and check it out let us know what you think and what might be of help to you.

I have had several complaints that should be of interest. One... your pet cats. We all know that they are not as trainable as perhaps the family dog. However, your neighbor is not thrilled when working in the flower beds to discover a deposit. Even more disconcerting is the Tom who likes to mark the patio door, the BBQ on the patio with his territorial display. I have noticed an increase in the population and they all seem to be "outside cats". If you have one... think about your neighbor as well as the longevity of the cat... try keeping them indoors.

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SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

Donna Fernley

We were pleasantly surprised this week to receive a complimentary note from a mysterious observer. I think I know who it is, although it could be one of two or more nice people. That note raised my spirits so much; a ray of joy on a gloomy day. That doesn't happen often enough, cheering someone for no other reason than cheering someone. We could all do that..spread a little cheer, particularly between the holidays and spring. It always seems like such a long rainy stretch.

I have been trying to get the garden ready for spring. When the time is finally here I want to put something in the dirt; my farming background. It didn't stick with everyone in the family . It is a very hard life but a very educational and usually healthy life. As I got older, I wanted to be closer to other kids my age. Now at the other end of the perimeter it has become enjoyable once more to just 'farm' . Planting... flowers, shrubs and trees, seldom edibles. No chickens. No cows. No horses. But we now have city animals; dogs and cats, fish and birds. God love 'em. A rhetorical question...What would we do without them? The responsibility of ownership is needed, of course. Without which we would live in a city farmyard, not a pleasant thought.

With the hope that we soon have sunny days to outnumber rainy days, let's think gardening, look at the catalogs, visit the Nurseries and plan for SPRING

Presidents message cont.

We want the kids to be safe and have fun in the neighborhood. For the skateboarders, try to stay out of the street and be aware of the "blind corners". Drivers can't see you at night especially when it is rainy. Be cautious of coming down sloped driveways into the street. The speed is fun for you but your sudden appearance on a blind corner will scare the driver of the car to death. A reminder, and this includes cyclists as well.... ramps, are not permitted in the street. The City of Salem has passed a new ordinance that now makes the property owner responsible for all maintenance and repair of the city side walk around their property. If you have not yet received your letter form the city advising you that the sidewalk has been turned over to you, it will be coming soon. Please be respectful of your neighbor,

TREASURER REPORT

Julie Youse

As of February 28th the balance in the Westview Estates Homeowners checking account is \$8,923.04 and the savings is \$3,053.01. We paid \$960 for repairs on the fence due to the wind storm.

There are still several members that have not paid their dues. The dues are payable by January 15th. Payments made that after February 15th have a \$5.00 late fee. For those that have not paid, a second bill has been sent. If payment plus late fee is not paid by March 15th, unless you have grounds to appeal, or ask for a payment plan, a lien will be placed on your property. Contact any Board member, before March 15th if you wish to appeal.

GARAGE SALE - Elaine Clark, Social CHR

Are you cleaning out your closets, cupboards, and/or garages?

As social chairman I am planning a neighborhood yard/garage sale for Friday and Saturday - May 7th & 8th.

There will be a \$5 fee, to help with advertising expenses; newspaper, signs, and banners.

If you would like to participate, contact Elaine at (503) 540-7910.

This event is facilitated by the Homeowners Association but is not funded in any way by the HOA.

VICE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Judy Oliver

SECOND TIME THE CHARM ?????

As of Feb. 18, 2010, the city street maintenance division is planning to pave Lake Vanessa from Michigan City Ln on the north half of the loop. If there are enough funds for next year (summer 2011) they intend doing Michigan City lane from end to end. They are aware of cracking on the south loop of LVC but it is not as bad as the other two areas. All of this is subject to funds being available when the paving season starts. But at least we're on the list.. At some point this summer sign announcements of the intended paving times and dates will be posted.

Due to city budget problems the first 50 feet on the north side of Michagan City Lane was not re-painted . Under Oregon Vehicle code it is prohibited to park within 50 ft. of a traffic control device (i.e. stop sign). In an attempt to save dollars the city has decided not to re-paint areas like these if they are not a problem. If everyone can agree not to park there, we have the city's permission to use wire brushes to take off the old shabby looking paint. Otherwise the city will install a "NO PARKING HERE TO CORNER" sign as the signs last longer and don't need as much maintenance. (Now if we can just get folks to stop at the stop sign at the intersection of LVC and MCL that would be great!)

The association also thought we would be getting some help in dealing with foreclosed homes that have not been kept up and drag down property values, but it was not to be. House Bill 2657, relating to the neglect of foreclosed property, would have made it a state offense with financial penalties if foreclosed property owned by banks or other financial entities was allowed to become weed infested or derelict. The bill passed in the house and was sent on to the Senate but failed to get out of committee for Senate vote before adjournment. Hopefully this bill will be brought up again when the legislature next meets. It is scary to live next to one of these ramshackle properties and fear for your own home investment.

LANDSCAPE CHAIRMEN

Doug Wilson

Ah, the sweet sound of lawn mower engines filling the air, birds chirping, ornamental fruit trees in full bloom..... everything, with the exception of my calendar, indicating spring. The US Department of Agriculture reminds us that the window for frost extends a bit past the first of May in our area. So while I am anxious to get gardening, I'm reticent to hang out hoses and remove foundation vent insulation blocks.

There may be a few hard decisions ahead regarding apparent non-survivors of the December freeze. My own list included an Acacia, a small leafed Ceanothus (California Lilac), Bay Laurel (culinary variety), and a prostrate growing Rosemary. If the plant appears usually dark, or black and brittle, you might wait and prune hard in mid-spring. Freeze damaged plants may require several seasons to recover meanwhile attracting and harboring pests thus compromising adjacent, otherwise healthy plants. My experience tells me its time to "bite the bullet", dig roots and all and fill the "Big Green Can".

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Ken and Jetta Olleck, Coordinators

Neighborhood Watch begins with your home. A pamphlet entitled "Neighborhood Watch" has a section entitled "What Can I Do To Make My Home Safer?" [For pamphlet: check with your block contact person.]

The Neighborhood Watch, Westview Estates, is divided into 12 geographic "blocks." At this time there are 11 block contact people. The latest person on board is Ray Bos, contact for block 10 (3395 thru 3407 LVC). Ray is located at 3402 Lake Vanessa Cir. Thank you Ray. The Block Contacts were instrumental in organizing the National Night Out block parties in August, 2009, which were held at three different locations in Westview Estates. The next NNO will again be in August.

Security Surveys – A Free Police Department Service. From the January 2010, "Sights and Sounds": "A Security Survey of your home and property...is conducted by a trained volunteer and takes approximately 45 minutes. The information is collected on a form and returned to you...If you are interested ...please contact Officer Mark Jantz or Officer Kris Knox...503-588-6175."

All Neighborhood Watch participants are eligible to receive "Sights and Sounds". To receive this monthly Email call the Crime Prevention Unit, 503-588-687 to give them your Email address. It is an excellent source of information about safe neighborhoods, a Tip of the Month, pertinent articles and more.

Thanks to everyone who endeavors to keep Westview Estates a good place to live.

President's Note: Posted on the HOA bulletin board is a West Salem map showing the location of crimes and a list of the types of crime. You will note that the activity is very low in this end of West Salem and the activity that did occur is west of Wallace Rd in an area that is not covered by a Neighborhood Watch group. Neighborhood Watch does make a difference. Thank you Ken and Jetta for being willing to serve as our neighborhood coordinators.