

FALL 2009

the  
**Uplake Update**

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*Honoring Uplake's WWII Vets*

*For man, autumn is a  
time of harvest, of  
gathering together. For  
nature, it is a time of  
sowing, of scattering  
abroad.*

*~Edwin Way Teale*

### Board's Bulletin



After such a fantastic summer we almost welcome a return of the rains to green up our brown lawns. As winter approaches remember to keep checking on neighbors who need help during storms and snow.

The UNA hosted a very successful candidate forum in September. We continue to advocate for changes that help our neighborhood and the whole of Kenmore by communicating with the City of Kenmore and attending city council meetings. If you have concerns about issues be sure to contact the UNA so we can perhaps lend support also.

Keep in mind that early in the winter the board will be asking for neighbors to consider being an officer or a board member. We meet the 4th Wednesday of the month, usually at Aqua Club, from 7-8 PM. This is a small commitment to help keep the area a wonderful place to have a home.

Finally, be sure to join the whole neighborhood at our **Holiday Wine Tasting Party** at Aqua Club on **Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30-8:30 PM**. This will be a chance to sample some wines with light appetizers and to socialize.

Steve Knapp, UNA President  
Cedarsnapp@yahoo.com

## Neighborhood Holiday Party

Save Thursday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> for the Uplake Neighborhood Holiday Wine Tasting Party. The UNA with help from the Uplake Women's Club is hosting the event at Aqua Club at 6:30 PM. Jon and Rebecca Rader, Uplake neighbors, will be introducing us to South American wines. Light cheeses, meats, and bread will be available during the wine tasting portion. Please bring a chocolate dessert to share as a finale! Donations will be accepted for the area food bank Hopelink.



## Kenmore Reporter-Our Local Weekly Newspaper

The free local weekly should be delivered to each household. In it you get information about the City of Kenmore, local school news, and advertisements from area businesses. If you haven't been receiving your copy call 1-888-838-3000.

## Are You Prepared for Winter Storms?

Remember that last few winter storms-snow, ice, rain, wind, and power outages! Have you prepared? Now is the time to get ready before winter hits. Do you have fresh batteries and flashlights? Do you have lanterns? How about wood for the fireplace? Camp stoves, which should only be used outside, can heat up canned food or hot water. If you have natural gas appliances (cook top, hot water heater, fireplace) in your home, they will still work during a power outage. You will have to light the cook top with a match however.

This is also a reminder to be ready to check on your neighbors too.

## Entertainment Books

Call Priscilla Droge @ 425-485-4202 to get you 2010 Entertainment Book. They are a bargain at \$20 each and the proceeds benefit the Uplake Women's Club.



## Street Parking Issues

Several trucks, trailers, and boats have been parked on the street right of way for an extended period of time. Remember that your property line ends well before the paved street. The city right of way starts about where your water meter is. Any vehicles parked on the right of way for more than 48 hours are subject to being ticketed and towed. Neighbors have complained about this issue so be sure to move offending vehicles before the police get called!

## Neighborhood Mailboxes Need Help

Our area and the adjacent Lake Forest Park neighborhoods have suffered mail thefts over the last few years. A solution to this is to install locking mailboxes.

A walk around the neighborhood reveals that the uniform mailbox stands installed in the area about 20 years ago are in need of repair. The stands need to be reroofed and repainted. Shingles are falling off the tops of almost every stand. Most of the older stands are too narrow to fit the locking mailboxes in the current configuration so the stands need to be modified to accommodate these mailboxes. Two stands have been rebuilt to accommodate locking mailboxes. See the pictures of these two installations both on 57<sup>th</sup> NE. Another stand has been reroofed.

Another solution to the security issue is the "Cluster Box Unit" mailbox, commonly called a CBU. One street researched this type of mailbox and agreed to its installation. The smallest size unit available is for 8 homes although not all of the mailbox slots need to be used. A major benefit of this type of mailbox is the security for outgoing mail as there is a mail slot for all to use. In addition there are two secure parcel boxes to hold larger incoming packages. See the picture of this stand on NE 183<sup>rd</sup>.

We currently have newspaper boxes under our older larger stands. When you go to a CBU the newspaper delivery person tosses your plastic covered newspaper onto your driveway.

A comparison of the cost of rebuilding the current stands or going to a CBU stand shows that the CBU stand is probably slightly more costly, however it does provide more security as it is a very solid steel unit and outgoing mail is safe. The neighbors who installed the CBU unit report a cost of \$235 for each household, shared among 7 neighbors. Larger units would cost less per household, as the cost of larger CBU units is not that much more than smaller units. Single locking mailboxes range in cost from about \$75 for plastic to close to \$200 for the larger more sturdy steel boxes. In addition there will be the cost of repairing the roof, enlarging the stand, and repainting it.

Whichever way your street decides to go, you will need someone to take the lead in contacting the neighbors and arranging the construction or installation. On the Uplake website ([uplakekenmore.org](http://uplakekenmore.org)) is the information about how to do the work involved in installing a CBU mailbox or repairing your stand. Check also with Linda Ottmar @ 425-485-4637.



## **Are You Vacationing This Winter?**

During the dark days of winter many of us leave town. Be sure to let neighbors know where you are going and how to reach you in case of emergency.

Another safety tip is the City of Kenmore Police House Check. The Kenmore Police will come to your home every few days to check while you are gone. You just need to go to the Kenmore Precinct and fill out the required form. Or go online to get more information and print out the form. <http://cityofkenmore.com/dept/pd/HouseCheck.html>

Have your mail held while you are gone. If you are gone for more than 3 days and less than 30 days the US Post Office will hold your mail and deliver it to you on the day of your return. Go to the post office for information or online to fill out the required form. <https://holdmail.usps.com/duns/HoldMail.jsp>

## **Dead, Overgrown, Trees and Shrubs**

Our northwest climate is great for growing gardens. Take a good look at your property. Have the blackberries or shrubs begun to encroach on your yard, driveway, or the street? How about trees or shrubs that didn't survive the hot summer? On a walk through the neighborhood you can see such sights. Pruning and cutting down these can improve sightlines for drivers, keep walkers from having to move out into the street, and improve the look of the area. If you need help in working on your yard here are some names of reliable workers.

Pro Trim Tree Service 425-218-3694(cell)  
Adams Tree Service 425-823-1846  
Collin's Landscaping Service 425-486-0719

## **New Dues Payers**

Additional dues have been received from these residents.

Adams, An, Anthony/Mostad, C. Baxter, J and V Baxter, Bean, Berg, Berkman, Blackburn, Cayou, Clasen, Coffey, Conrad, Daniels, decamp/Boulware, Detjen, Donohue, Eiford/Lee, Glavin, Griffith, Gunderson, Hol, Hollingsworth, Hurley, Loren Johnson, I and J Jones, Kuo, Lee, Maas, Mann, Matthews, Murphy, C and R Madayag, S and O Madayag, Moon, Moran, G and J Nelson, R and D Nelson, S and D Quinn, Richards, Sevonty, Schultz, Sholdt, Simon, Somoff, Turner, Watland/Hammons, Wang, Warrior, Wolf, Wright, Yushan

There is still time left to pay 2009-2010 dues. Send your \$50 to Uplake Neighborhood Association , PO Box 82644, Kenmore, WA 9828. Thank you in advance.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_



## **Fly the Flag on Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> Let's Honor Our Own Uplake's WWII vets**

In the early years of Uplake there were many, many veterans of World War II living here. Most are now gone. Here is a bit of history about the few who still live here or have family in the neighborhood.

**Bob Ahern** and his wife Mona have resided in Uplake for 40 years. Bob was a Cresco, IA farm boy who shortly after high school graduation joined the Army Air Corp. After completing boot camp he was sent to Wisconsin to specialize in math and science and then to Lockheed for training in mechanics for the P-38 Lightning. Later he went to aerial gunner school and was assigned to the 497<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron as flight engineer/bombardier.

To get to the European theater of war Bob had to fly a safe route via Brazil, Ascension Island, Liberia, Morocco and then to England. He flew combat missions from Belgium over Germany near the end of the war.

After the war Bob attended Iowa State University graduating in Aeronautical Engineering and worked for Boeing for 39 years with assignments sometimes overseas in Italy and Indonesia. Bob and Mona will be having their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this year.

*by Gregg Nelson*

**Joe Warrior** was a long time resident of Uplake until he passed away in 2008. His wife, Lea, is still living in the family home. After graduating from high school in Kansas City, MO in 1941 he was accepted into pilot training. As a Navy Ensign he was assigned to Maui, HI and then the carrier Essex and fighter squadron VF83 where he flew the Grumman built Hellcat fighter throughout the war. During the war in missions over Iwo Jima, Marshall Islands, Okinawa, and Tokyo, he shot down four enemy planes. Despite being shot down twice he managed to land his plane in the water and was picked up by U.S. destroyers.

Joe received 5 air medals and his squadron was awarded a Presidential Unit Citation for participating in the sinking of the flagship of the Japanese Imperial Fleet, the battleship Yamato. He was thrilled as his carrier escorted the USS Missouri into Tokyo Bay to sign the surrender in August 1945 and also being able to drop supplies to a British POW camp in Tokyo.

Using the GI bill Joe went to the University of Missouri where he met Lea. He returned to active duty and was stationed in Japan and later was a flight instructor, even training astronaut Neil Armstrong. After being stationed at NAS Seattle he retired from the navy as a Lieut. Commander and later owned his own business selling commercial water heaters and furnaces.

*by Gregg Nelson*





**Bob O'Neill** lived in Uplake from 1957 until he passed away in 1989 and his wife Connie still maintains the family home here. Bob came from Ironwood, MI and graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1938. After pilot's training he flew a Seagull, a scout observation plane, and was attached to the cruiser Indianapolis. It was based in Pearl Harbor, but was at sea during the attack. Scout planes, really seaplanes, were catapulted off the ship for patrols and then hoisted aboard by a crane on their return.

The Indianapolis was sent to the Aleutian Islands and Bob was the pilot who found the Japanese Fleet hiding in the harbor of Kiska Island. For his actions during the attack that followed he was awarded the Air Medal and Distinguished Flying Cross.

Later in the war he was the skipper of a fighter squadron aboard a carrier in the South Pacific. He fought in the battles of Iwo Jima, Kwajalein, and Marshall Islands. On one occasion upon returning to the carrier, his plane was so shot up that Bob leaped out, the plane was shoved over the side, and he quickly jumped in another plane and took off. As a fighter pilot he shot down four Japanese planes.

Bob remained in the Navy Reserves after the war and retired as a Captain. He graduated from UW Law School in 1950 and practiced law for over 30 years in Seattle.

**Carlyle Ragsdale**, who passed away in 2000, moved into Uplake in 1960 with his wife, Gretchen, who still lives here. He was 18 and from Colfax, Wash., when he joined up in July 1940. He became a member of E Company of the 161<sup>st</sup> Infantry and served all through WWII, mostly in the South Pacific.

Carlyle remembered running around the corner of a house and coming face to face with a roaring, charging Japanese tank.

That tank? He used to say he had three options. One – they'd been told in training to step aside and jam one's rifle in the treads, disabling the tank. That seemed highly implausible. Two – step aside and jump on the back of the tank. And do what? He didn't even have a can opener, he used to say. Three – was a choice not discussed in training: He turned and ran like hell toward a low stonewall. As a shell flew past his head, he used to say he could have cleared that wall if it had been 10 feet tall.

He tended to tell about incidents with humorous twists like this and not dwell on actual fighting. For example, he never talked much about his experiences during the battle for San Manuel, Philippines, for which all members of E Company earned silver stars. The company faced 14 Japanese tanks, numerous soldiers and the medal citation says, "The foot elements engaged in savage hand-to-hand combat."

Carlyle was a lieutenant when he was discharged. He went to WSU on the GI Bill, met and married Gretchen, taught in the Seattle Public Schools and then worked as a draftsman and test-flight technician for Boeing.

*by Sandy Ragsdale Hines*



**Harold Bean**, who moved to Uplake a few years ago, is the father of area resident Elaine Sandbeck. He later married long time Uplake neighbor, the former Nancy Muzzy.

Harold served in the U.S.Navy and the U.S.Coast Guard for 20 years. After graduating from high school in New Hampshire he joined the Navy in 1942 and was assigned to a sub chaser guarding convoys in the South Atlantic. The convoys were going from Recife, Brazil to Africa. This was helping the Brazilian Navy who were bringing supplies and troops from Brazil to the Italian campaign. He was a cook and later a baker on the ship.

After the war ended in Europe Harold was assigned to an LST to prepare for the invasion of Japan. Later he transferred to the USCG and became a hospital corpsman serving in Greenland on a Loran station. Also he was loaned to a Voice of America ship and stationed in Greece where his family was able to join him. He retired from the Coast Guard as a Chief Petty Officer.

**Charles Divoky**, who grew up in Omaha, NE, entered the Army Air Corp right after graduating from high school. His mother wouldn't let him enlist until he finished school. After training he was assigned to a B-24 bomber as a gunner and stationed in Anchorage.

On his very first mission in Nov. 1944 he and his crew were to bomb the Japanese Kurile Islands, which stretch north from Japan ending close to Russia. This is one of the ports the Japanese fleet used to stage operations in the North Pacific. Unfortunately they were shot down. With the pilot and navigator injured and 2 of the 4 engines out they were headed down into the Bering Sea. Fortunately, the pilot managed to land on a barren snow covered Russian island near the Kamchatka Peninsula. For 10 days they barely survived the cold and were without food. Finally they were spotted by the Russians who were our Allies, but who had a "neutral status" agreement with Japan. Therefore, the men were treated like POW's.

Eventually the Russians took them by train across Siberia and central Asia to Tashkent (now in Uzbekistan). After months there the Russian and American diplomats arranged an "elaborate escape" to Teheran by sealed trucks. From there they went through North Africa and flew home to the US. Charles was awarded the Air Medal, given 30 days leave, and assigned to the war in the Pacific. It ended before he had to report.

Only in 1996 did an Act of Congress change the status of 300 airmen interned by the Soviets to Prisoner of War. Before that the whole episode was kept secret from the American people. After the war Charles studied under the GI Bill at Seattle University, Columbia University, and ended with a PHD in economics from UW. He worked for Safeco and taught at Seattle U. Charles and his wife Agnes moved to Uplake in 1956 as one of the first homeowners here. They have been married 60 years.



**Captain Thomas J. McCloskey**, and his wife Cathy, were residents of Uplake from 1961 – 1983. Tom served in the 99<sup>th</sup> Division, 394<sup>th</sup> Regiment, I Company. He passed away in 1983. Tom was a Second Lieutenant in WWII when he was assigned to the front lines in the Ardennes Forest in Belgium in November 1944. It was supposed to be a quiet position along the German lines but at 5:30am on December 16 Hitler unleashed the largest military battle involving the U.S. during the war, code named “Watch on the Rhine.” Americans remember it as the “Battle of the Bulge.” Tom’s Company was so close to the Germans that the initial 2 hour barrage of rockets went over their heads and hit support positions behind them.

The 99<sup>th</sup> Division retreated 2 miles to Elsenborn Ridge where they dug in and stymied the German advance for the next 6 weeks. Snow covered their foxholes. Trench foot and hypothermia were as deadly as German artillery. At sunrise, on January 6, 1945 Tom climbed out of his foxhole to shake the snow off his blanket. Six hundred meters away, a German sniper with binoculars fired a shot that ended the war for Tom. He was hit in the right arm and fell to the ground losing blood rapidly. His sergeant dragged him 50 yards, out of the line of fire, and yelled for the field medic. They stopped the bleeding, gave him a heavy dose of morphine to keep him from going into shock, and wrapped him in an army blanket until the litter patrol could transport him to the field hospital several miles to the rear. The nerve in his right arm was severed and he lost normal use of that arm for the rest of his life.

Tom is my dad. Sixty-two years after that fateful day I “googled” dad’s company. Through a stroke of luck, I tracked down five soldiers who served with my dad in Belgium. They remember him like it was yesterday. The third man I talked to, Sergeant Isadore Rosen, was in the foxhole with my dad when he was shot and saved his life. He never knew dad lived until my phone call in 2007. He mentioned how much it meant to him to know that his actions that day in 1945 allowed a fellow soldier to return home to his family. Isadore told me the details of what happened that I never knew. Dad didn’t talk about the war much. Isadore passed away six months after our conversation.

by Michael McCloskey

