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Uplake Update

Editor: Linda Ottmar



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Board Bulletin

Is summer here to stay? We have had such a cool, wet spring and summer that we all need to drop everything and go outside when the sun makes an appearance. Some neighborhood women didn't let the July downpour cool off their Aqua Club water aerobics class. If you look closely you can see the large raindrops bouncing off the pool deck.

We saw a large increase in the number of people using the shredding truck in June. The UNA Board plans to continue this popular event for our dues payers. Watch the next newsletter for the date for our December wine

tasting event.

We have also had a record number of area residents pay their dues this year and the board thanks all of you.

Steve Knapp, UNA president
steve@steveknapplaw.com



Aqua Club 2nd at All-Cities

Aqua Club had another very successful season finishing 2nd at the All-City Championship. Over the last 9 years the team has placed 1st or 2nd at every championship meet. 40 swimmers out of a team of about 230, many from Uplake, represented the team coached by area resident, **Matt Edwards**. There are quite a few swimmers whose parents grew up in Uplake and swam on the team during their youth.



Lovely Touches in the Neighborhood

During our gray, drizzly summer some things do brighten the days. Have you seen the changing flags at the **Damerows** or the pretty flowering hostas at the **Hunters**? How about the geranium window baskets at **Nelsons** and the yellow marigolds at **Madayags**? Or the new fence at **Knapps**? Or the beautiful lavender plant in **Wang's** yard. The **Elliotts'** yard looks so inviting with the lawn chairs out in front. Don't miss the **Bratchers'** pretty display of perennials and annuals.

Update on the Stoplight at 61st

Believe it or not!! How long have we been waiting? The stoplight is still coming! According to Ron Loewen, City of Kenmore Engineer, the city is now acquiring the property required for the right of way in order to enlarge the intersection. They plan to put it out to bid in the late fall and work on the intersection during 2012.

In Memoriam

Sandy Liberman passed away in June. She and her late husband Jack lived in the neighborhood for the past ten years.

Connie O'Neill passed away in May. She and her late husband Bob were early residents in Uplake, moving here in 1959 just after they built their home. Here they raised their nine children while being active in all of the neighborhood organizations. Connie was long time officer in the Uplake Women's Club, helped in the kitchen during every UNA potluck, and judged at Aqua Club swim meets. She also worked at the Lake Forest Park Library for 20 years.

Uplake Website

We have had a change of address for our Uplake website. It is now Uplakekenmore.org

Lots of useful information about the neighborhood can be found there.

New Neighbors

Welcome to **Jason and Christy Terpsma** at 18242 58th Ave. NE. They purchased the former Johnson home and moved in early this summer. Jason was raised in Bellingham and Christy is from Georgia. Formerly they lived elsewhere in Kenmore and plan to make this home the one they stay in for a very long time.

Jim Smith and Phyllis Oldenburg have purchased the Bengstton/Tatick home on NE 182nd. They have lived in the Northgate area of Seattle before moving here. Phyllis is retired and Jim is a math teacher at Inglemoor High School. He previously served 24 years in the US Navy as a submariner, taught in the NROTC program at UW and has been at Inglemoor for 6 years.

Neighborhood Yard Sale

Are you interested in participating in a neighborhood wide yard/garage sale. Contact Dara Korra'ti and perhaps a common date for all will work. Her email is darako@murkworks.net or phone 425-398-0598.

Email Addresses

We now have about 2/3 of the area's email addresses. We are able to notify you about missing pets, emergencies, security issues, good news and sad news. Many neighbors have commented on how valuable they feel this UNA service is. If you aren't receiving emails and want to be on the list (we send everything out blind copy, so no one sees your address) let Linda Ottmar know. (nealandlinda.ottmar@frontier.com)

Street Paving

The City of Kenmore paved some streets in Uplake. Evidently they felt that some of our paving had reached the end of its useful life. The cracks had been tarred a few years ago, but our area along with other streets in Kenmore got a new do.

SCAM Artists

Beware of phone scams about locksmiths who want to come and change your locks or folks who come door-to-door telling sob stories about being down on their luck. We haven't had the locksmith problem here, but other neighborhoods have. Also never give out information over the phone or email about any of your accounts or social security numbers.

Gardeners

Beware of hiring some of the gardeners who advertise by placing notices in our mailboxes. They may be fine for mowing lawns, but not qualified to do pruning. Their techniques often just slash down plants rather than pruning correctly. Incorrect pruning just causes extensive new growth making the shrub or tree resemble nothing like the intended plant. Make sure those you hire can offer some credentials other than just low prices.

Prune those Blackberries

A few neighbors have shrubs, trees, and blackberries hanging over the walkways. This forces walkers out into the street. Check out your property to make sure all walkers can get by safely.

Treasurer's Report

Carrie O'Keefe reported at the July board meeting that we have a balance of \$5,986.65 in checking and \$5,653.57 in savings.

Heard About Around the Neighborhood

Ian Quinn, son of **Sean and Diane Quinn**, was home from the US Military Academy for a visit this summer. Early in the summer several of his classmates and Ian were training at Joint Base Lewis-McChord and spent the Memorial Day weekend at the Quinn home.

Peyton and Isabella Reed, son and daughter of **Allen and Leslie Reed**, recently competed in the Western Grand National Races where they raced quarter midgets. They had several top ten finishes and Peyton won the Light B Main event making him a Grand National champion.



Nuisance Plants and Trees

Sometimes we get some free plants and trees growing up in our yard which have started from seeds blown in by the wind or bird droppings. Some of these are big leaf maple, alder, ivy, holly or laurel.

Laurel is very hard to keep in control as it requires constant pruning. If allowed to grow into a large plant it produces very messy berries that the birds spread to other yards. Ivy is even on the list of pest plants. It too can produce berries that spread. Big leaf maples are usually too big for smaller yards and alder is not considered attractive for yards. Hollies that grow up from seed can be males that don't produce berries. Be sure to weed these nuisance plants out before they take over your yard.

Successful Shredding

Thanks to the UNA Board for hiring the shredding truck at the end of June. Many neighbors, about 2 or 3 times as many as last year, took advantage of the truck to clean out their filing cabinets. Neighbors who helped at the truck were **Steve Knapp, Neal Ottmar, Evie Williams and Hugo Draye**.

Entertainment Books

Do you want to buy a new Entertainment book? The cost is \$25 for one; call **Priscilla Droge @ 425-486-4202**. The proceeds go to a fund, which the Uplake Women's Club still uses to send flowers and cards to those in need in the neighborhood.

Preparation for Selling your Uplake Home

De-clutter-If you are contemplating moving sometime in the next couple years, now is the time to start the de-cluttering process. With starting early, it makes that task much easier to bear. When sellers are rushed to prepare their home, they panic and end up packing and storing items they would have normally donated or thrown away.

Street appeal and views-Many homes in Uplake have lake and/or Cascade mountain views. Start looking at the exterior of your home from a buyer's perspective. Does your home look attractive from the street? Remember if the buyers don't enter your home they won't buy it! A new coat of paint, sprucing up the landscaping and trimming the trees to open the views will vastly improve the street appeal of your home.

Neutralize-When painting or replacing carpet, tile or linoleum, remember to stick to neutral colors. Definitely stay away from pink tones. If you have wallpaper, consider removing it. Wallpaper is a very personal choice. Buyers are very leery of taking on the task of removing it due to not knowing if it will take a day or many months to remove it. When in doubt, call your agent for advice.

Staging-In the last ten years the marketing of a home has drastically changed. Right now it is all about the photos on the internet. If the photos are poor, the buyer will move on to the next listing. Properly staging a home is the most important step in selling your home. A good stager places furniture to make the home look spacious and offer contrast for interesting photos. There is nothing worse than photos of a vacant house; every photo is two walls and a window. If possible, moving out of the home and having a stager furnish the entire home will give it an amazing face lift. Our homes are in competition with newer construction, it is definitely worth the effort!

Agent-Any good agent can sell "sticks and bricks" but since our older homes are competing with much newer ones, the agent needs to know how to sell the neighborhood. The Uplake neighborhood is truly one of a kind with so many assets as well as its convenient access to both Bellevue and Seattle. Knowing the great places to walk, the wonderful nearby parks, Aqua Club, events of the neighborhood, places to shop, quality of schools are vastly important. Having firsthand knowledge of Uplake sales and a good working relationship with local agents is priceless. Remember this is most likely one of your largest assets, listing your home with a family member or friend who is not knowledgeable of the neighborhood could cost you tens of thousands of dollars.

Ease of showing-Selling your home while still living in it is a challenging time. Having the home neat and tidy at all times is sometimes overwhelming but with the earlier de-cluttering, cleaning is much easier. Sellers who put restrictions on showing their home such as "by appointment only" impede the agents showing their home. The more flexible you are the more likely you are to sell it.

*By Elaine Sandbeck, former Uplake board member,
current Uplake resident and local realtor. 206-390-9781*

Graduating Seniors

Molly McCloskey, daughter of **Mike and Laurie McCloskey**, graduated from Bishop Blanchet High School with a 4.0 gpa and was co-valdictorian. She received a scholarship to attend St. Vincent College in western Pennsylvania where she will also turn out for the swim team.

Sydney Berkman, daughter of **Jeff and Lisa Berkman**, graduated from Bothell High School in the top 10% of her class and will be attending the University of Washington where she is planning on majoring in bio-chemistry.

Bobbi Ellison, daughter of **Mark and Joan Ellison**, graduated from Bishop Blanchet High School and will be attending Gonzaga University in Spokane where she will study nursing.

Hayden Ericks, son of **Stephanie Matthews**, graduated from Inglemoor High School. While at IHS he earned his Eagle Scout Award and was a member of the football and track and field teams. He is attending Hartwick College in upstate New York on a merit scholarship and will also play football.

Alicia Schipanski, daughter of **Richard and Stacie Schipanski**, graduated from the Northshore Network after formerly attending Inglemoor High School. She also participated in Running Start. Alicia volunteered at Evergreen Hospital and has decided to attend Shoreline Community College where she is interested in majoring in nursing.

Will Johnson, son of **Cal and Nanette Johnson**, graduated from the University of Washington with a double major in Math and Computer Science. He was awarded the Dean's Medal in the Natural Sciences and is going on to U.C.Berkeley for his PhD in Math. Awarded a National Science Foundation Graduate fellowship, Will's professors stated that they believe he will be one of the best mathematicians of his generation.

Jerry Ellison, son of **Mark and Joan Ellison**, graduated from St. Mary's College in Moraga, CA. Jerry majored in Spanish and is going on to graduate school to become a teacher. He played tennis for his college team. Many of you probably remember him starting his tennis career at Aqua Club.

Crows and More Crows

Did you know that a huge flock of crows is called a “murder of crows”? The origin of the phrase is not known for certain, but is thought perhaps to come from old folktales about crows.

Well, we have a “Murder of Crows” going past Uplake every evening at dusk. Where do they come from and where are they going? Crows are very intelligent and sociable. During the day they disperse to areas around Kenmore, Lake Forest Park, and other further areas. Each evening they gather together to roost. Maybe they tell each other where they found good pickings during the day! Maybe someone left a garbage can open or others found a road kill. They even seem to know when the local schools serve lunch and brown lunch bags are in the garbage cans. They love to hang around golf courses and snatch energy bars or sandwiches from golfers’ bags.

The crows flying over Uplake in the evening go to roost along the Samamish River and Swamp Creek. Long time residents of Uplake say this is a fairly recent occurrence happening just in the last few years. Crows have many roosting sites in the Seattle area including a large one on the University of Washington campus where they reportedly have been trained to dive at anyone wearing WSU attire. We are just lucky they haven’t decided to park in Uplake for the night!

Dues are Due

Here are all of our dues payers as of July 27, 2011. If you think your name should be on this list call Carrie O’Keefe at 206-898-6224. When you pay your dues, you get a current roster and street index. Call Linda Ottmar at 425-485-4637 if you didn’t receive yours.

Adams, Alberda, G and M Allan, P and A Allen, Anthony/Mostad, D and C Anderson, M and J Anderson, C Baxter, J and V Baxter, Beaty, Bean, Berg, Berkman, Bez, Bielewski, Blackburn, Bradley, Clausen, Coffey, Collins, Conrad, Coombs, Daniels, decamp/Boulware, Detjen, Diekema, Divoky, Dolan/Hines, Donahue, Donovan, Draye, Droge, Eiford, Feldheger, Goetz/Knapp, Gray, Griffith, Griner, Gross, Gunderson, Guy, Hammer, Hines/Ragsdale, Holmes, Hopkins, Hol, Hollingsworth, Hurley, Jen, Jensen, J and L Johnson, Kaboul, Kim, Korrat’I, Kralik, Kronheim/Johnson, Kuhner, Kuo, Laverty/Schmink, Lapeyrouse/Dowd, Lebert, Liberman, R and C Madayag, S and O Madayag, Madden, Mann, McCloskey, McCusker/Dujmovich/Gehrman, Montgomery, Moon/Mailheau, Moore, Moran, Moriarty, Murphy, Myint, G and J Nelson, R and D Nelson, Newman, Nixon, O’Keefe, Olson, O’Neill, Ottmar, Osborn, Owen, Palm, Price, D and S Quinn, W and B Quinn, Rader, Raiford, Reddick, Richards, Rieger, Russell, Ryan, Sandbeck, Sanford, Sayah, Schipanski, Scholdt, Schomaker, Schultz, Sevonty, Shahrazad, Simon, Skold, Shi/Young, Sobolewski, Somoff, Stewart, Stimmel, Surdyk Swalin/Hill, S and D Tran, Turner, Vermillion, Utela, Walls/Colburn, Wang, Watland/Hammons, Weber, Wedlund, D and P Williams, E. Williams, K. Williams, Wittges, Wolf, Wright

Dues are \$50/year. Mail your check to UNA, P.O. Box 82644, Kenmore, WA 98028

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ email _____