

F A L L 2 0 1 2

the
Uplake Update

www.uplake.org

Editor: Linda Ottmar

Board's Bulletin

Our fall weather has arrived and winter is probably not far behind. We went from summer to fall almost overnight. Summer was so long and delightful that no one was left with green unripe tomatoes in their gardens!

We are excited about the progress on our long awaited stop light . Soon we will be able to get to Kenmore without taking a deep breath and gunning it across 61st. A big thank you to the City of Kenmore for this expensive project.

Neighbors got good tips from Officer Mark Childers at our safety meeting in October, but we continue to have problems with mail theft. Be sure to read our informative article about how to help prevent this problem.

Next up is the annual Holiday Wine Tasting Party on Dec. 13th at Aqua Club. Plan to come to this popular event. There is no admission charge but we do encourage everyone to make a voluntary contribution to Hopelink.

Be thinking about volunteering for the UNA Board. We meet once a month about 10 months out of the year. You can help keep Uplake a pleasant place to live.

Steve Knapp, president
sknapp@brettlaw.com
425-486-0536



Inside This Issue:

Winter is Coming
Welcome New Residents
Successful Safety Meeting
Our Email Works So Well!
You Can Still Pay Your Dues
Aqua Club News
Dead Lawns and Shrubs
August Safety Scare
The Stoplight is Almost Here
In Memoriam
Christmas Ships
Entertainment Books
Did You Know
Holiday Wine Tasting Party
Mailbox Theft Again



The days and nights are getting colder. The wind is starting to blow. In fact UW meteorologist Cliff Maas is predicting weak El Nino year, which increases the chance of big storms and snow. It's time to check out the flashlights and lanterns and cover the outside faucets. Prepare for winter ahead of time by locating the tire chains and stocking up on deicer.

- Fresh batteries for flashlights.
- Recharge any portable lanterns.
- Firewood for fireplace
- Plastic to cover broken windows
- Keep prescription medication refilled
- Battery powered radio
- Extra cash
- Canned goods
- Manual can opener
- Keep cell phones charged
- Have one phone that does not require batteries
- Fill car with gas if a storm is forecast
- Camp stove or sterno burner to heat food. (Don't use in the house)
- Extra pet food



Welcome New Residents

Ben and Courtney Gebhardt purchased the Sandum home on NE 187th and moved in during the summer. They formerly lived in north Seattle and have four children, two of whom attend Kenmore Elementary. They are looking forward to becoming involved in the neighborhood.

Be sure to let Linda Ottmar know whenever you get a new neighbor on your street, so they can be visited and welcomed to the neighborhood.

Successful Safety Meeting

Officer Mark Childers spoke at the neighborhood safety meeting the UNA sponsored on October 17th. He said he could give the most important advice in just three words “Lock Your Doors”. Another major point is to make sure your empty home looks lived in. Leave lights on or put them on timers. Have a radio on a talk show. Light up the outside of your home. Trim bushes where the “bad guys” could hide.

Around the holidays Officer Childers said we could expect more mail theft. It is helpful to have a locking mailbox and to never mail checks from your home mailbox. The biggest problem with the theft of incoming mail is identity theft. **(See the article in newsletter about locking mailboxes)**

Finally, he stressed that any door-to-door salespersons need to have a license from the City of Kenmore. Never give money to any one who is telling a “sob story”. These and the salespersons are almost always not legitimate.

Our Email Works so Well!!

We are so happy about the positive comments residents pass on to the UNA Board about our email services. The neighbors love it. Just this month a neighbor wanted recommendations for a person to mow her lawn. Within ten minutes of the email going out four people had sent in names. Over the next 24 hours seven more names were added to the list she could choose from. Her comment was, “Now once again see what a wonderful neighborhood we live in”.

See what you are missing if we don't have your email. Over 150 neighbors do. Send you email address to Linda Ottmar at nealandlinda.ottmar@frontier.com

You Can Still Pay Your Dues

It's not too late to send in your \$50 in dues to the UNA. Mail your check to UNA, P.O. box 82644, Kenmore, and WA 98028

Recent dues payers include the following families: G and M Allan and Fu.

Name_____

Address_____

Telephone_____Email_____

Aqua Club News

Aqua Club had another successful swim season. For the eleventh year in a row they haven't lost a dual meet and again won the Northern Division Championship. Several neighborhood swimmers helped win the 3rd place trophy at the All-Cities Meet.

Dead Lawns and Shrubs

Wow, what a long dry spell we had. Our lawns suffered with no rain, but fortunately they will come back to life with a few days of good rain. Not so for those dead shrubs. **If you have unsightly brown shrubs and trees, the only remedy is to cut them down. Get the saws out!!**

August Safety Scare

Did you see the helicopters circling above Uplake and Kenmore one day in August? You probably figured out later that day or the next that the police from several jurisdictions were pursuing an armed person who had robbed a home in Brier. Because of our email system we were able to notify the neighborhood to stay inside and lock doors.

The Stoplight is Almost Here

Yes, all the work at the intersection of 61st and 181st is about the stoplight. A lot of us thought that all they had to do was to put up some wires and attach a stoplight. However, first they had to deal with the stream, which runs along 61st. We all are a bit inconvenienced while 181st is closed to traffic, but at least none of us has to brave trying to cross that intersection. Just think how nice it will be a few months!

In Memoriam

Uplake lost a long time resident in late October with the death of Donald Moore. He and his wife Mary, who survives him, moved into the neighborhood 55 years ago and raised their children, Connie and David, here. Don and his family were some of the original members of Aqua Club. He was an accomplished pianist and would frequently play for local events.

Christmas Ships

The annual parade of Christmas Ships is due in Kenmore at Log Boom Park on Sunday, Dec. 16th from 6:00-6:20 PM. Plan ahead to hear the festive music.



Entertainment Books

Do you want to buy a new Entertainment Book? The cost is \$30 for one and call **Priscilla Droge @ 425-486-4202**. The proceeds will help pay for the redo of the entrance garden on 61st after the construction is finished.

Did You Know?

At the October 2012 UNA Board Meeting, treasurer **Evie Williams**, reported a balance of \$8,924.38. We currently have 134 families (a record number) who have paid their yearly dues.

Entertainment Books

Again the Uplake Neighborhood Association is sponsoring the Holiday Wine Tasting Party. And again **Jon and Rebecca Rader** are lending their support and wine expertise to make our party another success. **Carrie O'Keefe** is heading up the committee and if you can help, call her at 206-898-6224

Join us on Thursday, Dec. 13th and ask your friends to come too even if they don't live in Uplake. The invitation is included with this newsletter

Mailbox Theft Again

Our most persistent neighborhood issue is mail theft, however no one with a locking mailbox has complained about mail theft

Mail theft is on the rise in Uplake, as well as everywhere else it seems. Identity theft may be fueling this increase. You may not be too concerned about it until you go to get your mail one day and the mailbox door is wide open and your box is empty. When the reality of what happened hits you, you may decide to go buy a locking mailbox to help protect your mail from theft. This has been the experience of several of our neighbors including some UNA Board members. We have done some research into locking mailboxes and share the information with you.

It is important to remember what a locking mailbox can and cannot do. No mailbox is truly theft proof and if someone really wants to steal your mail, they will probably find a way. But you can make it more difficult for thieves to steal your mail. Here are some tips to consider:

1. Pick up your mail immediately upon delivery by the mailman (difficult for most of us);
2. Buy a locking mailbox, to help avoid theft;
3. Take your outgoing mail to the Post Office, unless you have a large cluster mailbox, which is more secure than an individual mailbox. If you put up a flag to show you have outgoing mail, you may just be sending a message to a thief to look in your mailbox.
4. Add a video security camera system to your home, and have one camera aimed at your mailbox, to see who is accessing it;
5. Have your neighbors keep an eye on each other's mailboxes to look for unauthorized access;
6. Sign up for electronic delivery of credit card or bank statements, bills or checks and have payments made to your bank account by direct deposit;
7. Have packages delivered to your work address or to a Post Office Box;
8. Have the Post Office stop your mail if you are on vacation.

What type of mailbox should I get? According to the Bothell Post Office, the USPS allows any mailbox that is stamped "Approved by the Postmaster General."

There are two types of locking mailboxes- large cluster boxes (called CBU) and individual boxes. Each type requires a key to be able to remove the mail. The large cluster box protects outgoing mail while the individual boxes do not. The cluster boxes also have large parcel boxes that avoid trips to the Post Office in Bothell to get parcels. The individual boxes do not require you to get together with your neighbors to buy and install. A large cluster box does however.

Another consideration is that our current mailbox stands may not be large enough to accommodate the new larger individual boxes.

The UNA is not endorsing any specific mailboxes, but instead are just sharing some information we have gathered about locking mailboxes that may be of some help as you do your own research. **Remember that if you want to move your mailbox stand you need to get permission from the Bothell Post Office.**

If you and your neighbors decide to go with a large cluster box know that seven neighbors on NE 183rd ordered their box locally and then had it installed on a concrete pad. The cost of the box and installation divided among the seven families was \$235 each. More specific directions for Cluster Box Units are on our website at uplakekenmore.org. Other neighbors reworked their existing stand so individual boxes would fit.



Examples from our neighborhood on NE 183rd and on 57th NE

Individual locking mailboxes can be purchased at the big box stores like Lowe's and Home Depot who carry a couple of different types of individual locking mailboxes, including the Oasis brand, but not the Mail Boss shown below. We looked there, and also online for information. The three locking mailboxes we list here all look about the same, and range in price from about \$155 to about \$200.

1. MAIL BOSS locking mailbox: locally manufactured in Redmond. Around \$200 (group discounts may be available from manufacturer). Available from manufacturer and from re-sellers listed on its website. The Mail Boss is one reviewer's favorite of this single box style. It seems sturdier and harder to break into. The Mail Boss' website includes links to videos comparing performance of one of its competitors and the Mail Boss.



2. TRAIL MASTER 700. less expensive (around \$155). Several neighbors have this model and have not noticed any mail thefts since installed.



3. OASIS locking mailbox. Just under \$200. Available at box stores. See the Mail Boss website to watch the video.

