February 2012

AAHA 2012 Winter Newsletter

AAHA Website: www.allenbachacres.org

Passing of Homer Lemke

We are sad to report that Homer Lemke passed away on December 22, 2011. Homer was our Landscape Coordinator and the eyes and ears of the AAHA regarding brick wall and landscape issues. He graciously volunteered his time and made sure to attend all Board meetings. He had participated in AAHA Board activities longer than any other member. We will miss him as our Landscape Coordinator. But most of all, we will miss him as our neighbor and friend.

2012 Improvements and Maintenance Coming

The AAHA Board has approved three items to improve and maintain the brick wall surrounding Allenbach Acres. They include removal and replacement of dead trees, placing river rock at the base of the south wall, and power washing. A continuing problem with the south brick wall has been concrete footings. In most cases the concrete is too close to the surface for planting shrubs. Because of the exposed dirt, the bottom of the wall is stained each winter from splashing mud. The river rock will eliminate this mud staining. Power washing will be done after the river rock is placed. There will be no increase in dues to pay for these improvements.

Homeowners Association Needs Volunteers

When you look around Allenbach Acres and compare it to other developments you find a more mature and better maintained area. That is because we take pride in our homes and neighborhood and make sure our property values are maintained. But the quality of our neighborhood is not limited to individual homes. Our brick wall and landscaping are the first impression visitors receive. Our CC&Rs corroborate that impression to those who drive through. There are 170 homes in Allenbach Acres. It takes 7 AAHA Board volunteers to maintain this impression of quality. Among their duties are participation in Board meetings, arranging for maintenance and improvements, holding annual elections, assessing and collecting dues, developing and maintaining budgets, handling homeowner complaints, etc. If you have a sincere interest in the quality of the AAHA neighborhood, and have some time, please consider become an AAHA volunteer. Come to a Board meeting or contact a Board member if you would like to help.

Leash Law

It is against the law to allow your dog to run at large. People are often confused by exactly what the law does, and doesn’t, allow owners to do. A “dog at large,” is defined as a dog that is off or outside of the premises of its owner, not restrained by a leash or other similar means; or not under the immediate control, restraint or command of its owner. If a dog is not restrained by a leash or tether of some kind, is not at heel, or not a working dog in the field, the dog is considered to be “at large.” Dogs are permitted to run inside an approved off-leash park. For information on additional laws regarding pets visit: www.co.washington.or.us/hhs/animalservices/animalcontrol/laws-to-know.cfm.
The AAHA Board would like to publish a newsletter each quarter. If you have an interest in preparing the newsletter, you are sorely needed. Please contact one of the Board members if interested.

Dues are payable no later than March 15, 2012. A $10.00 late fee will be assessed payments mailed after the cutoff date. Collection procedures are published in the AAHA website.

Paint colors and roofing materials must be approved by the AAHA Board. Authorized roofing materials and colors are published in the AAHA web site. Garbage receptacles must be placed out of site from the street after garbage collection.

Paragraph 3 of the AAHA Board Policies has been eliminated. The Allenbach Acres CC&Rs, Bylaws, and Board Policies are published on the AAHA Website at www.allenbachacres.org.

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Neighborhood Watch is one of the oldest and most effective crime prevention programs in the country, bringing citizens together with law enforcement to deter crime and make communities safer. Sponsored by National Sheriff’s Association, Neighborhood Watch can trace its roots back to the days of colonial settlements, when night watchmen patrolled the streets. The modern version of Neighborhood Watch was developed in 1972 as a response to request from the sheriffs and police chiefs who were looking for a crime prevention program that would involve citizens and address an increasing number of burglaries.

Neighborhood Watch has been active in Washington County for many years now. It has been an effective tool to enhance safety and foster a sense of community in neighborhoods. Neighborhood Watch has helped to draw many diverse people together as they make a commitment to watch out for one another. It gives participants and opportunity to be united in the work of crime prevention and to form a partnership with the Sheriff’s Office to take on neighborhood crime and disorder.

The benefits of having a Neighborhood Watch are improved livability, a team concept of neighbors working together, knowing your neighbors and looking out for one another, improved home security, a partnership with the Sheriff’s Office and a monthly Neighborhood Watch newsletter and crime statistics.

If you are interested in establishing a Neighborhood Watch for Allenbach Acres, please contact Jeff Hull via telephone at 503-522-0886 or via e-mail at jjhull11@yahoo.com

Don’t Forget to Vote for AAHA Board Members

Your dues envelope came with a ballot for selecting the new 2012 AAHA Board. Please take the time to vote. Return the completed ballot with your dues payment in the postage paid envelope provided.