

Sunset Cove Newsletter

Board Bits

Broken Trees

As many of you are aware, the Sunset Cove community had a little problem with tree vandalism this past winter.

We are happy to report that the Anacortes Police Department is truly there when you need them! They took our problem of broken tree branches seriously, and devoted a number of man-hours to solving the case.

In addition, Sergeant Lou D'Amelio was a guest speaker at our Annual Meeting in January, and gave us several thought provoking tips about general safety.

Thank you, APD and Sgt. D'Amelio, for your continued diligence!

Annual Picnic

It's early yet, but it should be enough lead time for you to mark your calendars for this year's annual picnic.

We're going to move back to Washington Park for the sake of the youngsters and the great playground equipment. More details will follow in the summer newsletter, but get your pencils out NOW and mark Saturday, **September 10th**, as the date for good-neighbor mingling and the usual gastronomic delights!

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2011 Board of Directors

At the January Annual Meeting, the new slate of Board of Directors were approved. The positions have been sorted out as follows:

- President, Paul Allen (term ends 12/31/11).
- Vice President, and Audit Committee Chair, Ted Filler (term ends 12/31/11).
- Secretary and Treasurer, Jackie Etsell (term ends 12/31/12).
- Architectural Review Committee Chair, Don Berg, (term ends 12/31/12).
- Publicity Committee Chair, Jim Nelson (term ends

12/31/11).

- Landscape Committee Chair, Barbara Ballentine (term ends 12/31/12).

Welcome aboard, and thank you to all of you! To contact the board members by e-mail:

board@sunsetcove.org

Monthly board meetings are held at the Anacortes Public Library, Community Meeting Room, at 7 p.m. The next few meetings are scheduled on the following dates:

- Tuesday, April 26
- Thursday, May 19
- Thursday, June 16

Although these are working meetings of the Board, the community is invited and encouraged to attend. Contact Board President Paul Allen if you have any business to bring to the attention of the Board.

Always double-check the website for meeting reminders and other information.

www.sunsetcove.org

Please note: the Board represents each and every home owner (or lot owner), so please bring your thoughts, suggestions, ideas, and/or concerns to our attention. If we don't know, we can't help!

Thanks!!!

The Flounder Bay Railroad

By Rick Etsell

Most of our residents are familiar with the City of Anacortes easement that runs along the Guemes Channel shoreline below our development. But what of it's history? The story is related to another prominent landmark in the area, the large shed building near Skyline Marina.

That shed was originally built in 1923 for the E. K. Wood Mill, which was built for cutting large beams and was the largest mill on the island at the time. Flounder Bay, where the marina is now, was a semi-marsh with deeper water at the west end, and marshlands to the east. A channel entrance was at the west end, not the east end as it is today. (There are still piling ruins in Burrows Bay where the pier used to be.) Logs were brought in and anchored in Burrows Bay, until ready for the sawmill. The shed was used for drying the cut beams, then they were shipped out by rail.

The railroad connection ran north across the low land separating Flounder Bay from Sunset Beach, then followed the waterfront all the way into Anacortes where it connected with the Northern Pacific Railway. The notch below our development was cut to allow the connection. From the park at Sunset Beach there is still a flat road-like path following the waterfront for a ways.

I've walked the waterfront from Sunset Beach to the ferry terminal, and although you can tell that the terrain has been leveled for the rail line, there is only one very small section of rail still visible. It is at Sunset Beach, near the children's playground. If you look for it, there are two ends of the rail line, protruding through the grass. (Visible at the bottom of the photo at right.)



At left, an excerpt from Bret Lunsford's book, "Images of America/Anacortes", Arcadia Publishing, 2009.

At present-day Skyline, Henry Havekost and the Northern Pacific Railroad built the Burrows Bay Hotel here in the 1890s. By 1914, Fred Wood had acquired the land for the largest mill on Fidalgo Island, which began sawing in 1923. The lagoon held thousands of logs, and a 1,500-foot dock fit three timber ships at once. The E. K. Wood mill sold to Walton in 1941 and closed in 1952. (Courtesy of the Anacortes Museum.)

Upcoming Area Events

Some of the many activities in our community this spring:

- **Skagit Valley Tulip Festival**, April 1-30, Skagit Valley; tours and flowers galore! (www.tulipfestival.org)
- **Anacortes Annual Quilt Walk**, April 1-30, downtown Anacortes; 360.293.0622 for more info.
- **8th Annual Garden Art Fair**, April 30-May 1, 10am to 5pm, at the Depot Arts Center, Anacortes; demos, garden art, plants, products, food, etc.; 360.293.3663 for more info or www.depotartscenter.org
- **Trawler Fest**, May 12-14 Cap Sante Marina, Anacortes; seminars and boat show; (www.trawlerfest.com)
- **Anacortes Waterfront Festival**, May 21-22, 10am to 5pm, Cap Sante Marina, Anacortes; 360.293.7911; (www.anacortes.org)
- **Bark in the Park Dog Festival**, June 11, 10am to 3pm, Storvik Park, 32nd Street, Anacortes; dog contests, games, demos, and more! For more info, 360.293.1918.
- **What the Heck Fest**, July 15-17, various times and venues around Anacortes. Features many exciting young bands from local labels. For tickets and more info, please visit www.whattheheckfest.com.
- **Shipwreck Day**, July 16, 8am-4pm, downtown Anacortes; flea market time!
- **San Juan Island Summer Arts Fair & Lavender Festival**, July 16 (10am-5pm) & July 17 (10am-4pm), Friday Harbor; arts, crafts, & food for sale. (www.sanjuanisland.org)
- **50th Annual Anacortes Arts Festival**, August 5-7, 10am-6pm, downtown Anacortes; arts, crafts, demos, music, & food! Family fun for everyone! www.anacortesartsfestival.com

Neighborhood Notes

- Congratulations to neighbors **Sharron Baggs** and **Barbara Ballentine** for stepping up and applying for the recent City Council vacancy. We are very proud of you both! There were seven other candidates so the competition was very intense, and unfortunately two other candidates were chosen as finalists. We'll be on the lookout for yard signs for you next fall!
- Congratulations also to **Patrick Harrington**, neighbor and Anacortes Middle School principal who led the school to be recognized as one of the 5 percent highest improving schools in student achievement in the state in 2010. Way to go!
- Meanwhile, back to mundane items, the Anacortes Solid Waste crew reminds us to put our garbage in bags that are tied shut before they are placed in the cans and set out for pick-up. This also keeps the garbage from blowing around.
- The free **Spring Clean-Up** is **April 9 from 9am until 3pm** at the City Operations Facility at 37th Street and D Avenue. On that day only, they will be accepting the **FREE** disposal of residential-only refuse and yard waste (all garbage must be bagged or bundled). Quantities are limited to one load per household.
- Speaking of cleaning up ... everyone will thank you, so please clean up after your dog, who is of course on a leash at all times.
- The **Anacortes Senior College** has been in full swing this winter and spring, with many classes offered. The Joy of Science, A Study of Three Operas, Gardening & Landscaping Basics, and Writing Haiku are some of the many topics. For the schedule and more info, go to www.seniorcollege.org.
- If you have received this newsletter via regular mail, this means we do not have an email address on file for you. Please contact rick@etsell.com with your email address, either new or changed, so we may update our records.
- The "secret" password to the documents section of the Sunset Cove website is **ssc98221** (lower case letters). You'll find the minutes of the Board meetings, past newsletters, both sets of CC&R's, the by-laws, and other info.



Sunset Cove Homeowners
Association
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Publicity Committee
Newsletter Editor: Jackie Etsell



Sunset Cove HOA:

Located in Anacortes, Washington, at the western end of Fidalgo Island, Sunset Cove is uniquely situated with views of the San Juan Islands, Rosario Strait, and Burrows Bay, and enjoys the privilege of adjoining beautiful Washington Park, with miles of beaches, trails, and picnic and camping sites.

The Sunset Cove community consists of Washington Park Estates (homes along Washington Boulevard), Sunset Cove Estates (homes along Washington Court), and The Crest and The Gardens at Sunset Cove (condominiums and town-homes).

Welcome to all our neighbors, new, "established", and those who haven't moved here yet!