

Fall / Winter
2010 / 2011



MARINE HILLS ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL COMMITTEE

The Covenant Courier

Marine Hills Neighborhood Block Watch Meeting Held

On the warm evening of August 24, the Federal Way Police Department provided a very interesting and informative presentation to 124 residents of Marine Hills in the courtyard of Nautilus Elementary School. Handouts were provided to residents, upon entering the meeting that included Crime Statistics in Marine Hills, Animal Services information, Home Security Checklist, ideas to prevent theft from your vehicle, personal safety while at home, driving walking or jogging, at work or social occasions. A very helpful 36 page booklet on "Crime prevention for Everyone" was also available that includes ideas on Block Watch, Home Security, Disaster Preparedness, Terrorism, Personal and Fire Safety, 911 etc. The evening began with a brief talk by the Federal Way Police Animal Services covered control of pets and who to call if animals are seen running loose within the neighborhood.

Then Lindsey Tiroux, Crime Analyst & Prevention Specialist with the Federal Way Police Dept., reviewed and answered questions on the crime statistics within Marine Hills and the

2009 and 2010 Aug YTD statistics. Many residents had questions regarding incidents or suspicious activity within the neighborhood. There were some very useful crime reduction tips provided by Lindsey in response to these questions. The main points that she focused on were to be **Vigilant and Alert** about your surroundings. When there is anything that raises our suspicion of unknown people or vehicles in the neighborhood, we should not hesitate to call 911 immediately. It is better to overreact than do nothing. She also focused on the High importance of a **Locking Mailbox**, mentioning at least 3 times during the meeting that if you do not already use a locking mailbox to get one soon as the frequency of mail theft from unlocking boxes has increased recently. Hopefully residents were able to obtain some beneficial information from this presentation, which will allow us to live in a safer neighborhood in the future.



ENCOMIUM

Marine Hills residents' efforts to improve and maintain their respective properties in aesthetically pleasing presentations within the spirit of the covenants, is most laudable. During the course of the Marine Hills Architectural Control Committee's biannual property monitor drive-arounds of the neighborhood, many properties that have been well-maintained or dramatically improved in appearance were evident. The vast majority of these Marine Hills properties with excellent street appeal have been improved and maintained by the residents with little or no prompting from the Marine Hills Architectural Control Committee. A few other properties in Marine Hills have also been improved in appearance with some encouragement from the Marine Hills Architectural Control Committee. To all of these Marine Hills residents that truly understand how special and unique Marine Hills is and do their individual parts to keep our neighborhood the "Gem of the South End", we, of the Marine Hills Architectural Control Committee extend our sincerest appreciation.

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Accounting, Balance Sheet 2010

TODAY'S DATE IS 11/10/2010

DATE OF LAST ENTRY IN THIS WORKSHEET 11/05/2010

MARINE HILLS ARCHETECTURAL CONTROL COMMITTEE ANNUAL FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR 2010

Sources of Income	Dollars
Beginning Balance, January 1, 2010	5,054.06
Contributions 2010	5,052.66
Other income	12.66
Total income	10,119.38
Expenses	
Dash Point, Maintenance, Projects, Entrance Gardens	1,975.63
Liability Insurance	1,190.00
Newsletters & Directory incl. Printing and Mailing	553.13
Office Supplies, Copying and Mailing	302.94
Post Office Box Rental	0.00
Safe Deposit box rental	65.00
Web site	0.00
Other	0.00
Total expenses	4,086.70
Balance as of last entry in this worksheet	6,032.68
Expenses	Percent
Dash Point, Maintenance, Projects, Entrance Gardens	48.3
Liability Insurance	29.1
Newsletters & Directory incl. Printing and Mailing	13.5
Office Supplies, Copying and Mailing	7.4
Post Office Box Rental	0.0
Safe Deposit box rental	1.6
Web site	0.0
Other	0.0
Total expenses	100.0

FINALLY!!

A Way to Handle Barking Dogs



For as long as we can remember, dealing with barking dog problems has been a convoluted, troublesome problem here in Marine Hills. It appears that help is right around the corner thanks to a new program launched in July 2010 by the City of Federal Way's revised Code 9.15.080, coordinated by Kelly Crouch and run out of the Federal Way Police Department.

The new code says "An animal which howls, yelps, whines, barks, or makes other oral noises, in such a manner as to disturb any person or neighborhood to an unreasonable degree, is a public nuisance." The owners can receive a civil infraction costing \$100 to \$300, depending upon the severity of the offense.

You can visit the City's website: www.cityoffederalway.com to learn about enrolling in the City's e-subscribe bulletin.

Some tips for dog owners to address a dog that has taken to barking frequently: Spay or neuter the dog. Invest in dog obedience classes. Exercise the dog. Include the dog in family events as dogs don't like being alone or excluded. Visit a veterinarian. Invest in quality dog food. Consider a dog behavior trainer. Keep the dog inside at night. Block visual stimulation. Don't rule out an anti-bark collar.

If all else fails call 253-835-7387 (PETS) for information about pet services. Believe it or not, you will get a lot of helpful information and a way to talk to a real person.

Hanging Basket and Container Tips

Every year as mid-summer approaches, and all of the annuals start to bloom, I get many comments and questions about my hanging basket and container planting practices. I would like to share some tips and methods I use. I'll cover hanging basket information first, and then add a few comments about containers.

Select an adequate size container for hanging baskets. I like to use a container that will hold about 1 cubic foot of soil. Wood containers are my preference. This large size container is hard to find. Most people use these containers as deck planters but they make excellent hanging baskets. These pots can have as many as ten sides. I begin by cutting a 2" diameter hole in each of the surfaces. Stagger the holes from top to bottom as you cut around the pot. A 2" hole saw works perfectly to accomplish this.

Soil selection is important for containers. I use Miracle Gro soil with moisture control granules in all of my pots. This product has polymers in it. Polymers collect moisture and hold it in a "dry" state. As the plants start to require moisture during a hot day, the polymers release the moisture to the plants. The plants will rarely exhibit stress if properly watered.

The fun decision is plant selection. Once you have determined the exposure, sun or shade, you will be able to select the appropriate plants. Color selection is not important because all colors in nature blend well together. Experiment with different combinations. Start shopping for your plants early in the season, usually early to mid-April. I buy cutting propagated plants in 2 1/4th pots. These plants will be a little more costly but their performance far outweighs the expense. Once I have accumulated my plants I spray them with a fungicide to help prevent diseases.

Start your planting around mid-April. If you start any earlier you run the risk of cold weather or frost harming the plants. Water the plants well before you start. Begin by adding soil in the bottom of the pot and compacting it. As the soil level reaches each planting hole, stuff a plant into it. It will be necessary to reform the root of the plant to get it to fit into the hole. Keep repeating this process until the pot is filled to about 1 1/2" of the top. Plant a plant in each of the "corners" in the top of the container. A container with 8 sides should have 16 plants in it. I use as many as 6 different types of plants in a container. Rotate the plants as

you plant to get an even disbursement throughout the pot. Apply a liberal amount of Osmocote fertilizer in the top of the pot and puddle it in.

I hang all of my hanging baskets on swivels. Why? You may ask. The answer is that Monday is basket turning day. Each Monday I rotate my baskets 180 degrees. This practice allows all the plants to get a uniform amount of light and keeps the basket even and balanced. This may sound simple but believe me it works.

Watering in the early season is very important. Water only when the basket needs it. You can tell if the basket needs water by slightly lifting it. Only apply water if the basket is "light". It is extremely important to not over water in the early spring. As the weather warms and the baskets grow in size daily watering is necessary. Apply a liquid fertilizer every two weeks. Annuals will grow vigorously throughout the season when heavily fertilized. Early morning watering is preferable. A drip system will cut down on the amount of maintenance time.

Plant selection:

Mostly shade: fuchsia, bacopa, brachyscome, new varieties of cutting lobelia

Partial sun: bacopa, brachyscome, new varieties of cutting lobelia, calibrachoa.

Full sun: bacopa, brachyscome, new varieties of cutting lobelia, calibrachoa, wave petunia, geranium.

Happy Gardening!

P.S. In my wanderings around a local home center that starts with "L", I discovered some 14 centimeter plus sized tulip bulbs. I haven't seen this huge size of tulip bulb in years. I highly recommend them. They will reward you with the largest sized bloom imaginable in the spring.



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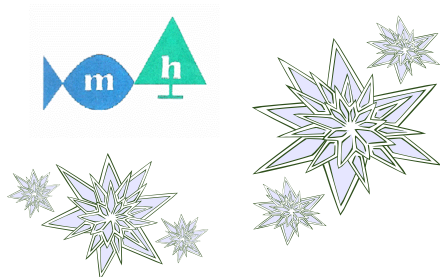
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Upgrade of 11th Place South Entrance

A long-awaited transformation and upgrade of the 11th Place South Entrance to Marine Hills has been accomplished through the outstanding and determined leadership of Dan and Diane McClary. Spearheaded by Diane McClary with a letter to the Marine Hills Architectural Control Committee on the last day of August 2010 listing the expenses to be incurred for the entrance upgrade, the results of this voluntary project became immediately evident to passers-by who freely dispensed praise and appreciation for the effort.

Recognition is extended to Gigi Sather for her inimitable powers of persuasion in discussion with the homeowners adjoining the Marine Hills entrance area to secure a connection to their water line and to the homeowners (Eric Nussle) for cooperating in this project. Dan McClary deserves special recognition for installing and connecting the sprinkler system which will serve the newly-prepared entrance area. Other individuals who will maintain the 11th Place South Entrance as volunteers in the future include Gigi Sather, Rosalie Buchanan, Bart Turchin and Sally and Phillip Sell.



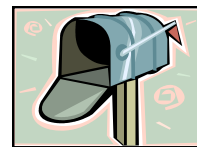
MAILBOX THIEVES STRIKE AGAIN

Our intrepid Mailman Steve Pizana, who thwarted mailbox thieves last Spring, as reported in the Spring/Summer 2010 Covenant Courier Newsletter, said that another brazen attack on unlocked mailboxes in central Marine Hills occurred in mid-October.

Last August, Ms. Lindsey Tiroux, Crime Prevention Specialist for the City of Federal Way, spoke to over one hundred twenty-five (125) Marine Hills residents of the need for everyone to have a locking mailbox as mail theft and ID fraud

are rampant. Steve provided a flyer on Post Office collaborator Mail Safe Locking Mailboxes, LLC that is "one stop-shop" service to assist residents with all the steps to quickly obtain and install individual and cluster box units.

Call 206-818-6902 or email: www.themailboxguy.com. The Marine Hills Architectural Control Committee strongly recommends that you "just do it" to help make our neighborhood safer from the bad guys.



Anti-Solicitation Signs for Marine Hills

On 20 October 2010, Messrs. Jim Simpson and Joe Wendlick visited the Federal Way Police Department on behalf of the Marine Hills Architectural Control Committee to inquire about their rules, regulations and enforcement of anti-solicitation in neighborhoods such as Marine Hills. Further, it was hoped that anti-solicitation signs were available from the City of Federal Way to discourage unwanted door-to-door solicitors in the neighborhood.

The two (2) members of the Marine Hills Architectural Control Committee met with Ms. Lindsey Tiroux, Crime Analyst and Prevention Specialist for the Federal Way Police Department, and learned that the City of Federal Way has no enforceable regulations against solicitors and therefore, no signs that could be posted at our entrances to put solicitors on notice that they're not welcome in Marine Hills. Nevertheless, Ms. Tiroux indicated that if we found anti-solicitation signs at a local hardware store, we could post such signs as long as they weren't **on or de-**

tracted from city or county signs. *When appropriate anti-solicitation signs are found, they will be posted at all Marine Hills entrances.*

Also discussed during the visit were the City of Federal Way's Block Watch signs. Old Block Watch Signs are currently posted in Marine Hills at the following locations:

South 299th Place and 11th Place South
South 289th Street and 5th Avenue South
South Marine Hills Way and 8th Avenue South
South 293rd Street and 7th Place South
South 295th Place and 9th Place South
Dash Point Road and 9th Place South

Two (2) new Block Watch Signs have been placed at:

South 288th Street and 7th Avenue South
11th Avenue South and South 286th Street