



Great Turn out at Town Hall Meeting

There was a great turn out for the Saturday, November 21st, town hall meeting with Council.

The discussion was a planning workshop on community improvement projects, with a focus on the 3-10 year future of Sonoma Pines.

There was plenty of discussion on not only the potential projects that were reviewed, but on the process to determine priorities and, if and when the community should take on higher strata fees to fund the projects.

In the end the consensus of the meeting came to something like this: we would like to see a survey of residents allowing them to prioritize the projects on the basis of 1 to 4, 1 being "for urgent attention and implementation" and 4 being "take it off the list". We should also attempt to see what percentage of people in the community would use any new facilities.

There were many nodding heads when one homeowner expressed the opinion that they had purchased in the community because of the original plan and were not interested in expanding that plan if it were to add to additional fees. Others mentioned the importance of making sure current operational issues



Town Hall Meeting - Saturday, November 21, 2015

such as irrigation and our depreciation funding is accurately reflected in our budget before taking on more projects.

Council President Rob Taylor noted that our depreciation report reflects the capital funding needed to maintain the value of the investment in our homes and the associated costs are included in our current strata fees. He noted that long term planning to improve our community increases the overall strength of our community to meet the changing values of homeowners and ensures Sonoma Pines remains one of the most prestigious communities in the valley.

One request was for council to have Rykon remove all the marketing signs within Sonoma Pines since there are no longer any homes left to sell. This will be tabled at our next council meeting.

One item that came as a bit of a surprise to homeowners living higher up in the community were the issues with parking

and partying at the turnaround outside the lower gate. The value of these get together is to hear what our neighbours have to say and it was an hour and a half well spent.

For a complete list of the projects that have been brought up in the two planning sessions so far please go to: www.sonomapines.ca.

Changes in APM

Effective immediately our property management contact within APM has been changed to Kevin Jersey. This is a result of an ongoing escalation by the Sonoma Pines Council regarding the inability of Greg Bickert to meet our service levels.

The new team has 4 resources to address the needs of Sonoma Pines. The email contact to APM will remain the same through sonomapines@associatedpm.ca

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Sonoma Pines Website and Sonoma Sun Newsletter

www.sonomapines.info

You can check here for most recent articles on the community, back issues of the newsletter, or copies of Council minutes and financial statements. Some pages are password protected so use sonomapines and you should be fine. If there is something that you would like to see on the site or in the Newsletter please email us at sonomapinesnews@gmail.com.



Changes in APM Cont'd from page 1

and we can expect our service level expectations to be met if not exceeded. A few of the key service level expectations we have of APM:

- Response time to Homeowners email or phone call within 48 business hours.
- Response time to council & committee chairs within 24 business hours.
- Council minutes within 48 business hours and distribution to homeowners with 1 week.
- Alteration Request decisions to homeowners within 24 business hours of council meetings.
- All hotlist action items are maintained and updated at council meetings.

It is critical that APM be effective as our operations manager to allow council to focus on the upcoming transition from Carrington. Council feels the changes reflect a positive commitment by APM as our operations manager in servicing Sonoma Pines. This will allow council to address a number of critical transition related projects including an updated strata fee model, bylaw changes and a new organizational structure. Future town hall meetings will be scheduled to provide an opportunity for everyone to understand these changes.

If you have any concerns or questions please contact any of your Sonoma Pines councillors.

Rob Taylor

THE BUZZ

Council members got a bit of a scare recently when perusing the financials. Initially it looked like we were headed for a deficit this fiscal year. The good news is that after members of the finance committee took a closer look at the numbers, and some quizzing of the various committees on their spending plans, we should finish the year on budget. (Providing of course no big surprises from the snow man.)

Council update

Sonoma Pines council meetings are held the first Thursday of each month and residents are welcome to attend. The protocol of these council meetings is the same as any Municipal council meeting in that once in session the agenda drives the meetings and only councillors and management are recognized and able to participate. Residents are welcome to address council by requesting to be on the agenda (email to: sonomapines@associatedpm.ca a couple of days in advance) and 10 minutes will be allocated to you at the beginning of the meeting.

SOMOMA PINES SNOWSHOE GROUP



It's that time of year again!!

Come on out and join us for some winter fun.

If you are a veteran snowshoer or a novice or if you just want more info, join us at an organizational meeting of the SP Snowshoers.

December 7, 2015 7:00pm at the SP Clubhouse

Bring your questions and your neighbours to meet others snowshoers from SP

Cheers, George

gfsquaredf@gmail.com

[778 214-6002](tel:7782146002)

If you are interested in past copies of the Newsletter or more information on

The Sonoma Pines Community please check out the website at: sonomapines.info

Letters



Please send your comments and letters to

sonomapinesnews@gmail.com



SUDS CLUB (SP, Craft beer tasting club)

The second meeting of the SP Suds Club found us sampling the elusive Extra

Special Bitters (ESB). It was a challenge for some to locate this traditional UK beer in our local retail outlets but alas everyone persevered and provided an offering.

ESB - a variation on British "Bitters" should be well balanced with both malt and hops being distinguishable. Gold or copper in colour with a dry, clean finish.

The evenings tastings were book-ended with Arrowhead Brewing Co of Invermere BC's "Doc Tegart's ESB". This 6.5% abv strong beer with a notable floral flavour was not what we expected given the description of ESB. It was also noted how the flavour of this beer changed from the first tasting of the evening to the last tasting. Apparently tasting 3 other more well balanced beers had a not so positive impact on the taste of this ESB.

A traditional bitters was next, "Directors ESTD 1787", brewed in the UK by Courage Brewing....this must be the standard because of it's origin. 4.5% abv, dark gold in colour and drinkable.

Phillips Brewing "Blood Alley Bitter" and Bomber Brewing "ESB" from Surrey and Vancouver BC respectively rounded out the tastings. Surprisingly these two were very similar in taste and seemed to be the consensus easiest drinking and most well balanced of the evening samples. Followed closely by the traditional UK variety.

Please join us next time, Wednesday Dec 9, 2015 in the SP Clubhouse at 7:00 pm when we will once again put our seasonal taste buds to the test on "Winter Ale". You are requested to provide a 650ml or 2 x 340ml of Winter Ale to share with others.

Hope to see you then. Cheers, George



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Haiti Bound

Sonoma Pines residents, Debbie and Gerry Tonn, are off to Carries, Haiti at the end of December. Carries is about 1 1/2 hours out of Port-au-Prince. A total of thirty people are going on a mission to help Haitians who are still struggling after the massive earthquake in 2010. Another couple living at SP are going too, Diana and Willie Riewe, and former SP residents Carrie and Roger Liegmann who are Pastors at Westmount Church in West Kelowna.

The "Mission of Grace" where they're headed began only four years ago and is now at the point where on-site there is an orphanage that houses 30 children ages 4 to 13. There is also a baby house that houses babies and toddlers and a teen girls' house where 15 teenage girls reside. As well there is a school (100-150 students), a church and a medical centre.

Across the road from this energetic complex is a large home that is called a resort: that's where the Tonns, Riewes and Liegmanns will stay while they work at the Mission of Grace. Mission teams like our SP residents come from all over the world, paying their own airfare and a reasonable amount for accommodations.

Gerry is retired from the RCMP after 35 years of service. He will be working on building a seniors' home at the complex, and while he says he's not a carpenter or electrician he does have a bit of knowledge about these things and is going to be a willing assistant to those who do. He's probably being modest about his talents I would think. Having lived and worked in all parts of Canada with the RCMP I learned that early on he was a member of our world-famous RCMP Musical Ride. Debbie has much to offer the team as well, having worked in a travel agency, a bank, as a school librarian and a teacher's aid. It is in the school setting that Debbie will probably be giving most of her time. She is also looking forward to a special party night for the teen girls. There's going to be a New Year's Day Dinner for everyone at The Mission of Grace so I think the Tonns will find themselves in the kitchen too!

I asked Gerry if he was taking his guitar along. He's got one all ready to go so there will probably be some singalongs involved.



Debbie and Gerry Tonn

With them in their restricted suitcase allowance the Tonns and the group will be taking 80 or more pairs of shoes, clothes, toothbrushes and as many useful items as they can fit in to give to the Haitian people at The Mission. As Gerry pointed out by taking the items themselves there is no middleman involved so everything they take gets where the need is.

I don't know how much room is left in those bags for any more items but certainly the Tonns will know - one could ask. We at Sonoma Pines wish Debbie and Gerry well in this first trip to Haiti and perhaps we can follow up with some adventure stories and photos later.



Live music - November 6



Markets may change. Good investing advice is timeless.

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NEW

Sonoma Pines Calendar Of Events

NEW

 Calendar click here: <http://www.sonomapines.info/calendar/>

Upcoming Special December Events

Food Bank/Toy Drive

The Sonoma Pines Social Committee will be holding a Food Bank/Toy Drive with all donations going to the Westside Food Bank. Please bring any non-perishable items to the clubhouse where we will have boxes set up in the library. Donations will be accepted up until December 31st. We will also be holding a toy drive and any new, unwrapped toys will also be accepted up until Friday, December 18th. Last year's drive was an outstanding success so let's do it again and make some brighter, merrier Christmases for those less fortunate.



Christmas Happy Hour – Secret Santa Gift Exchange:

Friday December 11th 4pm-7pm. We have decided to make this year's Xmas Happy Hour a little bit more fun by having a Secret Santa Gift Exchange. Just bring a wrapped gift (Limit of \$10 per person) to put under our tree. Ladies please bring a gender appropriate gift and the same for the gentlemen. Please mark the gifts accordingly to make it easier. Come sing-a-long with your favourite Christmas music and enjoy our beautifully decorated clubhouse. We are asking that if possible you bring a donation of non-perishables for the Westside Food bank, or a new unwrapped toy. We will also have door prizes and a beautiful gift basket to raffle off. Please bring an appetizer to share or if you are unable the cost will be \$5.00 per person. No desserts please, the Social Committee will provide the sweets).



New Year's Eve Dance:

Please join your friends and neighbours from 7:30pm-12:30am at the Clubhouse. Your ticket includes hats, noisemakers and some bubbly at midnight.



We ask that you please bring an appetizer to share. Tickets are \$7.50 per person and will be available for sale during Grey Cup Nov 29th and Christmas Happy Hour Dec 11th or by contacting:

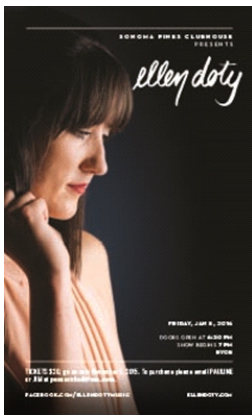
Lorna Wright lorna-wright@shaw.ca or [250-452-9872](tel:250-452-9872) or

Sharon McNichol

mcnicholgs@gmail.com or [78-754-0777](tel:78-754-0777).

Tickets will be limited to the first 80 people. Don't forget to include your phone number in your email.

Ellen Doty Comes To Sonoma Pines



On January 8, 2016 at 7:00 pm Ellen Doty, a soulful Canadian vocalist and songwriter will perform at the Sonoma Pines Clubhouse. Her music is rooted in jazz, yet seamlessly incorporates elements of other genres including folk and pop. Rich, sultry, and sweet, Ellen's voice draws listeners in and takes them on an unforgettable journey. Tickets are \$20.00 per person and will go on sale November 1. Email Pauline at pmarshall@me.com to purchase your tickets. Tickets will also be sold at the Happy Hour in November. Cash only please. BYOB.

Clubhouse Rentals

If you are interested in reserving the Sonoma Pines Clubhouse and require any information please call Tom McEwen at 250-768-3439 or Jean Scheidl at 778-754-1884

Rental Forms and Insurance Information are now on line at

www.sonomapines.info under the Clubhouse tab.

Sonoma Pines Activities & Contacts

Photography Club

Lyle and Karen Larrigan
250-768-2555

heritageimaging@shaw.ca

Quilting

Gaye Hunter at
250 768-0996

Painting Club

Glen Heming
[250-768-0991](tel:250-768-0991)

glenheming@telus.net

Snowshoe Group

George Forshaw
[778 214-6002](tel:778-214-6002)

gfsquaredf@gmail.com

**To place notices, on the Bulletin Board, please contact:
Leslie Asselstine at 778-754-1397 or drop off the item at 2163 Serrento Lane**