



Highlights from February 20 WFN Advisory Council Meeting

Work is now being done on the 2018 – 2019 Local Government Services Budget. Gord Couch made a request for additional Law Enforcement Personnel. No one at the meeting was prepared to argue for an increase in police services. FYI we pay for the 3 Law Enforcement Officers through our property taxes. The 3 RCMP officers assigned to WFN are paid for by the Federal Government. The budget is not finalized yet, but it looks like the average property tax increase in WFN will be 3.4%

On 22 January 2018 formal notice was received by WFN that the Application Plan Amendment and Rezoning for Lot 348-3, associated with the project “Sonoma Greens” has been withdrawn and formally closed. At the meeting Graeme Dimmick, WFN Senior planner made a presentation on the process used by WFN in regards to reviewing and approving zoning change applications. It seemed to me that the majority of the members of the AC were not fully familiar with the process. Graeme also presented a summary of feedback that he had received from homeowners regarding the proposed

rezoning. AC members expressed surprise that if Sonoma Pines residents wanted a round about at the intersection of Butt and Carrington roads, then why were they against the proposal which would have delivered a roundabout.

Graeme did mention that about the time of the withdrawal of the original application, he received a couple of enquiries from other developers, regarding very similar projects.

IN FOCUS: SOCIAL CLUB COMMITTEE

What a delight to re-introduce our Social Club Committee (some oldies and some newbies!) In 2012, before the Clubhouse was finished, there were two planning members **Lorna Wright** and **Sharon McNichol**. Lorna, Sharon and **Jean Scheidl** were also original members. The Board's mandate (special mention to **Tom McEwan**) was to put together a team that would be compatible and work together to plan the Club's many activities including a Clubhouse Committee

for the lower level (fitness room, board room).

In the *December 2013 issue of the Sonoma Pines Sun Newsletter* it was reported that both levels of the Clubhouse had been completed and there was much cause for celebration! Lorna says she really enjoyed outfitting the clubhouse. She is now the Chair of the Social Club Committee and says that this is a great way to meet people and become involved. The role keeps her really busy and the group of ladies she volunteers with has “...helped make Sonoma Pines not just somewhere that we live - but a great community”.

Sharon is thrilled to see a number of new members on the Social Club Committee and she remembers when the original Committee started and introduced so many activities to the residents of Sonoma Pines including Ladies golf.

cont'd on page 3



Sonoma Pines Clubhouse 2012

Inside this Issue

BlockWatch	page 2
Spring Cleaning Tips	page 2
Social Committee cont'd	page 3
Watercolour Workshop	page 4
Sonoma Singles	page 4
Christmas Lights Reminder	page 4

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.



SONOMA PINES NEIGHBOURHOOD BLOCK WATCH PROGRAM UPDATE

Now that the hustle and bustle of the holiday season is over, the winter weather makes you want to stay indoors more. Perhaps take some time to start a new project.

Have you thought about creating a digital photo catalog of all your personal and household items? This will prove to be especially beneficial to police and insurance companies in the unfortunate event of theft, fire, flood or other types of damage. It's easy and only takes a few simple steps:

- o Take photos of your belongings
- o Place a ruler beside items and scale
- o Include photos of any distinguishing marks or features
- o Take photos from different angles
- o Ensure any serial numbers are visible

Store these photos in an online storage database or use a memory stick or external hard drive. Keep in mind that external storage devices should then be kept in a safety deposit box, fireproof safe or at an alternative safe location other than your home.

Target Hardening our Homes:

Often when we talk about Block Watch a common theme for discussion is "Target Hardening". Target hardening is not a difficult task, it isn't an expensive task – but something we need to all do in order for our Neighbourhood Block Watch to be successful and so none of us are a target for property crime predators.

Property Crime is opportunistic. Thieves are looking for ways to score the biggest gain by the least amount of work. This means if we target harden our homes – it is difficult and those nasty thieves will move on. Target hardening could be the physical element of ensuring doors and windows are adequately locked and secured at all times. According to a recent Home Controls Blog, the most common entry points for a residential break in are:

- 34% of the time – the front door
- 23% of the time - a first floor window
- 22% of the time - a back door
- 9% of the time - the garage
- 6% of the time - unlocked storage areas
- 4% of the time - basements
- 2% of the time - second floor windows

Please do your part and ensure these areas are secured using primary and secondary locks, motion sensor lights and you being aware!

Sonoma Pines Neighbourhood Block Watch is neighbours looking after neighbours. They are our best alarm system!

Please call 911 is there is a crime in progress

Please call the RCMP non-emergency number - 250-768-2880 if there is suspicious activity

If your are interested in participating in our Neighbourhood Block Watch Program please email Karen Dickie – Sonoma Pines Neighbourhood Block Watch Committee Chair - karenjdicke@shaw.ca



Spring Cleaning Tips That Really Work!

When it comes to cleaning, there are two things that we every home should have: vinegar and baking soda. While vinegar has some serious cleaning super powers, baking soda is no slouch when it comes to adding sparkle to your home. You might be pleasantly surprised by the many ways baking soda can clean and deodorize everyday items.

WHITE VINEGAR IS AN EFFECTIVE ALL PURPOSE CLEANER: Mix 2 tablespoons of Dawn dish soap with 2 cups of warm water then add 1 cup white vinegar. The solution is now 2 cups water, 2 tablespoons dish soap and 1 cup white vinegar.

SINKS AND COUNTER TOPS: Cleaning with Vinegar: vinegar is an excellent chemical-free, inexpensive cleaning agent. Mix vinegar and baking soda together to create a scrubbing paste for sinks and counter tops.

SHOWERHEAD: Mix a solution of equal parts vinegar and water (about 1 cup),

pour into a plastic bag Put the plastic bag around the showerhead so the holes are immersed in the liquid. Secure the bag to the showerhead shaft with a twist or elastic band. Soak at least 15 to 20 minutes (up to an hour if you can). Remove bag and wipe away loosened deposits, run the shower on hot to flush.

REMOVING MUSTINESS FROM DISH CLOTHS: Add ½ cup white vinegar when washing towels, tea towels, dish cloths and other terry cloth towelling items. This will remove any mildew smell and leave your towels clean and fresh smelling.

FRESHEN PILLOWS: Freshen your pillows every three months to get rid of dust mites, skin cells and body oil. Pop them in the washing machine, low wash and then in the dryer on low heat (drying could take up to an hour).

DISHWASHER: Give your dishwasher a wipe down and run it with vinegar and baking soda once a month to prevent mold and mildew from growing. It'll also wash away any lingering food odors.

Grout

While it seems like tedious work, you can actually scrub your grout nice and clean really easily if you choose the right products. Going for harsh chemicals might seem like the way to go, but you really need to make sure you have proper ventilation when you're tackling a project this big.

really need to make sure you have proper ventilation when you're tackling a project this big.

For that reason, all natural grout cleaners are a great option. They're simple and we guarantee you have 95 percent of these ingredients in your home already. So, what are you waiting for? Check out the list and get started cleaning up your grimy grout:

1. Baking soda

Good old baking soda will do the trick on that stubborn grout. Using a sponge, water and 1/2 a cup of baking soda you can wipe down your grout (or give it a little scrub) to reveal good-as-new grout.

2. Vinegar

For really dark and dirty grout reach for the vinegar. Using a damp sponge, dip it into some full strength white vinegar and wipe your grout up. Then, get in there with baking soda and a toothbrush and start scrubbing. It might be all natural, but this powerful combination will have real results.

Social Club Committee

cont'd from page 1



Social Club Committee members including Lorna, Sharon, Jean

Jean Scheidl recalls that in December 2012 the first event was an Open House to introduce the clubhouse to the community. Since then the Social Club has sponsored many events for the enjoyment and betterment of the residents. Jean joined in order to meet new people and felt the clubhouse was *"...a great venue to bring the residents together"*. She also volunteers as the treasurer and booking agent.



L-R: Dianna, Sandi, Jean

The Social Club Committee prepares and maintains a calendar of programs, activities and events and also evaluates the social activity participation levels and cost effectiveness. They provide information about the Club's activities in the community newsletter, website, and

any other communications required including emails and the bulletin board. On the business-side, the Committee prepares an annual operating budget and makes recommendations to the Clubhouse Management Committee (current position vacant) regarding repairs that may be required, maintenance issues, and proposed capital expenditures. Yes it takes a lot of time and effort to run the Clubhouse!

There are **11 Social Club Committee members**. Ladies (*Lorna, Sharon, Jean, Sandi, Gail, Wendy, Pat, Connie, Heather, Linda, Dianna*) take a bow because you are responsible for providing events, activities and entertainment to Sonoma Pines Homeowners (e.g. the Trivia Nights. What fun!). Every second Friday these ladies host "Happy Hour" as well as monthly events, such as:

Feb – Valentine's Day Pot Luck Dinner

March – St. Patrick's Day Happy Hour

April - Easter Pancake Breakfast and Easter egg Hunt and Spring Fling Potluck Dinner Dance

May – Annual Garage Sale

July – Canada Day Celebrations

August - Hoedown/Potluck dinner Fundraiser

September - Annual Golf Tournament and 50s/ 60s Dinner Dance

October – Annual Oktoberfest

November – Grey Cup Party

December - Christmas Happy Hour/ Secret Santa Gift Exchange and New Year's Eve Party

Another committee member, **Heather Bishop**, said that as a new resident it immediately became clear to her how much community spirit there is in Sonoma Pines. Heather attended a few social events and observed how much work the Social Club Committee does (setting up, organizing 50/50 raffles, cleaning up after events, etc.). She

wanted to be part of this "well-oiled machine" and felt it was somewhere she could volunteer her time, *"... these women are genuine folks whose goal is to bring the Community together and I'm proud to be a part of that team"*.

Dianna Eskildsen retired 5 years ago and moved to Sonoma Pines to be closer to family. Dianna wanted to get involved and meet new people and at a Social Club Committee coffee party she found their enthusiasm contagious and decided to volunteer. She is also one of the booking agents and a Block Watch Captain. Dianna would like to encourage other residents to get involved and contribute to this great community *"...that we are lucky to call home"*.

A newer member of the Committee, **Linda Morris** wanted to volunteer her time to help bring fun events to the Sonoma Pines residents and also to meet new people. She's been welcomed by everyone and is enjoying getting to know all the folks that attend "happy hours" and events! *"Great people make a great community which is why we live here!"* Linda says.

On behalf of the Sonoma Pines Homeowners we'd like to say a huge **THANK YOU** to the Social Club Committee. Job well done!

Help Needed

We need someone to assist with clubhouse rental bookings.

This volunteer position will require some administration and interaction with potential renters of the clubhouse. You can help out your neighbours who would like to rent the clubhouse and assist some of the volunteers who currently look after the bookings. If you have an hour or two a month and are interested please contact Jean at scheidls@telus.net

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Sonoma Pines Calendar Of Events

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

Spring Cleaning Tips cont'd

3. Fight mold with hydrogen peroxide

If you have a mold problem in your grout, say in the bathroom, this is the solution you're looking for. Wellness Mama says you should take 1 part Hydrogen Peroxide (3%) and 1 part water and combine it in a spray bottle. Spray over the grout and let it sit for about 45 minutes to an hour. After that rinse it and reveal clean grout.

4. Salt

Salt has antibacterial properties, so it's great for disinfecting, cleaning and scrubbing that stubbornly dark grout. In fact, the salt will literally suck the water out of the mold and kill it all together. Simply rub it into the grout with a damp cloth, let it sit overnight and then next day it will reveal a cleaner grout. (use a coarse salt, like Epsom salts)

5. Citric acid

You're probably already aware that citric acid helps lighten things -- like when it's used in beauty products to help fade dark spots. Well, Natural Living Ideas says you can use it for your dirty grout, too. The acid will kill off any mold and mildew, but if you really want to get a clean look mix it with some baking soda when you rub it in.

6. Borax

Borax works similar to baking soda in the sense that it cleans, disinfects and deodorizes. So, use some of this natural mineral product like you would baking soda -- rubbing it into the grout with a damp cloth -- to make it look good as new.

7. Steam clean

Now, steam cleaning won't lighten your dirty grout, but it will disinfect it and loosen any dirt that has gotten trapped. This is a great all natural solution that will help get rid of germs and mold and make it easier to use any of the lightening or cleaning solutions above.

8. Liquid Castille soap

This all-natural soap is made from plants, so no harsh chemicals here. Use the liquid version mixed with water and baking soda to disinfect and lighten up your grout. This is a great all-purpose investment you can use to clean many parts of your home.



Watercolour Basics Workshop

Glen Heming is going to teach a

Watercolor Basics class every Tuesday morning 9:00 to noon starting April 10, 2018 upstairs in the Ballroom Room at the clubhouse. He will start with the basics of paper, paints and brushes. This will be followed by each participant learning to control the watercolor media, wet in wet techniques, composition and perspective. Painting is learned by doing so much of the class will be exercises to enhance the students understanding of watercolor artwork creation.

The class is free but participants will need to supply their own paper, brushes and paint. A recommended material list will be supplied to all who register. Due to classroom size, registration will be limited to the first 12 people. If you are interested in registering or have questions, please contact Glen directly at glenheming@telus.net or 250-900-9989

Sonoma Singles

Join our new "Sonoma Pines Singles Social Group" and find out what shared interests we may have in common. Our next meeting is 1:00 Wednesday March 7, 2018 at our Club House in the boardroom (downstairs). Bring your ideas and interests to share. Let's have some fun. If you are interested contact:

Darlene Warner

dswarner@shaw.ca 250-768-5618

or

Janet Cowper

cowperjm@gmail.com 250-768-0320

Sonoma Pines Activities & Contacts

Quilting

Wendy MacLeod 250-899-1013

wendyjmac@gmail.com

Painting Club

Glen Heming 250-768-0991

glenheming@telus.net

Clubhouse Rentals

If you are interested in reserving the Sonoma Pines Clubhouse and require any information please call Jean Scheidl at 778-754-1884

Rental Forms and Insurance Information are now on line at www.sonomapines.info under the Clubhouse tab.

Letters



Please send your comments and letters to sonomapinesnews@gmail.com

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



Christmas Lights

A friendly reminder that all of our Christmas lights need to be removed by March 31. Christmas lights and decorations may only be illuminated between November 15th and January 31st. Thank You

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