



Board Vacancies 2018

Our 2018 Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday May 31. Notification for the meeting will be emailed to homeowners in May.

In addition to voting approval of the coming year's budget, another important item of business will be to fill the 7 positions on the SPHOM Board of Directors. The Board manages the business of the community and assures that the decisions made are fair and for the benefit of the overall community.

Committee members are also needed for the various committees that help planning community operations. You will find this a rewarding contribution to your community and your special skills will be very much appreciated. For more information please contact any of the current Board members for further information:

Bryon Dickie 250-864-1040
Brenda Evans 403-803-4334
David Reid 250-826-3751
John Scott 250-681-5681
Bob Scruton 250-707-4677



**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR**

Annual General Meeting
Thursday, May 31

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Marmot Trapping

At the end of March, Pete Wise, our marmot trapper, will be in the neighbourhood on a regular basis baiting and setting traps. He will not be setting traps randomly but based on homeowner sightings. In order to do the most effective job possible, Pete asks for homeowner's cooperation in the following ways:

- If you see a Marmot please identify the location where it is coming out of a hole or between some rocks. This is probably where its den is located and the best position for a trap.
- If Pete places a trap near your home, please leave it alone- do not move it. We are spending a lot of money for this service and we should let the experts do what they do best.
- If you see a Marmot in a trap leave it in the trap. They will come and pick up the trap with the Marmot and live release the animal far from here. If you see a Marmot in a trap and it is in direct sunlight you may move the trap to the shade- just make sure you email or text Pete to let him know. He will come to pick up the Marmot.



- Reports of a Marmot running down your street don't do Pete a lot of good so here's what we would like you to do.

Try to determine where the Marmot's hole or where he is entering the rock wall and send that information via email to Pete; i.e. there is a Marmot behind my house at 3821 Alvarado Trail. He seems to come from the rock wall behind my house or he has a den near the northeast corner of my house.

Please supply your address and phone number. Pete will call you if he needs more information.

Send emails to

sonomapinesmarmots@gmail.com

Send text messages to 250-503-7151.

Thanks

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.



SP NEIGHBOURHOOD BLOCK WATCH PROGRAM UPDATE

Our update this month has an important message we'd like to share from the Sonoma Pines Neighbourhood Block Watch team.

It's that time of the year again, tax return season, when we all need to be on guard and be aware of potential **Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) scams**.

Taxpayers should be extra vigilant when they receive, either by telephone, mail, text message or email, a fraudulent communication that claims to be from the **Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)**

These messages request your personal information such as a social insurance numbers, credit card numbers, bank account numbers, or your passport number.

These scams may insist that this personal information is needed so that you the taxpayer can receive a **refund** or a **benefit payment**.

Cases of fraudulent communication could also involve threatening or coercive language to scare individuals into **paying a fictitious debt** to the **CRA**.

Other communications urge taxpayers to visit a **fake CRA website** where the taxpayer is then asked to verify their identity by entering personal information.

These are scams and taxpayers should never respond to these fraudulent communications or click on any of the links provided.

THE CANADA REVENUE AGENCY WOULD NEVER ASK FOR THIS TYPE OF INFORMATION.

Keep up all the great work you all do in your Neighbourhoods by keeping Eyes and Ears for our neighbours and the RCMP!

Thank you from the Block Watch Captains and Co-Captains in Sonoma Pines.



Gardeners Corner

Its time to SPRING into action!

The landscape committee has already been busy planning and organizing for the upcoming season of landscaping and watering at Sonoma Pines.

We would like to welcome Gary Sears, John Fawcett and Brent Voss who have joined the group to help with irrigation and landscaping.

The Red Stake program will be active again this year. By displaying a red stake in your yard, you are asking the landscape crew to not trim your shrubs and perennials during the summer trim. Homeowners are reminded to renew their commitment by having a signed form returned to Kanina at the SP office in the Clubhouse by April 15, 2018. Exceptions during the growing season will not be acknowledged.

A reminder to remove the rocks from the tree well in your yard. The rocks heat the soil around the roots during the summer and cause the tree to be constantly under heat stress which leads to disease and decay of the tree.

We are currently developing new protocol for handling concerns and problems with irrigation and landscaping requests. We ask that homeowners be mindful that most of the help is volunteer and that we will endeavour to get your concern or request addressed as soon as possible.

And, of course, we are always looking for volunteers to help with the community. Please remember that the community belongs to all of us and we can all contribute in some way. New ideas are always welcome!

Oval Garden Report

Plans are underway to re-create a portion of the Oval garden into a Xeriscape Garden.

Xeriscape landscaping or, simply, "xeriscaping," by definition, is landscaping designed specifically for areas that are susceptible to drought, or for properties where water conservation is practiced. Not only does this practice save you money, but it can also save your plants, since many a plant is killed through over-watering. Rather, the practice allows you to use a wide variety of attractive plants but insists on common-sense measures that will help conserve water, such as grouping plants with similar water requirements together.

We are planning on being pro-active, demonstrating that by changing the plants in the Oval Garden to some native flowers, grasses and shrubs, it be a benefit to our community. We feel that eventually we will be faced with increased water costs and restrictions. We look forward to presenting the Oval Garden as a new concept in our semi arid climate.

We plan to have the garden planted by the end of May.

As always, we thank the volunteers that help keep our community running smoothly. If you have some spare time, please consider volunteering for one of the committees we have here in Sonoma Pines.



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WFN Advisory Council

Letter from Gord Couch, WFN Advisory Council, 23 March, 2018

John Scott, Chairman Sonoma Pines Community

Good Afternoon John;

I have several pieces of information for your next board meeting:

1. The WFN Advisory Council Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 18 April 2018 from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Notices are being sent out to every property tax paying resident and all are welcome to attend.
2. At our March Advisory Council meeting I put forward the suggestion the Developer Application Process be added to the WFN Website for viewing by the general public. The website itself is undergoing several revisions to make it easier to use and easier to find specific pieces of information. I've not heard any response to my recommendation to this date.
3. The concept of shareholders being made aware of potential development applications will remain unchanged. The present format includes members of the WFN Advisory Council being advised of applications for the development of properties. In special instances WFN already undertakes to notify affected neighbors. You also have me as your community representative with the WFN Advisory Council; and I'm well aware of your interest in these matters.
4. I've put forward your community concerns regarding the tall grass and weed issues in the vacant lots

surrounding the borders of Sonoma Pines. Lot 348-3, the 6-acre lot that borders the Sonoma Pines entrance and the RMD office has been cut double the size of the fire cut required. The company that has leased that property is from Vancouver. A tractor will be sent in to continue to keep the swath between Sonoma's fence and the field cut once there is some growth. Right now, it's as low as it can get. RMD also plans on cutting the entire field by May, once there is some growth. As far as the 22-acre parcel on the other side of the Sonoma Pines entrance that borders Carrington and Sonoma . . . WFN have provided a large swath of fire protection between the field and the fence. This is not a cultivated field you can send a tractor into. It's an old pasture that is filled with rocks and old irrigation pipes and stumps from part of an old apple orchard. RMD will do it's best to expand the "cut swath" even further but it will depend on what they find on the ground. These are not just vacant lots that you send someone with a weedwhacker and a mower into. These are many acres of farm land. WFN will do their best to provide as wide a swath as they can and will make sure to do several cuts in May and June before the summer heat. It should be noted RMD is not the owner of those properties bordering Sonoma Pines; they are most definitely being a "good neighbor" by cutting the swaths and reducing the fire risk.

Kind regards,
Gord Couch
WFN Advisory Council
E-Mail: gcouch@telus.net

Sonoma Pines Calendar Of Events

Calendar click here:

<http://www.sonomapines.info/calendar/>

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



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