

Official
Publication of the
Sunset Cove
Homeowners
Association

Sunset Cove Newsletter

Volume 12, Issue 2

Summer/Fall 2016

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13th Annual Sunset Cove Picnic

Believe it or not, the Association is celebrating our 13th Annual Sunset Cove picnic this year!! Time sure has flown! Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend this fun and informal event!

ü Sunday, August 28

ü 1 to 5 pm

ü Washington Park, by the playground

Hamburgers and hotdogs will be supplied; please bring your own beverages. We also welcome any desserts, appetizers, and salads/ side dishes from our neighbors.

To make your decision easier, we suggest that families with last names beginning with the letter indicated bring an item in the category of ...

A — C : appetizer
D — N : salad / side dish
O — Z : dessert

We look forward to seeing all of you this year!!!!



"You can't use
up creativity.
The more you
use, the more
you have."

- Maya Angelou

2016 Board of Directors

The current Board of Directors, and their positions, are as follows:

- President, Jackie Etsell (term ends 12/31/16).
- Vice President, Jean Warner (term ends 12/31/16).
- Secretary, Amy Schnabel (term ends 12/31/17).
- Treasurer, Tisa Kniskern (term ends 12/31/17).
- Architectural Review Com-

mittee Chair, Alan Hanson (term ends 12/31/16).

- Landscape Committee Chair, Jean Warner (term ends 12/31/16).
- Publicity Committee Chair, [currently vacant] (term ends 12/31/16).
- Landscape Committee Chair, temporary, Paul Allen.

Remember, if you have any questions or concerns that you

wish to bring to the Board's attention, or you just want to make them aware of how you feel about something, feel free to use the blanket email: board@sunsetcove.org.

Also, check out the summer and fall meeting schedule for the Board on page three of this newsletter, or on the web at www.sunsetcove.org.

Thanks!! Hope to see you at a meeting or the picnic!

Deer Resistant Plantings — Part 2

In our last Newsletter, Volume 12 Issue 1, Ornamental Grasses, Native Plants, and Heathers of Every Stripe were discussed. This is the final installment of options for deer-resistant plantings.

Herbs and Other Fragrant Foliage:

Deer don't really approve of strongly-flavored plants. Things like thyme, rosemary, and sage don't hold the same appeal for them as they do for us. So as a rule of thumb, if you've chosen an herb or herb relative, and the foliage is thick, sappy, hairy, or highly fragrant, the deer probably won't mess with it.

The caveat here is that once these guys are established (water in the first 2-3 summers), you should avoid giving them any more water or fertilizer than they really need, because the lush growth, the more diluted the scented oils become. A jolt of fertilizer could make them soft and tasteless, and absolutely delicious to deer. Shade has the same effect; herbs should be positioned in direct sunshine.

Wormwood, *Artemisia*, has long been known for its place in absinthe, where it adds a delicious herbal note. Most artemisias are fast-growing and can be pruned vigorously to bare wood once a year to keep them compact. 'Powis Castle' is the most common garden variety.



Jerusalem sage, *Phlomis fruticosa*, grows quickly to 5' tall and wide. It has masses of blooms in spring, then comes back with an additional show in late summer. Their leaf undersides have a thick hairy substance on them, so with pruning you might want to wear a mask.

The Vick's Vapo-Rub plant, AKA **Australian Mint Bush** or *Prostanthera rotundifolia*, smells pleasantly minty. There is a pungent undertone similar to marijuana, but the minty herbal topnotes are actually quite nice-smelling, and most people don't find the fragrance of the foliage

objectionable. But the deer obviously don't go in for that kind of thing.

This is a fast-growing shrub to about 6' around, and it doesn't take pruning well. But if you give it a bit of room, it has a gracefully loose upright habit, attractive deep green leaves, and has the sweetest covering of purple blooms in late spring. It's also evergreen, so makes a great fast-growing low screen.



Lion's tail, or *Leonotis leonurus*, is a cheerful orange fall bloomer that seems to go with most types of planting. Mediterranean themes, cottage gardens, and colorful foliage displays all look good with this plant. It gets about 5' tall and 4' wide.

There's also a white version called 'Alba', but it's a bit of a disappointment next to the more colorful versions.



Catmint and **golden oregano**, *Nepta x faassenii* and *Oreganum vulgare* 'Aureum', make a natural pairing. Both reach about 18" tall and 3' wide, both look particularly fresh and bloomy around mid-summer, and both are easy to grow in a garden with some sun.

Ferns:

What more need be said of ferns?

They're lovely shade plants, look great massed, don't clash with anything, and if given regular water to get established, they're easygoing plants that are hard to screw up.

Giant chain fern, *Woodwardia fimbriata*, is a Pacific Northwest native to 4-5' tall. I've had success with it under redwoods and other trees; it seems to do well even when competing for nutrients. It also performs well in boggy conditions. It doesn't enjoy frost, though, so keep it



close to trees and shrubs to protect it from winter's worst.

Tassel fern, *Polystichum polyblepharum*, has an elegant shape and a very nice shine to the leaves, and the deep green is tinged with a gentle olive tone that looks so classy next to traditional shade perennials. Looks great potted, too.

Holly fern, *Cyrtomium falcatum*, is all architectural and chic. No fluffy softness from this fern. It fits right in with black plants and broody burgundies.

Autumn fern, *Dryopteris erythrosora*, seems to have its seasons confused with its orangey new growth in spring. No matter, it's adorable and is a great way of continuing an orange or bronze theme into the shady part of your garden beds. This is one of the few ferns that will tolerate a half day of sunshine, so it's good one for the edges of your shade planting.

Alaskan fern, *Polystichum setiferum*, is all frou-frou fluffiness. If ferns seem too stiff or too boldly-outlined for you, Alaskan fern may be your best bet. It's surprisingly tough; they can exist next to the bottom of a downspout, where it's ignored and unirrigated in summer and deluged in winter.



* * * * *

Courtesy of **Genevieve Schmidt**, a landscape designer who owns a fine landscape maintenance company in Arcata, CA, and is also a contributing editor at *Garden Design Magazine* and assorted print and online publications.

Don't Forget:

The 13th Annual Picnic is Sunday,
August 28th, from 1 to 5 p.m. at
Washington Park.

EVERYONE IS INVITED!!!!

Neighborhood Notes:

- Thank you to all homeowners who are keeping the neighborhood looking neat and trim, "horticulturally" speaking! The ongoing effort (hint, hint) to keep grasses and weeds under control also reduces the fire hazard that can result from dry and overgrown lawns, according to the City of Anacortes.
- Please make it your priority to observe the **25-mile per hour speed limit** when driving up and down the boulevards — in fact, it is a better idea to go even slower than that when children are riding bikes and playing nearby.
- Now that we have all gotten used to the new garbage cans, remember to still put garbage in bags and tie them shut *before* putting in the cans and out at the curb. This has really helped the

garbage-blowing-around problem.

- This message is for the **dogs** of Sunset Cove: "woof, woof, ruff!" Translation: thank you to your guardians for having you safely on a leash at all times, and for **cleaning up** after you! (Yes, people still need to be reminded— from the looks of my parking strip recently.)
- As usual: if you have received this newsletter via regular U.S. mail this means we do not have a current

e-mail address on file for you.

PLEASE contact rick@etsell.com with your e-mail address, either **new** or **changed**, so we may keep our records updated.

- Please submit articles, topics, or any other ideas for future Newsletters to: Editor, board@sunsetcove.org. Or, submit a question and someone from the Board will answer!
- Happy Summer!



Board Meeting Schedule:

The Sunset Cove Homeowners Association has scheduled board meetings at the Anacortes Public Library Community Meeting Room, for 7 p.m. on the following dates:

- Thursday, August 18;
- Thursday, September 22;
- Thursday, October 27 (tentative).

Although these are working meetings of the Board, the community is invited and encouraged to attend and participate. Contact Board President Jackie Etsell if you have any business to bring to the attention of the Board. This is an excellent way to get involved and be heard!

Always double-check the website, www.sunsetcove.org for meeting reminders and other announcements. E-mail: board@sunsetcove.org

President's Corner:

Greetings, Again, Friends and Neighbors!

Well, we are half way through a lovely summer, and the neighborhood really looks great! Thanks go to everyone for keeping their yards and gardens fresh, and the vacant lots mowed. Keeping weeds and other nuisance plants at bay really makes a huge difference to residents and visitors alike.

I mentioned in the last issue that we are all volunteers here, and I'd like to reiterate that sentiment by asking everyone to *seriously* consider joining the Board of Directors. Each year, about half the Board is up for election or re-election, and up until the past couple years the same few people seem to have been doing most of the work. It is definitely time for some different people

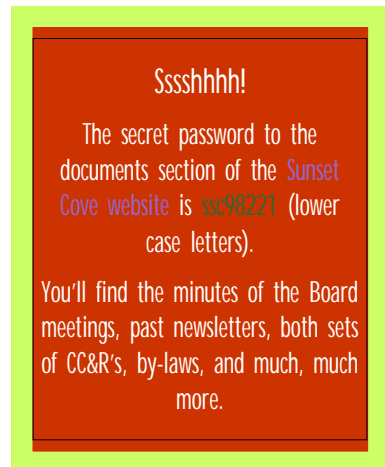
to step up and get involved.

Nominations will be accepted later this fall; just contact a current Board member and express your interest — or to ask questions about what the position *really* entails. I believe that as a group, we are all very nice and well-meaning, and truly strive to do what is best for the community. Please, let's spread the work around!

And, I hope to see you all at the **13th Annual Picnic** on Sunday, August 28th at Washington Park (details on page 1)! We're trying something different this year by holding it *before* Labor Day rather than after (so more people may be able to come), so please mark your calendars NOW!!!

Thank you, everyone! Hope to see you soon!

Jackie Etsell





Publicity Committee

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We're on the Web!
www.sunsetcove.org

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Sunset Cove Homeowners Association

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), The Crest at Sunset Cove Condominiums, The Gardens at Sunset Cove Townhomes, and the soon-to-be-built Garden Village Homes.

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



Community Calendar:

Some of the many activities in our community this summer and fall:

- 55th Annual Anacortes Arts Festival, August 5-7, 10am-6pm, downtown Anacortes; arts, crafts, demos, music, & food! Family fun for all! www.anacortesartsfestival.com
- 16th Annual La Conner Classic Yacht and Car Show, August 6, 10am-4pm; La Conner Marina South Basin; \$3 admission and children under 12 are free. For much more information check out www.lovelaconner.com.
- 40th Annual Wooden Boat Festival, Port Townsend, September 9-11; Fri & Sat, 9am-7pm, plus after hours music until midnight; Sun, 9am-5pm, sail-by at 3pm; all types of boats! For information

including ticket prices, please visit www.nwmaritime.org/events/wooden-boat-festival.

- City of Anacortes "Free Fall Cleanup," September 10, 9am-1pm; 37th & D Street; dispose extra residential garbage and yard waste; 1 load per household; ID required. www.cityofanacortes.org
- 35th Annual Oyster Run, weekend of September 25th; music at 1pm, 7th & Q St; "Largest Motorcycle Run in the Pacific Northwest!" according to their website, www.oysterruninc.org.
- Farmers Market, (ongoing) Saturdays, 9am-2pm until October 29, at the Depot Arts Center, 611 R Ave. Come support your local growers and crafters! www.anacortesfarmersmarket.org