

Official
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Sunset Cove
Homeowners
Association

SUNSET COVE NEWSLETTER

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Winter 2017

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Annual Meeting

As a resident and/or owner in the Sunset Cove community, you are encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting on **Saturday, January 21, 2017** in the meeting room at the Anacortes Public Library.

Light refreshments (cookies and coffee) will be available starting at 11:45 p.m., with the gavel falling to start the meeting at 12:00 p.m. Come early and chat with and get to know some of your neighbors!

The agenda will include the Treasurer's report, a review of activities and projects from 2016, the election of new Board members, and discussion and approval of the 2017 budget.

Please don't forget to mail in your ballot and proxy if you are unable to make the meeting:

SCHOA
PO Box 943
Anacortes, WA 98221

We look forward to
seeing you all!

Reminder:

2016 Homeowners Association dues, of \$200, are due by January 1, 2017. Late fees apply if received after January 31.

2016 Board of Directors

Your 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 Committee Chair, Alan

Hanson (term ends 12/31/16).

- Publicity Committee Chair, vacant.
- Landscape Committee Chair, Jean Warner (term ends 12/31/16).

Board meetings are generally held the third week of each month (usually Tuesday or Thursday), at 7:00 p.m. at the Anacortes Library. Always double-check the website — www.sunsetcove.org — for meeting reminders and

other information.

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 address to communicate your message: board@sunsetcove.org.

Thanks! Hope to see you at a meeting soon!

"A good laugh and a long sleep are the two best cures for anything."

- Irish proverb

My Awakening

by Carrie Worra

In the Spring of 2015, Mark Wenzel, the Superintendent of Anacortes School District, presented a big problem, and a possible solution, within our schools.

At that time, it was estimated that 30 elementary school-aged kids were not getting enough nutrients over the weekend. These kids qualify for the Free or Reduced Breakfast and Lunch during the school week. By the time they show up to school on Monday (some having lived in their parent's car over the weekend), they were so tired and hungry that a quick breakfast in the school cafeteria hardly made a dent.

Studies show that when a child doesn't eat enough over the weekend, it can take until Wednesday for their basic nutritional needs to catch up with them so they can pay attention in class and learn.

The Problem

When this problem was presented to a small group in the basement of Westminster Presbyterian Church (WPC), I immediately raised my hand with questions about the local food banks. We have three food banks in our small little town. How can anyone be going hungry? Well, the answers shocked me:

1. The food banks do not actually have much food. Before A Simple Gesture came along (more on that later), The Salvation Army (TSA) struggled to keep food on the shelves. In meetings with TSA, I learned that many needy families opt to not take from the food bank because they know how scarce supplies are, and they don't want to take from someone in greater need.
2. Some children go home to empty houses with no ability to get to the food bank over the weekend. These kids are literally "fending for themselves" in every aspect.

As you can imagine, this was incredi-

bly eye opening for me. I have been involved in my children's elementary school for 6 years. I had no idea that I had hungry kids standing right next to me.

A Solution?

As I mentioned earlier, Mark came to us with a problem, and a possible solution. He asked if we would be willing to start a weekend backpack program whereby we give bags of food to these little kids so they could have something to eat over the weekend. Again, he estimated about 30 elementary kids, and as time went on, it could grow into Middle and High School.

WPC did not hesitate. We immediately went into action to try to help solve this problem. In working with school counselors and the school district, a team of volunteers purchased and bagged over 100 bags of food by the second week of school in the Fall of 2015.

Yes, by the time the program was rolled out, the counselors had discovered over 100 elementary children that would benefit from food over the weekend. Their eyes had been opened as well! They are so



many of them were showing up hungry.

These individual bags of food cost about \$5 per student or per child. That is under \$200 to help nourish a

child during the school year. These bags are required to be light enough for a Kindergartener to carry in their backpack, high in protein and calories, and easy to open and eat without adult supervision. These limitations make it challenging to provide fresh non-processed food. However, every bag has some sort of fresh fruit every week.

As the 2015 school year progressed, FTG grew from elementary to middle and high school (including Cap Sante). Children were beaming with joy knowing that they were special enough to get a bag of food just for them. Heartbreaking and heartwarming at the same time.

Currently,

Food to Go is providing supplemental weekend food bags to 150 Anacortes students — elementary thru high school age — each week (and including the women's shelter). All of the children participate in the free and reduced lunch program, and many of them are receiving most of their meals at school. Food to Go Anacortes helps to fill the weekend gap for students in our community who may need extra help with food over the weekend.

How Can You Be a Part of Food to Go Anacortes?

Packing takes place on most Thursday mornings from 9:30am-10:00am in the basement of WPC at 1300 9th Street in Anacortes.

Delivery to the schools takes place immediately after packing, from 10:00am-11:00am.

Volunteer! Food to Go would love to have your help to pack or deliver weekly food bags.

--Sign up through Signup.com at FoodtoGoAnacortesVolunteerNow.

--Visit and like their Facebook page [Food to Go - Anacortes](https://www.facebook.com/FoodtoGo-Anacortes)

--Or, contact Renee Rodriguez at foodtogoAnacortes@gmail.com or 360.708.3037.

Upcoming Area Events:

Some upcoming community events that may be of interest (and get us up off the couch this winter!):

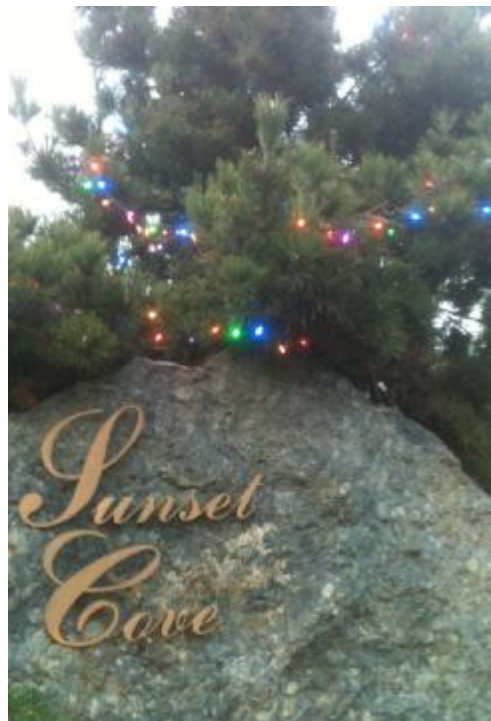
- **Wonderland Walk at Washington Park**, December 9 & 10, 5-8 p.m. View the decorated campsites at the park, and maybe even see Santa!
- **La Conner Lighted Boat Parade**, December 10, 6:30-7:30 p.m. along the Swinomish Slough.
- **Anacortes Annual Lighted Boat Parade**, December 17, 5-9 p.m. along Guemes Channel, weather dependent;
- **Skagit Valley Tulip Festival**, April 1-30, Skagit Valley; tours and flowers galore! (visit www.tulipfestival.org)
- **Anacortes Annual Quilt Walk**, April 1-30, downtown Anacortes; call 360.293.0622 for information.
- **First Friday Gallery Art Walks**, first Friday of every month, generally 6-9 p.m., downtown Anacortes (www.anacortes.org for info).



Neighborhood Notes:

If it seems like these reminders are included in almost every edition of this newsletter, you're right, because it also seems like some people always need reminding! At any rate ...

- Please remember to observe the **25-mile per hour** speed limit when driving up and/or down the boulevard, and actively watch for children and animals nearby.
- This message is for the dogs of Sunset Cove: thank you to your people for having you safely on a leash at all times, and for cleaning up after you! Everyone really appreciates it!
- A word to the wise: holiday garbage pick-ups will be the **Monday** after Thanksgiving, *not* on the Friday. So don't set out the cans too soon!
- The secret password to the documents section of the [Sunset Cove website](http://www.sunsetcove.org) is **ssc98221** (lower case letters). You'll find the minutes of the Board meetings, current and past newsletters, both sets of CC&R's, by-laws, etc. (And just a note: the minutes get posted *after* they're approved by the Board, which is usually after the next meeting.)
- The Sunset Cove HOA community consists of Washington Park Estates (the homes along Washington Boulevard), Sunset Cove Estates (the 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.
- And, finally, happy holidays!





Sunset Cove Homeowners Association
P.O. Box 943
Anacortes, WA 98221

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

Editor: Jackie Etsell

"Generosity is giving
more than you can,
and pride is taking less
than you need."

- Kahlil Gibran

De-Stressing the Holidays

The current issue of Real Simple magazine had a "Countdown to Thanksgiving," but these tips can be applied to almost any family celebration and/or holiday festivity.

8 Ways to Prep Your House When You Have Zero Time:

- If guests are going to throw their coats on a bed, spread a sheet over it first to protect the duvet.
- Stash random clutter in a collapsible bin that you can put in a closet.
- Wipe down counters and console tables closest to the door with a natural, all-purpose cleaner so that the smell of clean greets people when they walk in.
- Replace your sponge. (Enough said!)
- Hide the mail pile in a covered container.

- Clean, empty, or move smelly pet bowls and litter boxes.
- Turn down the thermostat four to six degrees; ovens and extra bodies heat up a home.
- Pluck one bloom from the centerpiece and put it in a bud vase in the guest bathroom.

6 Pointers On Being a Good Guest:

- Received an invitation? RSVP ASAP! If you need a few days to mull over it, set an alert on your phone or computer to remind you.
- If you bring something, make sure that it is fully cooked, in a presentable dish, and with the necessary serving tools.
- Be a herder. When the host says, "Dinner's ready," and no one moves, say, "I think it's time

to head to the table, and help scoot things along.

- Put away your phone. Maybe others will follow your lead.
- Talk to the stranger. If a cousin or friend is sitting alone, do your host a solid and take over.
- If you think you've over-stayed your welcome, don't apologize about hanging around. Just say "thank you" and leave.

Final Note:

Remember to be grateful for what you have, and what you are able to accomplish. Perhaps the best piece of advice is to stay off Pinterest! If something is too elaborate, crafty, or complicated for you, then forget it! Stick to your strengths!

Take care of yourselves this winter. And remember those less fortunate. Thanks!