

Inside The Rim

Wilderness Rim Association Newsletter

February / March 2017

Holiday Party

Fun was had by all at the Holiday Party at the Rim Chalet. The kids and their parents decorated cookies and had snacks while they listened to holiday music, and Santa showed up to wish all a Merry Christmas and to read stories to the kids. Thanks so much to Steve, Kristy, Julene, and Tyler McDonald, Jessica and Jeremiah Besso, Joyce Jansen, Stuart Paulus, and Ed Evans for helping to decorate the Chalet and Rim office and to host guests at the party.



Water Rates to Increase

Wilderness Rim Association (WRA) purchases its water from Sallal Water Association (Sallal). In 2015, WRA paid Sallal about \$11,125 per month for water. Sallal recently notified the WRA Board of Trustees (Board) that Sallal was increasing the monthly fee to \$13,855 per month, or nearly 25%. Sallal stated that the increase reflects rising costs since the last rate update in 2011, as well as a one-time adjustment for the cost of hiring a new field operator. On January 18, the Board met and passed a motion to increase the Base water rate from \$36 to \$44.82 beginning at the end of March to cover the cost of the wholesale water rate increase. The Base rate covers water usage from 0 to 200 cubic feet per billing period, which means that all residents will pay the increased fee, regardless of total water use. The fees for water use above this rate will remain the same. For water rates, see "WRA Water Rate and Fee Schedules 2015" at <https://wildernessrim.org/legal>.

Wilderness Rim Association

Office Hours

9:00am – 2:00pm Tuesday
2:00pm – 7:00pm Wednesday
12:00pm – 6:00pm Thursday

Contact Information

PO Box 315
North Bend, WA 98045
Phone: (425) 888-0087
Fax: (425) 888-2136
office@wildernessrim.org

Water Emergencies

Please direct water emergencies to Roger Lillejord, Satellite Management Services, 425-829-6425. Billing questions should be directed to the Rim office.

Board of Trustees

President: Stuart Paulus
Vice-President: Jim Besso
Treasurer: Ryan Fiedler
Secretary: Veronica Smith
Trustees: Diana Arny, Alan Bruckner, Thomas Grisso, Mike Kenyon, Heather Larson, Jaime Oberg, and Cale Sweeney

Committees

Architectural Review

Chair - Doug Greathouse

Budget and Finance

Chair - Ryan Fiedler

Communications

HELP WANTED!

Firewise

HELP WANTED!

Neighborhood Safety

Chair - Jessica Besso

Park

Chair - Robert Beeler

Special Events

HELP WANTED!

Water Utilities

HELP WANTED!

If you are interested in joining a committee, members are welcome to attend any committee meetings or contact trustees@wildernessrim.org.

Timber! We Need Your Help Identifying Dead and Dying Trees

Drought, insects, laminated root rot, and other factors have caused the death of numerous trees in the Rim in recent years. The Park Committee recently conducted a survey of trees in the park and greenbelt to identify dead and dying trees that could be a hazard to nearby members' properties. The Park Committee plans to meet with several tree removal companies during late January and February to identify trees that should be removed and their costs of removal. After a review of tree removal bids, the Board will meet and select a company to remove highest-risk trees.

Several members have contacted the office and asked about cutting down dead and dying trees on their lots. If you would like the tree services visiting the Rim to look at your trees, please contact the office (425-888-0087) as soon as possible. It may be possible for Rim residents to get a reduced rate on tree cutting services if several members decide to have their trees cut down.

Upcoming Events

Game Nights

Game nights will be held at 6pm at the Chalet on the following evenings: January 28th, February 11th, and March 11th and 25th.

Neighborhood Social

The WRA Board of Trustees would like to extend a special invitation to you to join us Wednesday, February 15th, at 6:30pm for a Meet-and-Greet Social. This is the first of the 2017 quarterly gatherings for new (or any!) homeowners to meet your neighbors and ask questions about the Association. There will be refreshments and information available that you might find helpful as a homeowner in the Rim. The meeting is at the Chalet in Cascade Park at 16913 424th Ave SE.

Easter Egg Hunt

The annual WRA Easter egg hunt will occur on Saturday, April 8th, at 10am. Enjoy hunting for Easter eggs in Cascade Park. Egg hunts are broken out by age groups. BYOB (bring your own basket) and search for eggs filled with candy and prizes. After the eggs are found, we'll enjoy delicious hot cocoa and a marshmallow "peep" roast, rain or shine! Be sure to bring your marshmallow roasting sticks. Volunteers are needed to make sure the kids have a fun day, so if you have time to help and want to have lots of fun, please contact events@wildernessrim.org or the WRA office at 425-888-0087 for more information.

Wilderness Rim Association Bylaw Additions/Modifications

Each year at the annual meeting, members have an opportunity to vote on improvements to the Bylaws of Wilderness Rim Association. If you have any ideas on how we can improve the Bylaws, please consider submitting your suggestions and/or specific language for consideration. All submissions are reviewed by our attorney before they are submitted to the membership for approval. Changes to the Bylaws require a two-thirds majority of the votes given to pass. The deadline for items to be on the ballot in 2017 is March 16 at noon. Submissions may be emailed to office@wildernessrim.org or delivered to the WRA office. Current Bylaws can be reviewed at <https://wildernessrim.org/legal/>.

Water Bill Due February 27

Board of Trustees Meeting

Monthly, 3rd Wednesday, 7:00pm
Next meetings are February 15th and March 15th.

Committee Meetings

Architectural Review

Monthly, 1st Wednesday, 7:30pm

Budget and Finance

Monthly, 2nd Wednesday, 7:30pm

Communications

Monthly, 1st Monday, 7:30pm

Neighborhood Safety

Monthly, 2nd Sunday, 7pm

Park

Monthly, 1st Monday, 6:30pm

Water Utilities

Monthly, 2nd Wednesday, 6:30pm

*All meetings are at the Chalet
unless otherwise noted*

Sheriff's Report

Every two months, Rim members pay \$8 for private, off-duty, King County Sheriff security patrol services in the Rim. In part because of this service, Wilderness Rim is considered by the King County Sheriff's office to be one of the safest places in the county. Based on reports given to the office, sheriffs spent much of their time driving or walking through the Rim residential areas or through the park and greenbelt during November and December. They also watched for speeding vehicles, responded to traffic complaints, checked on homes for sale, responded to home alarms, responded to several member concerns, questioned individuals exhibiting suspicious behavior, contacted homeowners if they spotted suspicious activity near their home, and helped a member fill out an accident report when the member's vehicle tires were damaged by a snowplow.

Before and after Christmas, sheriffs would drive through the Rim looking to see if they spotted someone trying to steal packages from homes, and even followed FedEx and UPS vehicles to make sure they were not being followed by someone trying to steal packages. There was also a report of a vehicle with steamed windows. A young man and woman were inside the vehicle. The officer noted that the driver was of legal age. He also noted that the couple in the vehicle was very polite! If you see the sheriffs walking through the Rim, say hi and thank them for their help in making the Rim a great and safe place to live. To review security patrol reports, go to <https://wildernessrim.org/security-reports/>. You will need to log in as a member to see the security reports.

Membership Concerns

During the past 2 months members have brought several concerns to the attention of the Board of Trustees. These include:

- Light out on Puget Sound Energy (PSE) light pole in front of the Fire Station; the office notified PSE that the light was out and PSE repaired the light in early December. If you note other overhead streetlights out in the Rim, please report the outage at <http://pse.com/accountsandservices/ServiceAlert/Pages/Street-Light-Problem.aspx>.
- Two bills in one month; several members called the office to find out why they received two bills within a one month period. Due to turnover in the office and on the Board, bills were not sent out on their normal schedule in late September, but were sent out in late October. To get back on schedule, bills were again sent out on the normal billing date in late November. We will be back on the regular schedule in 2017, with bills sent out at the end of January, March, May, July, September, and December. We apologize for any inconvenience to members.
- Incorrect meter reads; a few members notified the office that their meter readings seemed low or high. These meters were checked by the office or water system operator, and it appears that two meters were incorrectly read by the meter reader. The member bills were adjusted to reflect the correct meter read. High meter readings usually reflect a leak within the home, while unusually low bills suggest that the water meter may be faulty.
- Broken meters; WRA water meters are over 40 years old and some are starting to fail. If a member receives an unusually low water bill, it may be due to a faulty meter. When this occurs, our water system operator checks the meter, and if it is failing, replaces the meter.
- Dead trees near homes and in the greenbelt; see article earlier in this newsletter on dead and dying trees in the Rim.
- Trespassing along Cedar Falls Landfill/WRA boundary; Several residents that live along the Cedar Falls Landfill/Rim boundary reported that surveyors were seen on their property. It appears that surveyors were determining where the boundary line is between the landfill and Rim, and were flagging trees for removal in the landfill.
- Need for Rim snowplow; Several members asked if snow could be removed more quickly from side streets within the Rim. Typically, King County plows remove snow soon after snowfall along the main Rim loop to allow school buses to pick up kids in the Rim. However, it may be several days before snow is removed on side streets, as the County focuses most of its snow removal efforts first on the main arterials in the county. At times, Rim residents with trucks, all-terrain vehicles, or snow blowers will remove snow from the entrance and side streets within the Rim. As noted on the King County snow removal website (<http://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/transportation/roads/snow-and-ice.aspx#faqs>), however, "the county cannot authorize private citizens to plow



public roads. Plowing is dangerous and difficult work. Private individuals without licensing and training who plow a public road risk significant personal liability if someone is hurt or killed, or if property is damaged. Under Washington law, county governments are also responsible for accidents, injuries or damage where the county has authorized work on the road." The Board recommends that WRA members contact King County Executive, Dow Constantine (206-263-9600; kcexec@kingcounty.gov) and request that additional snow plow service be provided in the Rim.

- Munibilling security message; one member reported that when trying to pay her bill online, she received a message that the connection with the billing service was not secure. Based on review by the Board, Rim office, and Munibilling, it appears that the WRA logo on the payment site was causing the message to appear, as the site was otherwise secure. The logo was removed from the site. However, if you have any difficulties with the site, please let the office know so we can address the concern.

History of the WRA Fire Station

In 1948, the citizens in the areas surrounding the City of North Bend petitioned Washington State to form a Fire Protection District. The area became King County Fire Protection District 38 (Fire District 38). In 1994, due to increasing costs of providing fire protection services and the growing trend of diminishing tax revenues, the City of North Bend, Fire District 38, and the City of Snoqualmie entered into a contract for services with Fire District 10. In 1999, the City of Issaquah and Fire District 10 combined to form Eastside Fire & Rescue. To this day, residents of Fire District 38 continue to be served by Eastside Fire & Rescue, which includes City of Issaquah, Sammamish, North Bend, Fire Districts 10 and 38, which includes Carnation and unincorporated areas of King County.



Station 88 serves the Wilderness Rim area, which is located within the boundaries of Fire District 38. Known as a Volunteer Station, it is staffed by volunteer firefighters and emergency medical personnel who respond from home when dispatched. However, many evenings there are two volunteers who stay overnight and respond directly from the station. The station recently received a partial remodel to accommodate overnight volunteers.

The station houses two emergency vehicles, Engine 88 and Aid 88. Engine 88 is a 2012 International Pumper that responds to fire calls, traffic accidents, service calls, or other needs of the area. Aid 88 responds to emergency medical calls and will transport patients to area hospitals. Station 88 also assists Fire Station 87 in North Bend.

Lost and Found

A number of found items have been turned into the office, including glasses, keys, clothing, and children's toys (see photo to right). If you have lost something in the Park or Chalet, please visit the office to see if it was found.

Want to Rent the Chalet or Park Shelter?

Thinking about having a meeting, kid's birthday party, or family reunion, then the Rim Chalet or Park Shelter may be a great place to host your event. If interested in renting the Chalet or Park Shelter, please call (425-888-0087) or see Janet in the office. It costs \$25 per day (nonrefundable) to rent the Park Shelter or Chalet. In addition, we also require a \$50 security deposit that is refunded if there is no damage to the facility.



We Could Sure Use Your Help!

As you will note on the first page of this newsletter, several Rim committees are in need of someone to lead the committee and to help with committee business. Most committees only require a few hours a month of your time and will give you the opportunity to meet your neighbors and be involved in Rim operations. Committees and committee meeting dates and times are shown on page 2 of this newsletter. The success of the Rim depends on member involvement. Committee meetings are held monthly, so if you want to know more about what the committee does, please attend a meeting or call the office (425-888-0087) and let Janet know that you are interested in joining a committee. We look forward to seeing you!