

SAFETY

## The Harbor Ridge Homeowner

A Publication of your Home  
Owner's Association

# Summer 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

## Keeping our neighborhood safe and secure

Maintaining an active and constant vigilance is an essential habit that we must all learn and adopt to keep yourself, your family and all our neighborhood safe.

As always and at varying times throughout the year, there are homes in our area that are vacated, for sale, or in foreclosure. Please be aware of homes that are vacated, both for your sake as a neighbor, and in the interest of the owner. If you notice anything unusual, please report it to the owner, and possibly to the police.

After a series of vehicle thefts and break-ins, strengthening public safety and increasing connectivity among neighbors has been a focus of the HOA Board. Earlier this year we met with our local Community Liaison Police Officer and Safe Streets, a non-profit organization dedicated to safety.

Here are five tips to prevent crime and keep our homes and community safe:

- ✓ **Don't leave any items visible in your car.**
- ✓ **Make your car and home less attractive to criminals.**  
Trim shrubbery and trees so your doors, windows, driveways and sidewalks are visible; keep your porch light on at night; install motion sensors/security lighting on all sides of your home so that it is located high, out of reach and is vandal resistant.

- ✓ **Conceal electronic devices and accessories.**  
Stow all electronics and accessories out of sight, including car chargers, iPod adapters, cell phone/GPS windshield suction-cup mounts, etc. Also, record the serial numbers of GPS devices and other equipment and keep the numbers in a safe place in your home.
- ✓ **Use your car alarm and consider purchasing a theft deterrent device.**  
"The Club" is available for \$35 on Amazon.com.
- ✓ **If you hear an alarm or a window breaking, look outside and call 911.**



### Keeping our neighborhood safe and secure

One of the best ways to deter crime and keep our community safe is getting to know our neighbors.

We are excited to be hosting another annual neighborhood get together on National

Night Out on Tuesday, August 1st. Please **SAVE THE DATE!** The event will be in the evening in the parking lot of Resurrection Lutheran church, located at 4301 Browns Point Blvd NE. This will be a family fun activity for our neighborhood to come together and get to know each other, while playing games and enjoying **FREE BBQ** and ice cream.

We are hosting this event in partnership with the Church, Tacoma Police Department, Browns Point Fire Department and Safe Streets.

Flyers will be distributed and information will be posted on our Facebook page (search for and like: Harbor Ridge HOA Block Watch).

We also have a Community Liaison Police Officer, Brandon Showalter, who is available to answer any questions about police activity that you may have in our neighborhood. You can contact him anytime at: [Brandon.showalter@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:Brandon.showalter@cityoftacoma.org).

Most importantly for community safety and security, if you see something say something. Call 911 for any suspicious activity, even if it is a non-life-threatening emergency. The Police Department uses call data to assign Police emphasis and focus areas.

Michael Grayum at  
[michaelgrayum@gmail.com](mailto:michaelgrayum@gmail.com).

If you have questions about the recent incidents, please contact our Community Liaison Police Officer,

Brandon Showalter at  
[Brandon.showalter@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:Brandon.showalter@cityoftacoma.org).

**Remember, if you see something, say something.**



## The importance of keeping your property well groomed

Tips for keeping your yard in good shape



# Healthy lawncare

by Rob Adams

Several days of clear blue skies and welcome sunshine reminds us that our lawns and landscaping are emerging from winter's hibernation. Not so welcome, for those of us who are decidedly NOT avid gardeners, is the pending cycle of home and yard maintenance. A good gauge that some work may be needed is the pesky yellow flowers that pop up everywhere, even in driveway and sidewalk cracks.

One effective way to deal with the grass and weeds that seem only to grow out of the sidewalk expansion joints or the division between cement curb and asphalt roadway is a two-step process. First, clear offending vegetation with a string trimmer. Next scrounge around in the garage for a paint roller and a bucket. Pour your 'Round-Up' in the bucket and then use the paint roller, preferably attached to an extension pole so you don't have to crawl around on your

knees, to roll round-up into the cracks. You will be satisfied that no dead patches mysteriously appear in your lawn from blowing Round-Up and the weeds take several months to start creeping back.

This is a good time to take stock of your trees and landscaping vegetation. All trees must be kept below 15' and several neighbors have talked about teaming up to share the costs of an arborist to keep costs low while also respecting the views of neighbors. Additionally, if any vegetation is blocking sidewalks, now is the time to trim it back. We are all emerging from hibernation and more of us will be out walking the dogs or just walking to enjoy the weather; the sidewalks are our by-ways. Those of us who live on street corners should look to see if trees or shrubs block driver's view of oncoming traffic. Please trim any offending foliage. Each day brings more and more children of all ages riding bicycles, scooters, skate boarding or just gathering to socialize in and around our neighborhood. Their safety and other driver's safety are at stake.

Debris that builds up in the landscape can harbor pests and plant diseases.

Keeping plants well-groomed requires removing dead and dying plants and leaves. It also requires weeding, applying mulch, and pruning plants to maintain size or to remove crossed or dead branches. You can take care of many of these activities when you walk through your landscape to

enjoy its beauty and observe changes. Perform them regularly through the season to avoid having to do too much all at once.

### 1. Control Weeds

Weeds are plants that grow where they are not wanted. They compete with desired plants for water, nutrients, and sunlight. They also may harbor diseases and pests. Weed species can thrive even in poor soils. They can be spread by seeds or by underground stems called rhizomes. Remove weeds as soon as you see them. This is particularly important in an area planted with ground covers or perennials. If weeds spread in one of these areas, it is very difficult to get rid of them without redoing the bed.

You can reduce weed infestations by preparing the soil well initially. Remove all weeds and weed roots before you plant. Before planting new perennials, be certain there are no weeds growing among them in the containers. After planting, apply a three-inch layer of organic mulch to help prevent new weeds from growing. Make sure the mulch does not touch the trunk or main stem of the plants.

Hand-pull weeds near established plants before the weeds flower and produce seed. Herbicides can be useful in managing persistent weeds. Some will kill weeds selectively without harming ornamental plants. Others kill all plants either by contact with the foliage or through the root system. If you are considering using herbicides, carefully read and follow all label directions. Be sure that you select the product intended for the weeds you want to control and use it



properly so that you do not injure your ornamental plants.

## 2. Remove Plant Debris

During the growing season, rake and remove excess leaves, twigs, spent blossoms, fruit, or seed capsules that have fallen from your trees and shrubs. Rake leaves in the fall and properly compost them. This "cleaning" is important because some harmful insects and diseases can survive the winter in this debris. By removing the debris, you can eliminate a source of problems for next year.

## 3. Remove Dead Plants

If a shrub or tree dies, try to determine what caused it to die and remove the plant from the area. Burn it or throw it away; do not add it to your compost pile. It may contain a disease or an insect that could spread to other plants. In most cases, do not replace the dead plant with the same type of plant. It is likely that whatever condition caused the first plant to die still will be present and will cause the new plant to die. If you can identify the cause of plant death, replace the plant with a species that is resistant to the problem, or that is better suited to the conditions at the site.

## 4. Remove Spent Blossoms

Most shrubs can benefit from having dead blossoms removed. By removing them, you redirect the plant's energy that would have gone into seed production into producing new, healthy growth. You can gently pull off the spent blossoms or, if you planned to prune that shrub anyway, do so right after the plant blooms. On plants that produce ornamental fruit, you probably will want to leave the flowers alone, so they can mature and produce the fruit crop.

## 5. Remove Overcrowded Plants

As shrubs and trees reach maturity, it often becomes obvious that they were planted too close together or too close to the house. Plants need adequate space to allow for airflow through the canopy and to reduce shading. Identify the plants in your landscape and learn what their mature size will be. If plants are too large or overcrowded, the easiest remedy may be to remove them and install smaller plants. Or, it may be more practical to remove one or two of the plants to make room for others.

## 6. Prune Plants as Needed

Pruning is cutting a plant to shape it, to maintain its health, or to improve the quality of its fruit or foliage. If you want to keep your plants at a specific size, it is best to prune them each year rather than having to cut them back severely after they have become too large. Proper pruning should start when you plant a shrub or tree and should be a regular part of maintaining a landscape. Always prune to retain the natural shape of the plant to give it the best opportunity for optimum health. Do not use a technique called "topping," which involves cutting back all branches or stems to the same level. Topping can shock a tree and lead to its decline and death. Multi-stemmed shrubs often become dense and will benefit from thinning. Thinning means cutting off older, thicker stems near ground level and/or cutting branches back to a larger branch. Properly thinned plants also will retain their natural shape.

Follow these general principles of pruning:

- a) Remove dead, diseased, or damaged wood as well as branches that cross each other.
- b) Remove "nuisance" growth: branches that are likely to interfere with power lines or the space above sidewalks, or that may block views.
- c) Make pruning cuts just above a bud and at a slight angle. To encourage a more open form, be sure that a remaining bud is located on the outside of the stem. If you cut above a bud that is growing on the inside, the new growth will be toward the inside of the plant, resulting in unwanted crossed branches.

Another type of trimming, called shearing, is used to keep plants in a formal shape, often for hedges. It is done when the plant is growing most actively, because the growth is soft and easiest to cut, and because cutting at that time stimulates new growth from buds along the stem. This specialized trimming is appropriate only for a few specific plants and must be done correctly.

Some commonly used plants that may be sheared are boxwood, yew, privet, and hemlock.

You often will see hedges sheared to have a flat top and vertical sides. This shape seldom is successful because snow accumulation on the top breaks branches, and the lower branches that do not receive sufficient

sunlight often die, leaving bare gaps. The best shape is a rounded or slightly pointed top with sides slanting to a base that is wider than the top.

Each group of plants—young shade trees, mature shade trees, needled and broadleaf evergreens, deciduous multi-stemmed shrubs, and ground covers—requires a specific technique.

Because pruning technique varies for each plant group, obtain a good basic guide to pruning. Special Circular 235, "Pruning Ornamental Plants," is available from your local Penn State Extension office.

## 7. Use Proper Pruning Tools

For large-scale pruning operations, it often is best to hire a professional arborist who has the required expertise, tools, and insurance.

To perform routine small-scale pruning in your landscape, you will need to have the right tools including hand pruners, pruners with long handles (called "loppers"), a pruning saw, and a pole pruner for tall trees and shrubs. Choose bypass-style tools that cut cleanly, rather than the anvil type that tend to crush plant stems. Good quality loppers can be used to cut limbs up to 3/4-inch in diameter. Above that size, it is best to use a pruning saw. For shearing, you can select long-handled hedge shears or electric shears. If you must prune out diseased parts of a shrub or tree, disinfect your tools before making more cuts to avoid spreading the disease. To do this, use a solution of one part bleach in nine parts water, or dip the tool in rubbing alcohol. Always clean and dry the tools before putting them away.

Sharpen pruning blades with a stone and rub them with light oil before putting them away for the winter.

## WE ALL WANT OUR NEIGHBORHOOD TO BE CLEAN AND NEAT

Please help increase the value and the of our homes and our community by doing your part to keep Harbor Ridge the most beautiful community in the Tacoma area.

# Events in our neighborhood

by Henry Mayorga

## June 28

7:00 PM HOA Board meeting at NE Tacoma Police  
Substation: 4731 Norpoint Way.

## July 4

Please be careful using any fireworks this holiday  
and remember that fireworks are strictly  
prohibited in our community.

## August 1

National Night Out is an annual community-  
building campaign that promotes police-  
community partnerships and neighborhood  
camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer,  
more caring places to live. National Night Out  
enhances the relationship between neighbors and  
law enforcement while bringing back a true sense  
of community. Furthermore, it provides a great  
opportunity to bring police and neighbors together  
under positive circumstances.

## August 4 – 5

Noon to 8pm Original Browns Point Salmon Bake  
on August 4th & 5th, 2017.

### JUN

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

### JUL

	T	W	T	F	S	S
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
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### AUG

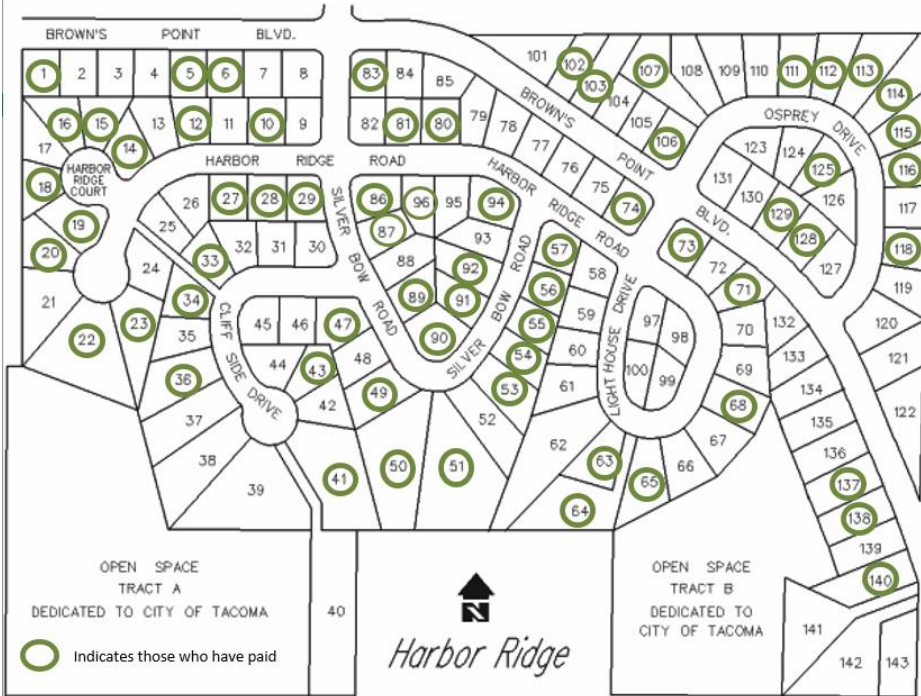
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	



# HOA dues are due

by Henry Mayorga

Homeowners who paid 2017 dues - Thank you



## DUES ARE DUE

If you have not paid your yearly \$35 Home Owner Association dues, please mail them to:

Harbor Ridge, PO Box 25794

Federal Way, WA 98093

## Welcome New Board Members

The priority and importance of having a solid consistent Board to function as a community was emphasized with the goal of continuing to enjoy a safe and clean community environment at Harbor Ridge. (10 Board members are to be elected to these volunteer positions on staggered 3 year terms). A warm welcoming was extended to all new board members and enthusiasm was expressed for new member participation and involvement in the community.

- Henry Mayorga, President
- Steven Neufeld, Vice-President
- Ingrid Lincicome
- Jeff Johnson
- Richard Judy
- Michael Grayum
- Chris Steven
- Robert Adams
- Luliana Sanchez
- Jon Dziadon

## We Want To Hear From You

For information about the board AS WELL AS who all the board members are and meetings, which are open to all residents, please visit our website at: [www.harborridge.info](http://www.harborridge.info).

Do you have a certain topic you would like to see covered in the next issue of our newsletter?

Do you have questions or need clarification on CC&Rs or Operating Procedures?