

Desert Aire



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March 2011

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK (Jeff Shimmin)

There seems to be some confusion about the openings being advertised for the DAOA Board of Directors. Our Board normally consists of nine directors serving three year terms. Currently there are only eight directors. This year, as every year, three terms are expiring. The fourth opening being advertised has existed for nearly a year. If you are interested in running for one of these four positions please submit a resume of not more than 150 words to the office by May 2nd and your name will be placed on this year's ballot. Obviously Desert Aire is in need of additional Board members who will be willing to help their community and take an active role on some of our various committees.

The Board of Directors has decided to change the time of the monthly Board meetings. Starting on April 8th the Board meetings will be held at 4:00 p.m. rather than the usual 7:00 p.m. start. The meetings will continue to be held on the second Friday of each month.

We have started work on the 2010/2011 Desert Aire budget and ballot. The annual meeting packet will be mailed to members in late May. Last year I held a question and answer session several weeks before the annual meeting to discuss the ballot. I think this informal discussion helped clarify many of the issues. I plan on having a similar meeting this year on Saturday June 4th at 3:00 p.m. downstairs in the Multi Purpose Building. I hope to see you there.

Did You Know?

Americans are responsible for generating roughly 20% percent of the garbage in the world.

During his lifetime, Herman Melville's Moby Dick sold only 50 copies.

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT (James R. Curdy, Jr.)

Hopefully spring is just around the corner. All these beautiful days thrown in amongst this winter weather only makes us more anxious for spring.

THE **ONLY** free dump weekend in 2011 will be April 15th-April 18 from 8-4pm.

The Annual Spring Cleanup day will be Friday April 15th from 9am-12pm. We gather in the lobby of the multi-purpose building to meet each other and get assignments. Garbage bags, water bottles & pop will be provided and volunteers will help haul debris to the dumpsters provided at the maintenance facility. It's a great way to meet your neighbors and make new friends.

BUSINESS OFFICE

Fiscal year 2010-2011 is financially on track at this point. Delinquent accounts for annual dues are just 24 totaling \$9,253 (2.1%). At this time we only have 13 liens outstanding which are 2 less than a year ago.

PARK

The overgrown shrubs that were in front of the daylodge have been removed to open up this area and to reduce maintenance for this area.

This was also an area where people would let their dogs make deposits and not clean up, creating an eyesore for others and their kids. Speaking of which, the grass strip with trees along Desert Aire Drive near the Senior Center should be treated with the same respect as our main park in that cleaning up after your pets is expected as courtesy to others. No one wants to step in a fresh pile of dung.



So... If this ↑ isn't practical, please do it for him or her.

EXERCISE ROOM

Annual cost for this facility is \$15 single or \$25 couple. In the last big windstorm we lost half the roof off this facility but luckily they were able to repair it with no further damage occurring.

MAINTENANCE

The storage addition to this facility is coming along much better with the warmer weather. This area will be used to store equipment, tools, pipe and steel out of sight and out of the weather. It also houses a sanitary room for water department storage and test equipment.



GOLF COURSE

Due to the cool weather this past month the spring greens aerifying will be pushed back to the first week in April. To view more information on this process click on the following USGA video link ["Why aerate greens?"](#)

Quick Fact; What is topdressing? It is the practice of spreading material over a putting green to level and smooth the surface. The material is generally sand and/or organic matter that improves drainage, controls thatch and maintains biological balance.

Along the 9th fairway we removed all of the smaller trees up towards the tee that staff could handle to start eliminating the roots that were damaging equipment, operators and the fairway turf surface. We are getting bids right now to check the cost of removing the remainder and also seeking a plan from Dan Hixon as to what they should be replaced with to improve this hole.

If you have any questions, thoughts, ideas or concerns feel free to contact me at:

504 Clubhouse Way W or 509-932-4839 or curdy@desertaire.org

Did you know???

By 3,000 B.C. there were at least six different types of beer in Egypt.

The first two years of a dog's life are equal to 24 human years.

More boys than girls are born during the day; more girls are born at night.

Hockey's Stanley Cup originally was only seven and a half inches high.

ARCHITECTURE COMMITTEE REPORT - Cheryl Wolff

We have had a busy winter approving new structures. Since the last newsletter we have approved 4 stick-built homes, 3 manufactured homes, 8 garages, 3 sheds and 16 miscellaneous including fences, pools, decks and covers. Please remember to submit your plans to the Committee before undertaking a project on your property. You are also welcome to attend the meetings with your questions. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Fridays at 3:00 PM. To get on the agenda, please phone the D.A. Office, 509-932-4839 or Cheryl at 509-932-0822.

For those who haven't heard about our record breaking winter windstorms, there was a good deal of damage to houses (shingles & roofs), fences (blown down), sheds (some blown down), landscaping (trees uprooted), lawn furniture (blown away or destroyed), litter & tumbleweeds blown into yards and even a boat tipped on end. If you are a part-timer at Desert Aire you may want to check on your property sooner rather than later.

The good news is that spring is on the way and many homeowners have been busy sprucing up their yards. You are allowed to burn brush, and other landscape debris on your property, unless there is a burn ban in effect. Be sure to attend the fire and have a charged hose at the ready. Please note, that burning in the common area is not allowed. The Common Areas are the areas outside of your lot.

Another way to get rid of vegetation and litter is to take them to the Maintenance Yard during Spring Cleanup. See the article later in this newsletter.

If you are interested in serving on the Committee, please contact the Business Office at 932-4839 or Cheryl Wolff,

932-0822. We meet on the second and fourth Fridays at 3:00 p.m. in the Business Office Conference Room.

DESERT AIRE SPRING CLEANUP

The dates for our community's Annual Spring Cleanup are Friday-Monday, April 15-18 from 8 AM – 4 PM. Dumpsters will be located in the maintenance yard, across from the Office Complex, for use by D.A. residents. On Friday, the 15th, you may join other volunteers in a concentrated effort to pick up litter and other debris from the Common Areas, Green Belts and the Free Board. We will meet at the D.A. Office at 9:00 A.M. to get our instructions, garbage bags and a list of areas that need cleanup. Coffee & donuts will be served and bottled water & pop will be available for you to take with you on your rounds.

If you know of an area in your neighborhood that needs attention, please inform the office staff so we can get it on our list. Likewise, if you aren't available on the 15th to join the group effort, you may want to clean up in your neighborhood and take the bags to the dumpsters by the 18th.

Those of us who have joined the group in the last few years have enjoyed ourselves, met new neighbors and felt good about improving our community. Hope to see you there this spring!

PARKS, MARINA AND GREENBELT – Bob Kibler

Boat Launch and trails: The preliminary chemical analysis results for the dredge material at the boat basin have been received by Grant PUD. No chemical contamination in excess of in-water disposal criteria was found. This is a significant step on the way to receiving permits. A meeting of Grant PUD with the permitting agencies was held in February. Presently, PUD staff is conducting the analysis to answer the agencies' questions regarding the jetty and wind-wave action. Once Staff has concluded the review, a follow up meeting with the agencies will be scheduled. There were no new updates on the status of the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) and the License Amendment. Grant PUD Staff anticipates the approval of the SMP and the amendment.

Parks: The tennis/pickle ball courts will be finished this spring after the weather warms up. The Parks Committee anticipates the use of a sign-in system for the courts, similar to the way it is for the swimming pool.

Common Area/Greenbelt: It would help Desert Aire look good if we all took some responsibility for keeping our common areas picked up. When a strong wind blows litter across the sagebrush, be a good citizen and sack it up and carry it out. Please do not purposely discard yard waste into the sagebrush, and if you see somebody do that, have the courage to talk to him about it, or write up a complaint from the Business Office, or report it to one of your board members.

Residents who are concerned about wildfire in the common area next to their property should consider building a fire break. Covenant 2.03 allows the clearing of a 10' wide belt of vegetation into the common area adjacent to your property line, but only after a License Agreement has been approved by the Architectural Committee. Start by going to the Business Office and asking for a License Agreement.

Your Parks, Marina and Greenbelt Committee meets now at a new time of 2:30 PM on the second Friday of each month, downstairs in the Desert Aire Multi-purpose Building. We are a forum, where Desert Aire residents can meet with Grant PUD Staff to receive the latest updates on the Shoreline Plan. Construction on that is due for completion in 2013.



Arrow-leaved balsamroot, *Balsamorhiza*

The Parks, Marina and Greenbelt Committee meets on the second Friday of the month, at 2:30 PM downstairs in the Multipurpose Building.

Desert Aire Citizens Patrol – Mike Wolff

Thank you, members of the Grant County Sheriff's office whom patrolled our community over this last winter. We of Desert Aire really appreciated the service that they provided. Did you know that the officers were checking (one or two times a shift) the homes of those who filled out the HOME WATCH forms? This next fall you will want to remember to fill out that HOME WATCH form whenever you go away for an extended period. We encourage weekenders to fill out these forms also.

We had trouble reading some of the home numbers this winter. The DAOA office has a form that you can fill out to have reflective home numbers placed on your lot for \$5.00. A small price for the secure feeling that emergency personnel will be able to find your home quickly.

We have a good team of drivers now but we are in need of volunteers to replace those whom have retired. Please

call Mike at 932-0822, Walt at 932-2463 or Larry, 932-5183.

I personally want to thank all the patrol members who worked tirelessly this winter to patrol our community. You, too can thank them by coming to the CITIZENS PATROL SPAGHETTI FEED FUND RAISER COMING IN MAY!!!

Watch for our signs on the mailbox stands coming soon.



WATERMASTER REPORT – Chris Guillen

The Water and Utilities Committee is looking for members to help make decisions regarding the water system and future other utilities. This committee meets once every three months.

We have been getting a lot of questions on “why am I being billed for water when it is shut off?” The shut off is only a protection from freezing pipes, water damage and high water bills. The base rate of \$33.73 which includes 3,000 cubic feet of water is a water availability fee and is charged quarterly from the time the meter is installed regardless of usage.

We have been working on Green Laurel Place and now most of the work is complete. We still have a couple services to tie into the new mainline; these services go to lots that are undeveloped. The main tie-in took about 2 ½ hours to complete and the rest of the day was spent hooking up the services.

We have been working on the leaks that were found during our leak survey this last year. So far out of the leaks that were found four have been fixed with two remaining. The worst leak was about 20 gallons a minute and still showing no water on the surface. Another leak had eaten a small hole in the brass gate valve used to shut off the stand pipe and that one was leaking about 2 gallons a minute.

Just as a reminder the new water policies, effective August 1st 2009 states members are not to access the meter boxes in any way or they will be subject to the enforcement mechanisms of the policy. Since the new policies have gone into effect we have sent out 43 first-offense violation notices and 2 second-offense notices.

All samples taken have been good. We are currently at 1104 connections to the water system. The total year to date gallons produced for the overall domestic water system is 8,692,089.

Conservation Tip

Aerate lawns to reduce thatch in the spring or fall. Thatch restricts penetration of water, air and nutrients. Aeration will also increase water penetration in compacted soils.

Tennis/Pickleball Court Update

The project started in September with the removal of the old court and Arborvitae surrounding the north and west sides. It was decided to postpone surfacing the court due primarily to the cool weather surfacing material not being available in the colors chosen. We had the option of changing the colors but decided to wait until this spring as the temperatures dropped sooner than expected and there would be minimal use until then. The result was a cost savings of \$2000 due to not having to use the cool weather surfacing material. In addition, we did not install the windscreen, choosing to save these months of exposure on the warranty. There was some minor settling also that will be corrected when the new surface is applied. We have not set a firm date for the resurfacing but will watch the weather with ETA sometime in late March or April, weather permitting. We need three consecutive days in the 60's to get optimum results.

Use of the courts will be for DAOA members and guests. For those staying at the RV Park, there will be a fee to use them. The gates will have combination lock keypads and the combination will be provided to the members and to those RV'rs who pay for the use. The combination can and will be changed occasionally to maintain security.

The courts will also be lined for tennis and pickleball- white lines for tennis and black lines for pickleball. Now that we have courts that are safe to play on and the addition of the pickleball use, we are expecting much greater usage

The tennis committee is planning an Open House for the spring as well. More to come!

Did you know??

A broken clock is always right twice a day!

Virginia Woolf wrote all her books while standing.

Tidbits

Austria was the *first* country to use postcards.



PRO SHOP NEWS – Don Tracy, PGA Professional



Spring is finally here. The weather has been slowly getting better the last few weeks; however, temperatures are still about 10 degrees below normal. The course was only closed for a total of 32 days this winter. Greens Fees for this January and February were \$10,512.00 compared to \$13,091.00 for January and February 2010. The course came through the winter in excellent shape.

Desert Aire had a booth again this year at the Seattle Golf Show was February 11th, 12th and 13th at Qwest Field Convention Center in Seattle. Over 10,000 people attended the show this year. The show went extremely well and Desert Aire received a tremendous amount of exposure. Several people were interested in our golf course and in real estate in Desert Aire.

Our winter Bestball Tournament was March 12th and 13th. We had a full field with 66 teams and 132 players. Many golfing events are coming up shortly. The Kick-Off Scramble is Saturday March 26th, the Sun Willows Senior Exchange is April 13th, the Pendleton Senior Exchange is April 29th, the Horn Rapids Senior Exchange is May 11th and the Jack Rabbit Couples Tournament is May 14th and 15th. Men's Club has been playing every Wednesday and Saturday at 9:00 AM. Ladies Club is playing at 10:00 AM on Tuesdays and 9:00 AM on Saturdays.

I will be hosting golf clinics throughout the season. My goal is to help you improve your game and enjoy it more. My first clinic of the year will be Friday March 25th at 5:00 PM. The subject will be rules. The second clinic which will be how to get off the tee, will be held Saturday April 16th at 5:00 PM.

The Pro Shop inventory is growing daily. It is getting hard to get around all the new goods we have. Several members have event credit from last year and we are hoping this new inventory will help you use it. We will

match equipment prices you would find at Pro Golf Discount, Puetz Golf or other similar outlets. We can't always meet their sale prices, but we will meet their regular every day prices. Be sure to stop by and check out our Men's and Women's apparel, clubs, bags, shoes and novelties. Hope to see you soon.

DESERT AIRE AIRPORT NEWS – David Strand

NW Aviation Conference and Trade Show

Last month the Washington Aviation Association held its 28th Annual NW Aviation Conference and Trade Show at the Puyallup fairgrounds, and Desert Aire was well represented. A team of volunteers from our "Friends of the Airport" group assembled an outstanding booth that featured the finest attributes of our community.



Wine, provided by Milbrandt Vineyards and Ginkgo Forest Winery, was given away as prizes along with several rounds of golf at our exceptional community course. Many thanks to Butch Milbrandt, Lois and Mike Thiede, Dick Skogerson, and Don Tracy for their donations and support.

Traveling to and from the event was a challenge due to the terrible pass conditions, but our team of volunteers were up to the challenge and represented our community well. A crowd of over fifteen thousand people attended



the event and many expressed an interest in our community. The Washington Aviation Association plans on featuring the Desert Aire Airport in an upcoming edition of their magazine, "On Course". We would like to express our appreciation to our airport team, Cliff Naser,

David Kuchera, Ray and Marjie Wells, and Bob Kibler for a job well done. Thanks to all of you for your help.

Runway Reconstruction Project

In early February our airport district received qualifications and performance data from engineering design firms for an upcoming project at our airport. The project requires professional engineering services to design and replace our existing runway with a new wider runway that complies with FAA standards. An



independent group of local pilots reviewed the qualifications of each firm and selected Reid Middleton of Everett, Washington to complete the next phase of the project.

Having worked with Reid Middleton on the South Taxiway reconstruction project the airport district feels confident they are the most capable firm to meet our requirements. Hopefully, engineering and design work should be complete before the end of summer. Once the engineering is complete the airport district will seek airport aid grants from the state and county governments to reconstruct the new runway.



2011 Fly-In Breakfast

This year's fly-in breakfast will be held on Saturday, June 18th. Pancakes, sausage, and eggs, along with orange juice and coffee, will be served from 7-11 A.M. The event will again be held in Gordie and Eileen Harang's hangar located just west of the Sagebrush Senior Center.

There will be a static display of our locally based aircraft and we are already getting calls about what special aircraft might attend this year. This is a popular community event and everyone is invited. A donation of \$5 per person is suggested for the breakfast.

Friends of the Airport



Desert Aire's "Friends of the Airport" meet for a casual lunch every Wednesday, 11:30am at Tiddaly

Diddalys. If you are interested in aviation please feel free to join our small group for lunch and conversation. See you there.

John L. Scott
REAL ESTATE

**Thank You Desert Aire
for a Great 2010!
Over \$3 million in
properties sold!**

Bill McCaffrey
Office: 509-932-5006 Cell: 206-719-1515

FIND YOUR HOME ON **www.JohnLScott.com**
REAL ESTATE

IMPORTANT DATES: Board Meeting Schedule: Effective April 2011 through June 2011 board meetings will be held the 2nd Friday of each month at 4:00 P.M., with no meeting scheduled in January. Meetings are held in the lower level of the Multi-Purpose building.

BUSINESS OFFICE

Betty Skinner, Sue Anderson 509-932-4839
James Curdy, Jr.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Summer*: Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Winter: Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm
*Summer Hours are March thru October

MAINTENANCE / GROUNDS

James Curdy, Jr. - Superintendent 509-932-4466
Rochelle Detering – Asst. Grounds Superintendent

WATER DISTRIBUTION OPERATOR

Chris Guillen, Watermaster 509-932-5202
Water Emergency (After hours) 509-830-4332
Swimming Pool 509-932-4896

GOLF-PRO SHOP

Don Tracy – PGA Professional 509-932-4439
Tom Johnson, Tom Truax,
Carolyn Holmes, Brian Mullen

Desert Aire



OWNERS ASSOCIATION

504 Clubhouse Way W.
Mattawa, WA 99349

Website: www.desertaire.org

Email: office@desertaire.org

Telephone: (509) 932-4839

Facsimile: (509) 932-5844

Survey Questionnaire

To help with long range planning and goals setting, we need to know our member's thoughts and desires. Please answer (**circle**) as many of the questions as you want and return them. Even if you only answer one question please return the questionnaire. If we don't get your input, it's difficult to know what you want.

The next structure we need to be planning for is the Recreation Facility
(Exercise, Pool, Daylodge).

How important do you feel each part of this facility is?

Exercise Room? (would likely be larger)

Important	Somewhat Important	Unsure	Not Needed
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Swimming Pool? (would likely be zero depth entry area and a swim lane area?)

Important	Somewhat Important	Unsure	Not Needed
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Daylodge/Meeting Room/Banquet Room? (would be ground level, ADA accessible)

Important	Somewhat Important	Unsure	Not Needed
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Communication to member ideas: _____

If you could change any one aspect or thing in or about Desert Aire, what would it be? _____

Other comments or suggestions: _____

If you would like us to be able to contact you for further information regarding your input, please provide your contact information in the *optional* info area below

OPTIONAL

Phone _____

Email _____

Sent 3/23/11

COMPOSTING



CLASS

- Learn how to set up and maintain a compost bin.
- Learn how to reduce your garbage bill and your dependence on landfills.
- Participants will receive a free compost bin after attending the class. Only one bin per household.



**SATURDAY,
JUNE 11, 2011
2:00 PM**

**MULTIPURPOSE BUILDING
DESERT AIRE OWNERS ASSOCIATION
504 CLUBHOUSE WAY W**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:
754-6082**

DO NOT NEED TO PRE-REGISTER FOR CLASS

**Sponsored by Grant County Solid Waste, and
Washington State Dept. of Ecology**