

Desert Aire



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May 2011

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK (Jeff Shimmin)

The Desert Aire Board has finalized the ballot for our 2011 annual meeting. It will be mailed out to members the last week of May. As usual you will be voting on the annual budget. On the revenue side of the budget we are increasing green fees for non-members by 10-15%, Lot Assessments by \$16 and Member's Dues by \$20. The \$20 Dues increase will be used to accelerate the growth in our Building Fund Reserve. Our goal is to reduce the need for "one time special assessments" on future projects. The \$16 Lot Assessment increase will be used for Capital purchases and continuing the Winter Security Patrol.

The ballot also includes the election of new members to the Board of Directors. We received three applications this year still leaving us one Director short following the elections. Immediately following the annual meeting the Board will meet to select officers and committee assignments for the year. If you are interested in joining one of the committees please let the office know.

There are also several proposed changes to our Covenants and By-Laws on the ballot. One would restrict yard waste burning on Common Areas. If you want to burn you should do it on your own property and not on our greenbelt. Another proposal deals with delinquent dues. Currently it can be very difficult to force members to pay delinquent dues or assessments. The proposed change would allow the Board, after adequate notice, to sever water services until the delinquent bills are paid. Please give the proposed changes careful consideration and **PLEASE VOTE**. Last year only 36% of us voted.

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.

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

I want to thank our 41 Volunteers who came out on April 15th to help make our community a better place. That day over 30 yards of debris was cleaned up from greenbelts including 23 tires and 2 burn barrels. The PUD also had 5 employees with pickups to help clean up the shoreline using 15 of our volunteers the entire south end was done up to the boat launch (4 loads). The free dump days brought in a total of 120 yards of trash, 100 yards of vegetative debris, 10 gallons of waste oil, 2 batteries, 44 old tires and 4 pickup loads of scrap steel and appliances.

BUSINESS OFFICE

We have **120** boat launch passes that have been paid for and not picked up. Please do so at your earliest convenience. Weekdays they are available in the Business Office and on Weekends in the Proshop until the campground attendant starts May 20th at which time they will be available at the Boat Launch on weekends. Final Survey results totaled 88 responses which is the 3rd best response ever. Of the 3 items evaluated the Swimming pool was clearly the most desired with **50% important** and another **22.7% saying somewhat important**. The exercise room was second with **26.1% important** and another **33% saying somewhat important**. The daylodge (a room for family events, etc) was third with **15.9% important** and another **27.3% saying somewhat important**.

PARK

The Tennis Courts should be completed just prior to Memorial Day Weekend. Upon opening there is some information everyone needs to know.

1. They now have Keypad Locks on the gates and owners will get the combination in the Proshop.
2. There will be a mandatory sign-in sheet that all users must complete prior to using each day.
3. The Proshop will have a few tennis supplies for purchase and may have some rental racquets in the future.

To ensure maximum satisfaction by all there will be a more extensive list of rules written by the committee as we get closer to opening. These will be posted at the courts prior to opening.

Did You Know?

Armadillos can get leprosy.

MAINTENANCE

The storage addition to this facility is close to completion. Final details will be finished as time allows throughout the season.



GOLF COURSE

We have 65 golf Cart Permits that have been paid for and not picked up. Please do so at your earliest convenience. Weekdays they are available in the Business Office and on Weekends in the Pro Shop. At this time Carts should either have permits on them or be paying the daily trail fee so.....go get your stickers! The greens have been slow to heal from the aerifying due to the cool weather this spring. They are looking better with each passing day and should soon be back up to par. Along the 9th fairway all of the poplar trees have been removed and we are awaiting funding for the replacement trees at an estimated cost of \$6,000.

Quick Fact; Golf courses nationwide combine to filter 13 million tons of dust from the air every year.

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

ARCHITECTURE COMMITTEE REPORT - Cheryl Wolff

In the September 2010 newsletter I wrote about the CC&Rs that we all agreed to follow when we purchased our property in Desert Aire. Please read the documents that pertain to the Regulations that we have all agreed to abide by. You will find the By Laws, CC&Rs and the Architectural Regulations posted on the Desert Aire website and also a hard copy of each in the DA Office.

The Architecture Committee must approve any structures that you want to build before you begin the project. Recently we have had to shut down the building of a fence, a shed and a swimming pool. The Committee members want to help you improve your property but it must be done within the regulations. You can download the Architectural Application Form from the website or ask at the office for a copy.

The Committee continues to review and respond to violation complaints, and to work with the Parks and Greenbelt Committee to make sure the Common Areas are not encroached upon. We appreciate the diligence of Desert Aire owners who comply with the CC&Rs and the Architectural Regulations.

Since the beginning of this year we have approved: 5 Stick Built homes; 3 Manufactured homes; 6 Sheds; 10 Garages and 13 Miscellaneous which includes patio covers, fences and swimming pools.

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.

CITIZENS PATROL SPAGHETTI FEED



The Spring Spaghetti Feed is the only fund-raiser for the Volunteer Citizens Patrol. It will be held at the Sagebrush Senior Center on Friday, May 13th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Donations are used for patrol expenses including gasoline. Please come for a good meal, good company, help support our Citizens Patrol and to thank them for their efforts. The patrol member's will be cooking and serving spaghetti, garlic bread and a green salad. B.Y.O.B. SEE YOU THERE!!!

If you cannot attend and would like to make a donation, please send your check to "Citizens Patrol" PO box 1657, Mattawa, WA 99349. We thank you for your support.

DESERT AIRE SPRING CLEANUP

We had a very successful Desert Aire clean up day last month. Thank you to the many folks who came out and helped collect trash and yard waste. As many of you know we had an extremely windy winter and there was a lot of debris to collect. We worked from 9:00 a.m. until noon and included the waterfront in the clean up area. A number of PUD employees were on hand to help with that. The owners that live along the airport pulled together to clean along the airport property and the Garden Club pruned the rose bushes at the end of the runway. A special thanks to those owners who worked past noon to finish cleaning up one of the green belt areas.

If you haven't yet met Dave Williams, you should. He is an inspiration to all of us in D.A. Dave collects litter on his daily walks. In 2010, he collected 840 garbage bags full. As of the middle of April this year he has already

collected 420 bags! Thank you Dave. We also want to thank James and his staff for their help in preparation for and on the day of our clean up, as well as Bob Kibler who researched the common areas that needed the most attention.

Please remember that the green belts belong to all of us and we can all participate in keeping those areas picked up throughout the year. When you are out working in your yard, it's only a couple of steps to pick up trash in the green belt next to your property. Thank you for your consideration of others and your care of Desert Aire!

PARKS, MARINA AND GREENBELT – Bob Kibler

Provided that no significant delays in the permitting and/or construction occur, Grant PUD anticipates completion of the construction activities for the proposed improvements at the Priest Rapids Recreation Area by Memorial Day of 2013. Between now and then, the important maintenance agreement between Desert Aire and the PUD needs to be worked out. We expect your Parks, Marina and Greenbelt Committee will be the forum to do this.

With flowers and new green everywhere, it is a fine time to walk the shoreline. You might bring the camera, water, and picnic lunch. There are two access paths from Lakeside Way. Look for the little brown signs, visible from the street. There are two more paths south of the boat launch: one off Edgewater, and one off Washington Place. Please respect the property of shoreline residents.



Sharp-Shinned Hawk (taken in April on Airport Way)

Let's collaborate in producing a Desert Aire Bird Book! It will be a nonprofit endeavor benefiting Desert Aire. The details will be worked out at the first meeting. It is Saturday, May 21st, at 4 PM upstairs in the Multipurpose Building.

Your Parks, Marina and Greenbelt Committee meets at 2:30 PM on the second Friday of each month downstairs

in the Multipurpose Building. Grant PUD staff members are usually on hand to provide updates to the boat launch and shoreline improvements.

Bob Kibler
509-331-7030

Letter from Grant PUD

On behalf of the Lands and Recreation Resources Department, I would like to thank the Desert Aire Owners Association, Parks Marina and Greenbelt Committee, and all of those who were involved in the shoreline cleanup effort on April 15th. Your contribution and dedication to creating a safe and inviting environment for everyone is greatly appreciated.

I would also like to take the opportunity to update the community on Grant PUD's boat launch, day use area and shoreline trail development. At the end of 2010, Grant PUD filed development permit applications for the recreation enhancements that are planned adjacent to the Desert Aire and Cox's Landing communities. Presently, Grant PUD is working to address comments from various agencies regarding the proposal. As part of this process, Grant PUD has conducted additional analysis of the boat launch and jetty, and is adding appropriate changes to the project. These changes will have no effect on the functionality or safety of the design; they rather further align Grant PUD's desire to balance safe public access to the Priest Rapids Recreation Area shoreline while meeting fish, wildlife and water quality protection requirements.

Thanks again for your continued support,

Kelly Larimer
Lands & Recreation Resources Manager
Grant County PUD

Please send your request to lands@gcpud.org to subscribe to the Grant PUD Lands and Recreation quarterly newsletter and receive information on the lands and waters of the Priest Rapids Project. Also, visit Grant PUD web site at <http://www.gcpud.org/naturalResources/shorelineManagement/priestRapids.html>.

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 fill out the HOME WATCH form included in this issue of the Newsletter 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.

That's a small price for the secure feeling that emergency personnel will be able to find your home quickly.

Please fill out the form and send it to

mcwolff@smwireless.net

Thanks, and be safe.



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 working on the pool a lot this past two weeks. The pool needed to be washed down, then scrubbed, and painted. The scrubbing is to remove any oils that are deposited on the old paint from swimmers. All the oils must be removed before painting. The paint is a chlorinated, rubberized paint that is designed for pools. The paint needs to harden for a week before I can fill the pool. The deck has also been replaced with Timber Tech decking. We have added a new hand rail to the west end of the pool to aid people on the steep steps. The pool will be opening the 27th of May at noon. Property owner must remember to bring their owner card and ID to the pool when they come to swim.

Just as a reminder the new water polices, 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.

All samples taken have been good. We are currently at 1107 connections to the water system. The total year to date gallons produced for the overall domestic water system is 40,416,587.

Conservation Tip

To reduce evaporation, water the lawn in the early morning or evening. Avoid watering during the heat of the day or when it is windy.

Tidbits

It costs about 3 cents to make a \$1 bill in the US

Safety First!!!

NOW THAT VACATION TIME IS HERE,
**PLEASE CHECK AND TEST YOUR
SMOKE DETECTORS.**
ALSO, MAKE SURE TO PUT IN FRESH
BATTERIES!

DESERT AIRE ROADS ARE
NOTORIOUSLY BAD FOR WALKERS,
RUNNERS, BIKES AND CARS SHARING
THE LIMITED SPACE WE HAVE!

EVEN WITH A 25 MPH SPEED LIMIT,
THERE ARE ENOUGH BLIND CURVES,
HILLS AND HIDDEN DRIVE WAYS TO
MAKE SAFE DRIVING A CHALLENGE.
NOW, WE WILL BE ADDING GOLF CARTS
TO THE MIX!

WALKERS AND RUNNERS, PLEASE **USE**
THE SIDE OF THE ROAD TO YOUR LEFT,
FACING ONCOMING TRAFFIC. BIKES
AND GOLF CARTS FOLLOW THE RULES
OF THE ROAD AND GO WITH THE FLOW.

WHENEVER YOU SEE **FLASHING**
EMERGENCY VEHICLE LIGHTS, PULL
OVER AND **STOP!** IT MAKES NO
DIFFERENCE IF THEY ARE COMING UP
ON YOU, OR COMING TOWARDS YOU IN
THE OPPOSITE LANE, **PULL OVER**
TO THE RIGHT AND STOP!!
DO NOT DO A SLOW
ROLL, STOP!

THE EXCEPTION~ DO NOT STOP ON A
CURVE~ UNLESS YOU CAN GET
COMPLETELY OFF THE ROAD SAFELY.



PRO SHOP NEWS – Don Tracy, PGA Professional



We are starting to welcome back our people from down south. The weather has been slowly getting better the last few weeks however temperatures are still about 10 degrees below normal. The course came through the winter in excellent condition.

Many golfing events are coming up shortly. The Jack Rabbit is Saturday and Sunday May 14 & 15, the Mount Adams Senior Exchange is May 24th, Sage Hills Home & Home is May 25 at Sage Hills, Memorial Day Scramble is May 30th, Black Rock Senior Exchange is June 9th and the Desert Aire Bestball is June 11th & 12th. Men's Club will be playing at 8:00 on Wednesday and Saturday starting May 18th. My next Golf Clinic will be Friday May 20th at 5:00 PM and the subject will be putting. My goal is to help you improve your game and enjoy it more.

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.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE – Rich Kummer

This past year has seen, thanks to Dave Bevers, many improvements to our Web Site. This is a continuous process as we evaluate suggestions and input from members and officers. There is a wealth of information about Desert Aire and the surrounding area. If you have not visited the site, please take a peek at: www.Desertaire.org. Your comments are always welcome!

Some of the changes include more downloadable forms, and an enhanced calendar of local events and activities.

Rightfully so, many comments have been received about the newsletter publishing schedule. Our new schedule is: March, May, July and September. Previously our schedule was a sliding schedule based upon activity. We are evaluating a 'year end' issue for December or January. The deadline for articles is 4 P.M. on the 6th of March, May July and September.

There has also been confusion on "how do I get a copy?" Call the office if you prefer a hard copy snail mailed to you, or give the office your e-mail address and it will be delivered via e-mail. It is, of course published on the Web Site, along with DAOA Board of Directors meeting minutes. The Web Site also has past issues of this Newsletter available in the archives.

Your Communications Committee meets at 3 P.M. on the Wednesday before the DAOA Board meeting during even numbered months.

DESERT AIRE AIRPORT NEWS – David Strand

Airport Clean-Up

Desert Aire Airport Clean-Up day was a big success this year thanks to the twelve volunteers that helped remove the roof shingles, plastic bags, and other wind blown garbage from the airport grounds.



Our volunteer group walked the airport from one end to the other collecting eleven large bags of trash. We even found on aircraft part, an inspection cover that was lying on the shoulder of the runway. The Earth Angels Garden Club again this year pruned the roses on the west end and helped identify the problems with irrigation system for the roses and trees. Several of the roses didn't make it through the winter but we will replace them with new plants when things warm up a little. Thank you all for your service.

Yearly Fly-In Community Breakfast



Next month, on **Saturday June 18th**, we will host our yearly Fly-In breakfast from **7 am to 11 am**. This year we estimate we will serve 400 guests and welcome over 30 airplanes for the event (weather permitting).

Twenty three people have volunteered to cook, wait tables, park airplanes and generally help make sure everyone is having a good time. We plan to have on

display some exciting new airplanes and helicopters, so bring the kids and neighbors to see what we were able to lure to Desert Aire this year. A donation of \$5.00 is suggested and the money will be used to help maintain the airport for all of the Desert Aire community and friends.

Attention Desert Aire Residents

Aircraft Owners & Pilots Admin (AOPA) in conjunction with the Transportation Security Admin. (TSA) wish to remind residents that unauthorized personnel are not allowed on Runways, Taxiways, or Aircraft Movement areas. If you as a resident observe any unauthorized or suspicious activities please notify airport management,
@ 509-932-5642 or call 866/GA-SECURE.

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, Linda Vincent



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DESERT AIRE CITIZEN'S PATROL

HOME WATCH PROGRAM 2011

DESERT AIRE

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ email _____

AWAY ADDRESS

_____ email _____

City-ZIP _____ Away Phone # _____

Date of departure _____ Date of return _____

General Information

Please answer the following questions so the patrol will know what to look for when checking your property:

Is there a car in the driveway? (Yes) (No) Color _____ Make _____

Do you have security lighting on in and out of the home? (Yes) (No)

Is there a trailer or other vehicle visible on your property (Yes) (No)

Is there an alarm system in the home (Yes) (No)

Other information pertinent to your home (special lighting, friends using your property, etc.)

Emergency Information

Local contact:
Name _____

Away contact:
Name _____

Phone # _____

Phone # _____