
VANDALIZM AT THE COVE

We hope that you and your family are doing well in this challenging time.

In December someone set fire to the port-a-potty at the beach parking lot, causing a total loss, along with the fence and artwork surrounding it. The area was completely reduced to ashes and rubble, along with some other vandalism in the past few months.

The Normandy Park Police Department has been notified about these events and is investigating the arson. They are also increasing the frequency of patrols on the property.

The Board of Directors is looking into options and discussing how to implement measures to ensure the safety of our visitors, as well as the integrity of the building and adjacent property.

When visiting the Cove, be very vigilant, attentive to your surroundings, and aware of others visiting the property. If you observe any suspicious activities or behavior, at any time of day or night, please call the Normandy Park Police Department immediately. Exercise caution and please do not confront anyone. Your actions could help prevent additional damage to our beloved Cove.



Normandy Park Community Club January 2021 NEWSLETTER

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If label is incorrect, please contact the COVE office.

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THANK YOU....

Bob Cowan for helping process 800 maintenance envelopes.

Thank you to the 1000 households who have sent in their 2021 maintenance fees. A HUGE thank you to those who sent in a little extra to total \$15,530.00 in extra donations.

Bill & Eileen Hess for continuing to fill our doggy bag holders and dump trash at the courts, next to the field, and at the boardwalk to the beach.

Steve Higgins for restringing the flagpole.

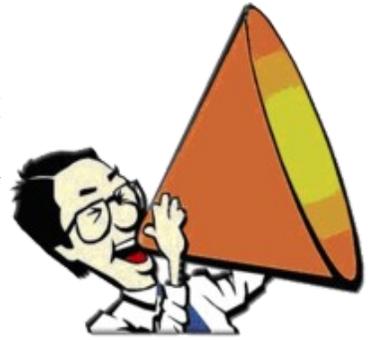
Thank you to the **Burien Fire Department** for putting out the sanican fire and to **Bill Villonza** for pressure washing the pad before the new sanican was delivered.

Bob Cummings & Bill Hess for mowing and weed whacking the big field and beach area. They mowed 12 times in 2020 and spent a total of 77 hours on mowing, weed whacking, and maintaining the two riding lawn mowers.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

By Clarke Brant, 2020 NPCC Board

My letter last year was a wish for another wonderful year at the Cove. Boy, did I ever miss that by a mile with the pandemic in 2020! As mentioned at the NPCC Annual Membership Meeting in October, the Community Club is surviving and being well maintained due to prudent reductions in 2020 and past financially conservative leadership. Our main strength lies in the dedicated volunteers who serve on the Board as Trustees, the Committee Chairs, and individual volunteers. Everyone stepped up, put on their masks, and kept appropriate distances. Meetings shifted from the building to remote meetings with a bit of a learning curve.



Two of our trustees, Tony Cassarino and Trey Danna, leave the Board in January. We thank them heartily for their work and know they will continue helping as volunteers. We have a full 2021 Board as Tamara Sheldon and Eric Mosher were elected for three- year terms beginning in January. Welcome aboard!

Our current Committee Chairs are: Beach and Grounds - Mark Lewinger; Stream and Wetlands - Tony Cassarino; Tennis and Pickleball - Gene Swansiger; Social - Tayna Lorella; and Membership - Patty Spangler. All are to be commended for yeoman work in this challenging environment. Cove Office Manager, Staci McLaughlin, is busy addressing event cancellations and rescheduling, refunds, and the ever present routine and unscheduled items to successfully manage a large property and of over 1800 households.

Diane Numrich (our Treasurer and Capital Chair) took on the additional task of leading a committee to create a procedural document detailing items needed to reopen the booking of events, a very big task. Unfortunately, this is a moving target with the cascade of changing restrictions. Another group, Stewards of the Cove, led by Tony Cassarino and Merry Ann Peterson, could not meet formally each month to work on outdoor tasks. Some volunteers did come occasionally wearing masks and distancing to keep our grounds and property in good shape. Thanks to all that helped - it makes a difference.

Other volunteers have included Bill and Eileen (our Secretary) Hess who empty the outdoor garbage cans and fill the doggie bag holders around the property. Bill mows the lawns with Bob Cummings on our two donated riding mowers. Andy Batcho has come to the rescue many times to keep the mowers running and sharpened. Andy is also our Eagle Scout project coordinator and helped Eagle Scout candidate Gabriel Martinez replace our well worn fire pit #2. He is currently talking with two other candidates about 2021 projects- one of whom would be our first female candidate. Neil Ball (our Vice President and Building Chair) jumps in on many projects around the Cove. Recently, Neil got the lanyard back to the top of our flagpole with the help of Steve Higgins. Whew, I was not looking forward to shinnying up the pole! Neil also led the cleanup of the recent arson of the beach sanican and screening fence. Sadly, we lost the Heron artwork there too. Bill Villonza pressure washed the concrete base before a new sanican was delivered and helped with other projects during the year.

New this year, the Board has requested additional security and monitoring over the New Year's weekend to discourage vandalism and use of the property by non-members. We may do more of this as COVID closures around the city and county have greatly increased visits to the Cove property. You can help – be our eyes and ears - report problems to the office or call the NP police for serious problems.

To our volunteers, including too many to mention, it is a privilege to be a part of this community. Thank you for maintaining our beautiful property. You are sincerely appreciated!

2021 NPCC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Neil Ball	President	206-819-3676	Mark Lewinger	Beach & Grounds	602-722-3801
Clarke Brant	Vice President	206-824-2108	Tayna Lorella	Social	206-954-2405
Eileen Hess	Secretary	206-246-4873	Eric Mosher	Stream & Wetland	206-243-2321
Diane Numrich	Treasurer	206-920-5660	Marco Pineiro	Beach & Grounds	206-963-4287
Staci McLaughlin	Office Mgr.	206-242-3778	Tamara Sheldon	Capital	206-915-3307
			Jamie Smugeresky		949-295-8549
			Patty Spangler	Membership	206-242-0596
			Gene Swansiger	Tennis/Pickleball	206-960-6482

2021 Stewards of the Cove

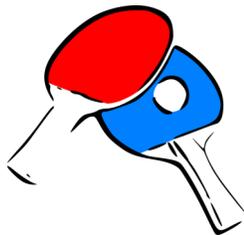
The Stewards of the Cove program is starting its **16th year** of operation. Thanks to some very dedicated volunteers, our streams, wetlands, beach, and grounds look fabulous! While we love our long time volunteers, we welcome (and need) new faces...men, women and children. Please join us this year at the Cove for some stewardship togetherness. During these pandemic times, we will follow state and local guidelines for masks and social distancing. We meet on the **2nd Saturday** of each month from March to October from 9:00 am- noon.

Coffee, donated by **Normandy Park Starbucks**, will near available by the sign-in sheet. Questions? Contact **Merry Ann Peterson** 206-824-4271, merryann7@icloud.com or **Eric Mosher** 206-243-2321, eric.mosher@comcast.net.

2021 Stewardship Schedule—9:00 am-12:00 pm

March 13	Invasive weed control; blackberries, reed canary grass, ivy; plant native plants and trees
April 10	Annual Cove Spring Cleanup: remove winter debris from beach and grounds, repair paths, maintain gardens, pull ivy
May 08	Maintain gardens; plant inspection and maintenance; open boat ramp; dredge silt ponds; move logs
June 12	Invasive weed control; policeman's helmet, nightshade, ivy; plant annuals; maintain gardens
July 10	Plant inspection and maintenance; maintain gardens; start in-stream habitat improvements
August 14	Invasive weed control in wetlands; maintain gardens
September 11	Complete in-stream habitat improvements; maintain gardens; invasive weed control
October 9	Plant and mulch native trees and plants; start salmon counting Oct. through Dec.

SALMON FISH COUNT FOR 2020 WAS 101 (2019 was 24)



NORMANDY PARK COURTS UPDATE By Gene Swansiger—2021 NPCC Tennis/Pickleball Chair

The courts are seeing more winter activity than ever before. With all indoor sports facilities being closed due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Cove courts are active even in cold, damp weather. Tennis balls don't weather as well as pickleballs, so outdoor winter play favors pickleball.

Pickleball usage continues to grow. Jan Lentz initiated a women's group in the summer that continues to grow and plays frequently in the mornings. A more advanced group consisting of a core of players that formerly played at the HAC commonly plays early afternoons. A third group that used to play at the Normandy Park Rec Center routinely plays on Friday and Sunday afternoons. If there is interest, we will set up a clinic for new pickleball players to get started. Contact Staci or me to get on the list.

The NPCC Board has been very frugal since the building cannot be rented out. However, recognizing the winter court usage, approval was obtained to continue renting the court side sanican year around and to purchase the 8-foot-tall windscreen that was installed the last week of December on the west fence to reduce cross winds. In addition, we purchased a court squeegee to remove the shallow puddles that form after the frequent rains occurring during the winter season.

West court reservations continue to be popular, averaging over 30 hours per week in November and December. The Board has approved allowing west court reservations for the 2021 season. The survey e-mailed to court registrants in early November supported staying with the 2 hour per week reservation time limit per Lot A household and for trying west court line changes to enable using portable pickleball nets on each side of the tennis net.

ANOTHER EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

The new square concrete fire pit at the beach comes from Eagle Scout candidate **Gabriel Martinez** with help from Cove mentors **Andy Batcho** and **Neil Ball**, plus his Scout troop and family.

The project included preparing a plan, a bill of materials, a cost estimate, then Board review and approval. The old fire pit was first removed. Materials were acquired and modified, followed by digging, forming, inserting re-bar, and pouring and finishing concrete.

Thanks to local merchant **Dunn Lumber**, for providing materials at cost and oking an additional donation.

The project that began in early November rewarded Ben with his Eagle ranking in December. Our thanks and congratulations!

DON'T MOVE THE BEACH LOGS (Surf Smelt are in DANGER)

When you come down to the Cove beach, you are surrounded by a variety of animal life. Ducks on the pond, herons on the beaches, eagles in the trees, and salmon in the streams. But have you ever given any thought to the Surf Smelt? That is right, the Surf Smelt (*Hypomesus pinnatus*). It is a small fish that uses our Cove each to spawn. The Surf Smelt is an important forage fish for our salmon. Pretty Cool.

Unfortunately, the Surf Smelt is listed as a **Species of Greatest Conservation Need** by the State of Washington and a **Priority Species** by the Department of Fish and Wildlife. They are in danger because their normal spawning areas, just below the high tide mark, have in the past been developed and or seawalls installed. Therefore, the undeveloped Cove beach is so important to this species. This is why no work to clear logs or debris off the boat ramp area is allowed during their spawning season which is the winter months. So, if you go down to the beach to launch your boat or kayak, and you think it would be easier if you just moved these beach logs, DON'T. It is a violation of the law and you could get ticketed and fined. It may be harder for you to launch your boat, but it is better for the Surf Smelt.

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: ERIC MOSHER

In 2021 we welcome Eric Mosher back to the NPCC Board of Trustees. Eric previously served two terms and was Building Chair - invaluable experience! He is happy to be involved again and will have a new role as Chair of the Stream and Wetlands Committee.

Eric and his wife Georgia hail from Colorado. Eric is a Journalism graduate from Colorado State University and Georgia has a business degree from University of Colorado - lots of fun times during football season when CU Buffs play the CSU Rams (Dogs vs Cougs?!). They have two children, daughter Melissa (AI) and their lovely granddaughters, and son Clay (Shyla), recently married at Halloween. Lots of educators in their family.

After working for years at Colorado State University, the Moshers moved to Washington in 1989. Both worked at UW, Eric as the Executive Director of Publication Services and Georgia in the business school and development office. They are huge UW supporters (just sit next to them at a ball game!) and proudly sport their purple and gold. International and domestic travel has been a joy during retirement.

Home was initially on the Sammanish Plateau, with a move to Normandy Park in 2006 to find a sense of community. As with many of us, Eric said that they initially did not realize the value of being a Lot-A owner. They are active Stewards of the Cove, and when Eric started, he was "the young guy with the strong back". Decorating the Cove for special events is also fun, along with pitching in for numerous building projects.

Why come back to the Board? They love living here and being part of the NP community. Eric hopes to contribute in any way that he can (and will try to keep from being the old curmudgeon and nay-saying new ideas!).

With open arms, we look forward to Eric's participation on the Board of Trustees!
