



Community Spirit News

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Neighbors for Neighborhoods

You've been talking about it forever - driving everyone crazy and they are tired of hearing about it - they keep telling you to go to the *Neighborhood Association* meeting to find a solution to your burning issue. When you finally attend the meeting and listen to the quest speaker, from the city, drone on about procedures, committees, budgets and how decisions are made; you conclude you're wasting your time and that you need to talk directly to a city council representative. The speaker gets your attention, again, when he says that Glacier View doesn't have a representative on the city council because Everett does not have districts – the city council is a “committee system.” You drop your head, take a deep breath of resignation and wonder what show you missed on television. On the bright side, the homemade brownies were good, it was nice to see some familiar faces and meet some new people.



Annie Lyman

Most everyone has heard or read about Providence Hospital's proposed expansion plans and the strong opposition from our north-end friends. *Neighbors for Neighborhoods* is a grass roots non-profit group that was formed in response to the outcry from frustrated citizens who feel the hospital's methods were underhanded. The purpose of the group is to preserve and protect the existing neighborhoods through improvement, information and advocacy by bringing people together to create *real* change to solve problems with safety, traffic, zoning and other issues.

To learn more about this group and their goals, I met with Annie Lyman, who is a retired educator who has traveled extensively and lived abroad. She is warm, soft-spoken and a wealth of information on many different civic matters. She advised that it will take a year of planning to formulate a referendum to change the city charter to a district system and they are looking for members who want to participant in the process and to help circulate the petitions to collect the necessary signatures to get the initiative on the general election ballot in November 2010. For more details, check out their web site at: neighborsforneighborhoods.org

New Resource: Ben Evans



Hard at work building a concrete pad

When you need reliable help, you can call **Ben Evans at 425-280-7086**. While growing up in Brier, his Dad was always working on projects around the house and Ben was right next to him - learning every step along the way. One summer they remodeled a 1,500 square foot basement. They removed the outdated wood paneling, updated the wiring, added new electrical outlets, installed sheetrock, painted; and, Ben did all the millwork by himself. The basement was transformed from a dark and dreary cavern to modern family room complete with 2 bedrooms.

Ben graduated from Mountlake Terrace High School in 1998 and went on to vocation school. He is an Journeyman Painter with experience in preparing walls, woodwork, ceilings, doors, furniture and equipment for painting and refinishing. Whether restoring old homes or building new ones, he finds finish carpentry the most satisfying part of the job. His hourly rate is between \$30 and \$35 depending on the project and he is available for immediate work.

Getting to know your neighbors

Alta Vista: When I stopped by and chatted with **Bill & Lillian Taggart** at their home at 5113 Beaumont, I asked “When did you move here?” **Bill** immediately responded, “January 27, 1973, the day the Paris Peace Accord was signed ending the Vietnam war.” Any questions you have about people, places and events, especially in Everett, **Bill Taggart** is the man with the answers; and, you most definitely want him on your team for Trivial Pursuit!



Lillian & Bill Taggart

Bill was a Letter Carrier for over 34 years with the U.S. Postal Service until he retired in 1992. He was only 53 when he retired and he was not ready to kick back, so he went to work for Northwest Package Express for the next eight years and now he is a security guard at the downtown Everett Library and he gets his daily exercise by walking up and down three flights of stairs several times a day. He enjoys reading (of course) and golf when he gets a chance and says “he will retire when he’s 92”.

Lillian was raised in Wisconsin and after graduating from high school she worked for the airlines in Chicago. She met Bill on a Greyhound Bus when he saved a seat for her. After they went their separate ways, they wrote daily to each other. In August 1962, he invited her out to Everett and she thought Washington was beautiful; so green and pretty. It was also warm and dry in August. They were married in October and they have been together for 47 years. During their early years together she was homemaker and raised their children. For the last eight years, **Lillian** has worked for the Snohomish County School District in the Food Services Department where she prepares and serves meals to the elementary students; she enjoys connecting with the children. They enjoy road trips, when they can get away, and spending time with their family.

Getting to know your neighbors . . . continued



Frieda Wallace

Claremont: **Frieda Wallace** was raised on a farm near Lynden. She graduated from Lynden High School in '41, worked in the Bellingham Shipyards until she enrolled in WSU. During the war years, school enrollment was down and the men's dorm rooms were available for female students who became known as "Waller Girl's". She worked in the Common's Hall dining room and earned enough to pay for her books, tuition and have some pocket money. In 1945 she met **Gale R. Wallace**. He was from the Snohomish Valley where his family had a large dairy farm. They started dating and they were married in 1946. Soon after they were married, his father died and they decided to quit school and return to his family farm to help out. **Gale** became well known for his innovative farming techniques and won many awards over the years. **Frieda** enjoyed baking fruit pies and being a member of the Dairy Wife Association. She also maintained the farm books and worked as a secretary/assistant for an Everett orthopedist for many years. **Frieda** mentored and helped raise 17 nieces and nephews; one of whom is now the Chief of Police in Olympia. When **Gale** died in 1997, she sold the farm and bought her home in Claremont. **Frieda** turned 85 in January and currently lives a quiet life with her cat **Gracie** and her younger sister **Dorothy Verduner**. According to one great grandnephew, she's the best "Go Fish" player around.

View Acres: When I stopped by to visit with **Kaye Forbes** on View Drive she was checking out the moss green yarn that she had picked up for her latest knitting project. **Keith & Kaye Forbes** are from Bellingham and during the war years **Kaye** worked for KVOS down at the waterfront transmitter where she did commercials and played records for the workers at the shipyards. They moved to Everett in 1956 when Prudential Insurance Company transferred **Keith** to the Everett office. **Kaye** enjoyed raising their seven children who are scattered all over the country from Pittsburg to Whidbey Island. After they left the nest, her son **Skip** got her a job with the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office where she worked for 17 years in several different positions. She enjoyed her job and her co-workers including our very own **Lorraine Hall** of 5012 Delaware Ave.



Kathleen "Kaye" Forbes

After a long illness, **Keith** passed away on January 18th, they had been married for 72 years. **Kaye** is doing very well and stays busy with her projects and her three cats keep her entertained. Her son **Mark** and his friend **Karen** live with her and they do all the cooking and maintain the property. She misses driving, but says the world is better off without her on the road.

Next Meeting: March 10th at 7 p.m.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 10th at 7 p.m. at Lowell Grade School on 5010 View Drive, Everett, Washington, 98203. Meetings are always on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. See you there!

2008: Year End Sales Report



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All too often these days you only hear negative news about the housing market, as I was gathering data to put the year-end sales report together, I decided to look at the market from a brighter perspective and came with the following **TOP 10** list of positive things:

- Ten homes were sold in Glacier View from July 1 to January 30, 2008.
- That's ten new neighbors to meet and greet.
- Home improvement projects are less expensive.
- Getting a contractor to your house is way easier - as so many are available.
- The market conditions are ideal for first-time buyers, move-up buyers and experienced investors.
- Shopping for a home or rental property now is like being the first one through the store's doors on Black Friday -- there are so many choices.
- Low interest rates: 30-year mortgage rates averaged at 5.25 last month. The FHA offers many different programs from first time buyers to investors who want to purchase fixer-uppers and 4-unit buildings.
- A stimulus package that includes a \$15,000 tax credit for homebuyers. Unlike past credits for first time buyers; this credit is for all homebuyers.
- You're less likely to make a rash decision in buying a home -- you won't have to make a snap decision on a house in fear of another buyer snatching it up.
- Most importantly, appreciating what we have.

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Date	Address	Bed/Bath	Legal status	Condition	Price
07/30/08	4410 Hoyt Ave.	3/1.5	None	Average	\$260,000
08/04/08	5017 View Drive	4/2.75	Foreclosure	Average	286,000
08/08/09	5404 Broadway	3/1 (rental property)	None	Good	225,000
08/15/08	1707 62 nd St. SE	3/1.75	None	Good	250,100
09/29/08	1711 62 nd St. SE	3/1	None	Good	247,000
10/27/08	5622 Rockefeller	2/1	Assumption	Average	39,325
10/28/08	6034 Manor Place	3/2 with heated pool	Estate	Average	370,000
11/21/08	5529 Commercial	3/1.5 w/finished basement	Estate	Outdated	265,000
12/10/08	4628 W View Dr.	2/2	Estate	Good	295,000
12/29/08	5118 Wilmington	3/3 w/finished basement	Estate	Average	300,000