



Community Spirit News

April 2008

Spring Planting

Welcome spring by planting a tree in honor of Arbor Day and Earth Day.

Beginnings: The idea for Arbor Day came from Nebraska. Among pioneers moving into the Nebraska Territory in 1854 was J. Sterling Morton from Detroit. He and his wife were lovers of nature, and the home they established in Nebraska was quickly planted with trees, shrubs and flowers. His fellow pioneers missed their trees. But, more importantly, trees were needed as windbreaks to keep soil in place, for fuel and building materials, and for shade from the hot sun. It was estimated that more than one million trees were planted in Nebraska on the first Arbor Day.

Earth Day was founded in 1970 to promote environmental citizenship and progressive action worldwide. The Earth Day Network is a driving force steering environmental awareness around the world. Through Earth Day Network, activists connect, interact, and have an impact on their communities, and create positive change in local, national, and global policies.

Acts of creation are normally reserved for gods and poets. To plant a pine, one need only own a shovel.

Aldo Leopold

Today: It has been over 130 years since Arbor Day was founded and the simple idea of setting aside a special day for tree planting is now more important than ever. Let's celebrate spring on **Saturday, April 26 at 10 a.m. at 4929 West View Drive** by planting trees.

The National Arbor Foundation has provided me with ten very small flowering seedlings that will grow into small yard trees. In ten years they will grow up to 20 feet. The trees are free for anyone who wants one.

Glacier View Neighborhood Association Meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 8th 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.

CHITCHAT • CONFAB • SHOOT THE BREEZE • SMALL TALK • SCHMOOZE • CHIN WAG



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I knocked on more doors and met more neighbors in March.

In Claremont, I met Betty and Marie on 49th & Rucker. Marie has volunteered to distribute newsletters on her block. I met Dave Lilley on 50th and checked out his new retaining wall. It sure looks nice. His answer to lawn care will be artificial turf. No more mowing, edging, fertilizing or thatching for Dave. On Wilmington, I met Gerry Spieldenner and his brown spotted Dalmatian; and, Joan Richards who gave me a tour of her lovely yard.

Up on the hill in Victory Heights, I chatted with Jeff Livingston of Quality Horticultural Services and Don Emerson of Don's Painting. I will feature their services in the future. More importantly, Michael Sheppard on Delaware will deliver newsletters on his block. For the first time in many years the sun is shining on portions of Maryland and Mermont because 20 overgrown and dangerous trees were taken down. Wow . . . the new landscaping and arbor are fantastic. I hope to present a Feature Spotlight on these property improvements in a future publication.

Above the wooded portion of the Interurban Trail is Commercial Ave. Several new beautiful homes known as "Cottages on the Bluff" have been built by one home builder who has lived on Commercial for 28 years. I look forward to writing a Feature Spotlight on these homes, their new owners and the man who made it all happen.

In County Club Estates, I met Joe Pereira on Manor Place. Joe will deliver to his neighbors.

East in Laurel Heights, Dennis & Diane of 52nd & Wetmore (the home with the picture perfect lawn) will be distributing to their neighbors.

Up north in Central Park (between 47th & 44th) I met Cherie Castanares and Tiffany Davenport who will be distributing newsletters. Cherie has a really cool brick home on Colby and next door Sarah Bovey had several huge trees taken down last fall brightening up her front yard. Thank you, Cherie and Tiffany!

Resources

Are you self employed or a freelancer? Are you an attorney, barber, chef, computer geek, contractor, dog walker, electrician, engineer, graphic artist, handyman, musician, newspaper courier, painter, plumber (well you get the idea). Whatever services you provide, please contact me for future publications.

Short Stories or Announcements

Do you have any short stories you would like to share? Any funny, quirky, odd ball events? Do you have a secret desire to write a monthly column? Do you have any announcements to share? This is your opportunity to tell it to the world (or at least a small portion). Please email your text to: tamara@tgjones.com

BOUNTIFUL HARVEST WITH RAISED BEDS

One of the best ways to grow vegetables is to plant them in raised beds. When the soil is elevated it dries more quickly, warms faster and provides deeper soil for the root crops to develop. You can plant earlier in the season and harvest later into the fall.

Raised-bed gardening can increase soil temperatures by 8 to 13 degrees over ground level soil temperatures. The soil is more exposed and the sun and wind tend to dry and warm the soil quickly.

Another great advantage in raising the soil is that the depth makes it much easier to grow deep-rooted crops such as carrots, beets and radishes. In addition; the warmer soil often makes it possible to grow some vegetable crops that you couldn't grow before because of the colder soil and shorter growing season.

It is recommended that you use Cedar for this project. For each box you will need 4 stakes or a leftover 4x4 for the corners; 2x12's for the frame; and 2x6" for capping. The caps create a finished look and a place for tools and sitting. The width of the raised beds is up to the home gardener. I find it convenient to make my beds 4x4, which makes it easy to reach in, 2' from each side, to weed, water, thin and harvest crops.



The soil in the raised beds should be high quality. Regular garden soil amended annually with sand and compost is ideal for growing vegetables. You might consider filling your new boxes with *Supreme Mix* or *Garden Mix* made by Pacific Top Soils at Smith Island for approximately \$26.00 a yard. A regular truck load is about \$45.00.

There are several top soil companies in the Snohomish Valley that have less expensive products that are inferior. The cost and time to amend them with compost and sand defeats the purpose!

Last summer my salad box failed when I used a *Winter Mix* blend from the Snohomish Valley. They advised it was the “their top blend”. My lettuce and basil were yellow due to a lack of nutrients and the soil was soggy due to no sand. Oh well, live and learn!

The 2008 season should be bountiful with my new yard and new boxes. I'll let you know how it goes. It would be so cool to have an abundance to share with you. 🌱



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Adverse Possession by *Terence Lynch, Esq.*



Good fences supposedly make good neighbors. With or without fences, people generally either have a pretty good idea where their property lines are, or aren't interested enough in pushing the issue to formally define the lines. This tends to work out just fine.

Where things get complicated, though, is when something crosses the line. Broadly speaking, line crossers come in 3 categories. Animals, plants and structures. I put the categories in that order because the law attaches different significance to each of them. Animals are the least troublesome with structures being the most troublesome.

Who hasn't felt annoyed at having to scrape someone else's dog poop off their lawn. Pets roam. We all know that. That's why the City has leash laws. But the law considers pets to be mere annoyances and pays very little attention to them, even when they are roving. The animal has to do some damage to show up on the law's radar.

Plants are another matter entirely. Particularly trees. It is the nature of a plant to be in one place, and so they are considered to be a part of the property on which they grow. What about that tree just over the property line that blocks your view or drops apples on the sidewalk leading up to your front door? The law pays attention to these situations and has answers for them. Often unclear, hard-to-apply-in-the-real-world answers, to be sure, but answers nevertheless. And what about the neighbor who chops down your tree because it got in the way of his view or because it drops apples on his front walk? Your neighbor might have just bought your tree, and the judge is allowed give you 3 times the value of it. *Caveat emptor!*

Take another person's real property and hold it against their will for 10 years and the property is yours to keep, forever.

Structures are the most frightening thing. The reason for this is an ancient English law that managed to make its way into Washington's law. I am always surprised at how many people have heard of the law of Adverse Possession. Take another person's real property and hold it against their will for 10 years and the

property is yours to keep, forever. It seems harsh, and it is. It's harshness means that it is a hard thing to prove in a court in Washington, but it is not the court that creates the headaches.

If a corner of your new deck ended up inadvertently being build on your neighbor's property, the fact that you might, just possibly, want to go down to court in 10 years' time and take your chances proving Adverse Possession, means that a careful title insurer will not give your neighbor's property title a clean bill of health. When the neighbor goes to sell their house you might get a phone call or letter from a lawyer or a real estate agent trying to deal with the incursion.

The law has solutions. Although not all of them are simple and inexpensive, enough of them are so that the problems are usually resolved quickly and amicably.

Most neighbor issues are satisfactorily resolved through respectful communication. When it can't be done, though, consider talking to a lawyer instead of suffering silently. ♦

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