

DEAR COMMUNITY MEMBERS,

It is as usual busy business for the executive of the Mount Tolmie Community Association.

As a facilitator & liaison with Saanich and local businesses and the residential community we try to help with a variety of issues. Although we are not able to make all changes happen, we do hope that we are making an impact in making this “Your Community”.

One area that continues to be of great concern relates to By-laws. What they are, mean and why some are in place are questions often asked. Parking, feeding wild animals and homes neglected top the list.

Ongoing communications about residential only parking streets is a challenge and we continue to monitor situations on some streets. Thanks to the residents who are diligent in taking photos at all hours throughout keep track trends. Unfortunately to date these efforts have not warranted a residential sign to be resurrected, but the ongoing monitoring is still very important.

Another area of great concern is the feeding of wild animals. Interesting to note are some things we've learned from the Saanich By-law office. Such has seeded bird feeders which are quite the attraction to ducks, deer, cats, raccoons, and rats. It is highly recommended that residents do not feed animals outside as it an attraction to wild animals and many times causes damage to property and vehicles. An example is that feeding ducks makes them dependent on hand-outs, makes them tame and also they leave waste behind. And the bacteria which is part of the waste, is not healthy for humans. Ducks are wild birds that should not rely on humans to feed them and need to learn how to get their own food. Ducks are also supposed to migrate to different areas at different times of the year and if fed on private property this may be delaying their migration. Damage to vehicles and complaints about noise is also ever increasing.

In addition to the feeding of wildlife, there is an increase in complaints about neglected houses and rental properties with absentee landlords. Some homes are in quite bad shape, for example un-kept, uninsured cars on the property, roofs about to cave it, and some are attracting rats. There is also concern that some vacant houses will attract squatters or others. Some properties do not have proper fencing which is a concern for the safety of small children and pet safety. And then there is always the issue of “party” houses.

If you are concerned with any of these situations in your neighbourhood, our recommendation is to please contact Saanich by-laws or if applicable the police non-emergency number who are most helpful in dealing with complaints and nuisances of animals that should not be fed.

Important Event Announcements:

March 26 marks another Local Market event at UVic. Check out our website for more information. <http://mtca.ca/>

A rezoning application has been received for 1764 Midgard Avenue to subdivide the lot and construct two single-family dwellings. An information meeting will take place on **March 27, 7pm, Room 2A at St. Aidan's Church.**

Visit our table at the Saanich Earth Day event on Sunday, April 21.

<http://www.saanichcyclingfestival.ca/>

UVic:

Community Engagement Framework: <http://mtca.ca/2013/02/new-uvic-community-engagement-framework/>

Community Relations: <http://www.uvic.ca/external/community/>

Events Calendar: <http://events.uvic.ca/index.php>

Municipality of Saanich:

2013-2017 Draft Financial Plan: <http://www.saanich.ca/services/budget/budget.html>

Emergency Preparedness: This link has as the dates for upcoming workshops.

<http://mtca.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Microsoft-Word-small-flyer-for-Winter-2013-February-onwards.pdf>

Shelbourne Corridor Action Plan: Check the website for updates on survey results, transportation plans, walkability and more.

<http://saanich.ca/business/actionplan/shelbourne.html>

In closing, some positive news to share with you. After a year of serious research by members from local businesses, agencies, organizations, all churches in the MTCA boundary area and the Mount Tolmie Community Association, the Community Outreach Discussion Group applied for and received a grant from the Lutheran National Church office to help establish The **Shelbourne Community Kitchen**. The Kitchen will be comprised of the following: meal prepare and share

sessions (up to 10 people cooking together); a food support pantry; a community resource information area; a food garden to grow produce to be used in the meal sessions and to be shared amongst participants. At this point we are planning for it to be open for 3 - 4 hours, 3 days a week and hope to begin in September at a temporary location. Stay tuned for further information.

As always, please share this bulletin with friends, family and neighbours and post on local bulletin boards. Also remember to bookmark mtca.ca for upcoming news and events.

Warm regards,

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