

# Newsletter

[www.kentonfirs.com](http://www.kentonfirs.com)

[kentonfirs@gmail.com](mailto:kentonfirs@gmail.com)

## RESPONSE REQUESTED

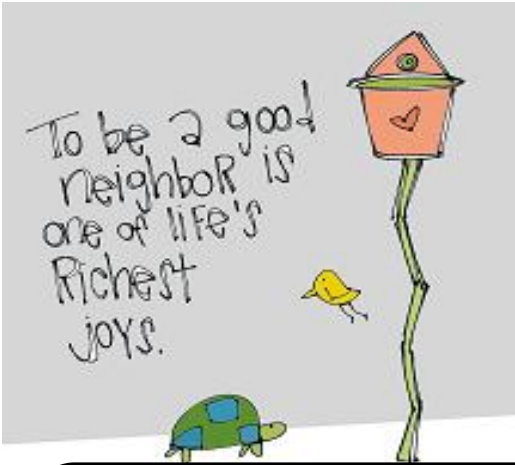
WE WANT TO HEAR  
FROM YOU...

UPCOMING SURVEY MAILER..

If you have topics you believe the community homeowners as a whole have interest in, please email or write the board to suggest them to be included in a NEAR future Kenton Firs Community survey.

In your correspondence, please use "SURVEY" as the subject.

## HEY NEIGHBOR!



### Let's be great neighbors....

....by approaching our neighbors about issues in a polite and respectful manner. It can make a world of difference!

Lets help ourselves and our neighbors in taking a BITE OUT OF CRIME by leaving our exterior lights on at night, including the back.

- Now is a great time to secure approval for a privacy fence between your property and the Greenbelts. The AAC committee will prioritize and fast track approvals of your fence installation requests.

### The most common occurrences of AACC violations of late have been:

NEWSPAPERS NOT PICKED UP. RESIDENTS' CARS PARKED ON THE STREET, ON THE GRASS, OR ON VACANT PROPERTIES. TRASH AND DEBRIS ON DRIVEWAYS, YARDS AND PORCHES. DO NOT DUMP TRASH IN THE GREENBELTS. THOSE OF US WITH YARDS WILL ALL NEED TO START MOWING AND MAINTAINING THEM.

**IF YOU RECEIVE A LETTER** and have an issue with a decision made by the AAC Committee, please contact a committee member about it. They will, within reason, work with you to resolve the issue or hardship.

If you incur a fine please promptly pay AND correct the violation to avoid additional fines and/or further action.

## GREENBELT NEWS

We are pleased to inform you that Barry Landscaping, our current (and for the last few years) landscape contractor, won the open bid AGAIN for the new GREENBELT maintenance contract, by submitting the substantially lowest bid. We are glad he is working with us, knows our vision for the community, and has time and again provided outstanding service and value for our money.

We encourage your kids to fulfill their community service requirements on the GREENBELT. Contact Trish ([trish.bpos@gmail.com](mailto:trish.bpos@gmail.com))

GOOD FIREWOOD (maple) available, but cut and haul at your own risk please. Contact Rich ([RTBolen@gmail.com](mailto:RTBolen@gmail.com))

**IF YOU CAN, PLEASE .. LEAVE THE LIGHTS ON BEHIND YOUR HOMES TO LIGHT UP THE GREENBELT BEHIND YOU. SHADY PEOPLE LOVE NOTHING BETTER THAN THE COVER OF DARKNESS AND HIDING IN SHADOWS TO FIND UNLOCKED SHEDS, DOORS, AND WINDOWS. LET'S SHOW THEM THE LIGHT!**

**SINCE THE GREENBELT TRAILS HAVE BEEN MADE MORE ACCESSIBLE, LITTLE "PRESENTS" HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED. AS WE ALL KNOW THIS IS COMMUNITY PROPERTY, PLEASE HELP KEEP IT CLEAN. IT WOULD BE GREAT IF WE ALL CARRIED A SMALL BAG BEFORE WE TOOK A STROLL AND HELPED PICK UP WHAT WE CAN. PLEASE REMEMBER ALSO TO WATCH WHEN YOUR "LITTLE COMPANIONS" LEAVE ANYTHING AND PLEASE PICK UP AFTER THEM.**

## EVENTS - EVENTS -EVENTS -EVENTS

Spring Barbecue	115th Place cul-de-sac	Saturday, May 21, 2016 - 6 pm-side dishes welcomed!
Community Recycle and Garage Sales Event		Last weekend in June (Fri-Sun) June 24, 25, 26th 2016
NATIONAL NIGHT-OUT !!	115th Place cul-de-sac	Tuesday, August 2, 2016 - 5 to 8 pm
Annual Homeowners Association Meeting		Sunday, December 4, 2016
ONGOING-metal recycling	call KEVIN Sandberg	(253) 653-3183
	NO unexpected metal dropoffs.. please call Kevin first!	

# Kenton Firs Crime Block-watch

Kenton Firs is a block-watch community divided into 10 blocks. To find your block refer to the map in the center of your Kenton Firs telephone directory or on the website. Find your lot on the map and the number 1-10 is your block number. Each block has a block "Captain" they are listed on the back page of the telephone directory as are the Block-watch coordinators.

**BLOCK-WATCH...** is the community taking a bite out of crime by trying to prevent crime in our community. Keeping an "eye" on your property and your neighbors, reporting suspicious people and activity to the police. They attend meetings with the Police Community Liaison who informs us of crime in our area and offers crime prevention tips. If you see something suspicious or come home and you have been broken into please CALL 911 immediately. The call is free and so is the police visit. By calling 911, they have a record of where crime is occurring. DO NOT call Board members or Captains first. They are not trained law enforcement personnel. REMEMBER, call 911 first. They love catching criminals, then call your Captain, they will call a Board member.

**BLOCK-WATCH CAPTAINS:** They keep an eye on their block, report to the Block-watch coordinators and their neighbors what is happening in their area and gives you suggestions on how to keep your property safe.

Get to know your neighbors. Leave a light on ALL night (LED lights use almost no electricity and last forever), criminals hate the light. LOCK YOUR SHED, LOCK YOUR CAR, DON'T LEAVE VALUABLES IN PLAIN SIGHT, TAKE THE LAPTOP INSIDE. The longer it takes a criminal to do something the more chance they have of getting caught. If you can't store valuables in your home or a shed, cover them. If someone can't see the bikes, lawnmower or other tools the chances are better they won't be stolen.

Report suspicious people or groups meeting up with cars or walking around looking at homes. If you see something that makes you uncomfortable or hear conversations report them to the police at 911 or even the non-emergency number. Call your Block Captains and let them know also.

## REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY- CALL 911-CALL-911

### POLICE BLOTTER

We have had an increase in "shady" foot traffic in the past few weeks, resulting in losses (which we know of) of about \$2,700.00 in property from UNLOCKED SHEDS.

There has been suspicious activity in Greenbelt G and C with people looking into our backyards. Vacant homes are being targeted. Some bicycles and other personal property have been stolen.

**REPORTING A CRIME IN KENT:** Emergencies & in progress activity –Dial 911. Non-emergencies –call 253-852-2121. Some non-emergency reports can be made online: [www.kpdonlinereport.com](http://www.kpdonlinereport.com)

**WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO REPORT CRIME:** The Kent Police Department practices "Intelligence Led Policing." They use our reports and information to detect a current crime trend which enables them to know what area needs more police presence.

**LETTER FROM YOUR BLOCK WATCH CAPTAINS:** There have been 11 crimes reported in our area this year. Five (5) of those crimes happened in Kenton Firs; the other six (6) happened nearby. There has been an increase in the number of property thefts.

Talk to your neighbors. Be aware of things that you know are not quite right for your neighborhood. It is important to remember that if you see anything suspicious to call 911. If you are a victim of a crime, please file a report ...the police department won't know about it if you don't call.

Always keep your storage sheds and vehicles locked, bicycles tucked out of sight, AND SECURED. It would be wise to lock your house while you are working in your yard, gone for a short walk, or a visit to a neighbor.

Block Watch Captain for Group 8 is Roy Pogue 206-249-6953

Please be aware. Be alert for yourself, your family, your neighbors, and your community. Stay safe!!

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## KENTON FIRS NEEDS HELP TO PRESERVE \*OUR\* GREENBELT!

DEAR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS:

We need some help from everyone in watching our greenbelts. Serious damage was done to 2 trees in Greenbelt "G" when chunks of bark were chopped out of them. Let's spread the word to our children that play in the vicinity to be alert to vandals in the community that have been damaging the trees this way, breaking branches of trees, as well as digging holes and filling them back up which could cause injury to members of the community walking the greenbelts.

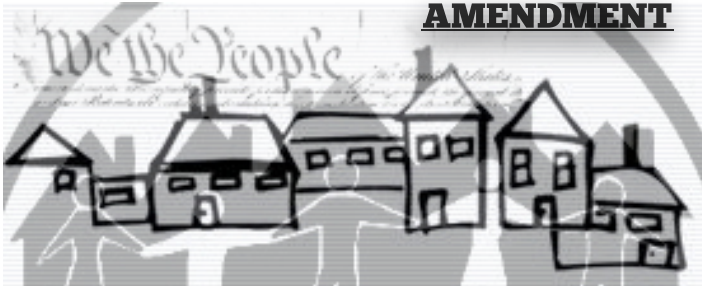
Damaging our community property cannot be ignored and if they are identified, the police will be called to get involved.

Another concern is the likelihood that raccoons are attacking and injuring some of our pets. Make sure to bring in your animals at night to avoid them being hurt. Check that pet food is not left out and that your garbage is secure. It draws wild animals in like a magnet.



A **big THANK YOU** goes to a vigilant community member who saw what happened and applied sealer to the 2 damaged trees in an effort to save them! Time will tell if those trees stay healthy.

### AMENDMENT



Kenton Firs Board has decided, after speaking with a number of residents, to try to pass the amendment to our Covenants again this year to limit the number of rental properties allowed in our community.

We have a group of residents that are assisting us with this project. They have been given permission to contact residents to explain the covenant and what it will mean to residents and landlords that already have rental homes.

*Please make sure to listen to the information by phone, mail or in person. This is a very important issue and we hope to have a resolution to it this year.*

## EVENTS - EVENTS -EVENTS -EVENTS

Annual Homeowners Association Meeting

Sunday, December 4, 2016

ONGOING: Metal recycling call KEVIN Sandberg

(253) 653-3183

**NO unexpected metal dropoffs.. please call Kevin first!**

### **FREE WOOD**

We have had to have some of our trees cut down for a number of reasons. There is free wood in Greenbelt C and G that any resident can have.

You will need to remove it from the greenbelt yourself. Please remove it before you cut it down to size. All of the wood that is allowable to be removed has been marked with a red X. **DO NOT CUT DOWN ANY TREES**, only take what is marked. You can have the wood for yourselves or family and friends that might need it. If you have any questions about what is available or other concerns ..... please contact: Steve Brakefield at 253-670-1455

# Kenton Firs Crime Block-watch

## **BLOCK-WATCH NEWS:**

We would like to welcome Claire Somonski as our new co-coordinator who is taking over Donna Schell's position for the Block Watch program in our community. Thank you Donna for all your prior service!

Local law enforcement has given feedback on some of our residents' efforts to help them reduce crime in our communities (by reporting suspicious activity). Kenton Firs Block-watch applauds them!

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2016 Holiday Edition

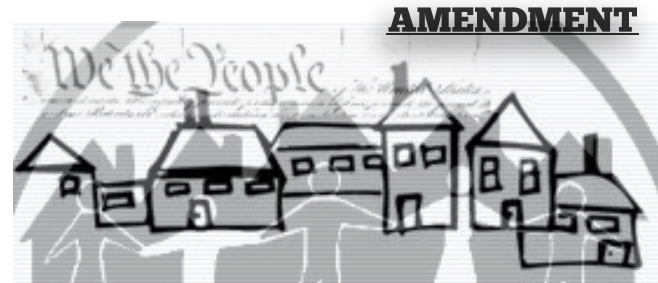
**Kudos** are in order to at least 4 homeowners that have made improvements to the appearance and landscaping on their properties. It is appreciated by all who drive through and enjoy seeing the results of their efforts. You all know who you are so give yourselves a big pat on the back. To those that have just started, we all look forward to seeing your progress!

**Greenbelt** improvement or maintenance efforts are appreciated and encouraged but **please** contact the ACC committee and inform us of your plans so we can verify that the community greenbelt boundaries are not violated.

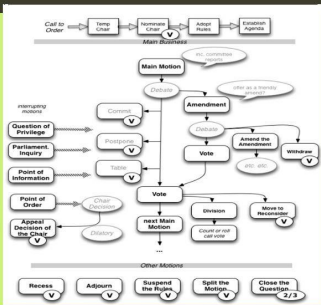
The **last COMMUNITY event of the year is upon us:**

## **Kenton Firs Annual Homeowners Meeting**

One of the main subjects to be covered is a new Amendment to the Covenants. The Board hopes to resolve this issue this year and not be tabled for future consideration. The Amendment has been changed in many ways from when it was first presented and hope that it is more amendable to the members of the community. **Doors will open at 2:45PM but we will try to have lobby seating for those Early birds.**



## ROBERT'S RULES



There may be a number of people wishing to address the contents or need for the Amendment so the Board is adopting to conduct that portion of the meeting as closely as possible to the "Robert's Rules of Order".

- There will be a sign-in log during the registration for members that wish to present information about the topic.
- A motion will be made to accept the Amendment to the Covenants and a 2nd will be called for.
- The President will then ask for discussion.
- A Board member will present the reasons for requesting to adopt this Amendment.
- Members of the community will then be asked to present their arguments or positions for or against the Amendment.

Each person will be given an amount of time to speak (to be decided at the beginning of the discussion based on the number that sign up) and will likely be 2 to 3 minutes.

If there are more speakers than time, the President will call for one or more to voluntarily withdraw and if there are still more speakers than time, he *may* start at the beginning of the list to allow time to as many as possible.

**To qualify to speak, you must be a homeowner/member in good standing.**

## ***These simple rules and procedures will govern Discussions:***

1. Only one speaker at a time may have the floor.
2. When you have the floor, direct your conversation to the Board President. Everyone will hear you and no one else will be allowed to question, make comments, crosstalk or have a back and forth conversation with the speaker.
3. No criticism or derogatory remarks about any individuals, including Boards/members past or current, will be entertained.
4. You **must stay on topic** and may not present anecdotes or side topics.
5. A signal will be given when 30 seconds of your time remain.
6. When your time has run out, please stop and turn the floor over to the President/Moderator.
7. You may not be allowed a 2nd turn until all that are in line to speak has had their chance to be heard.
8. President will ask for rebuttal statements, if time allows. The same original order of speakers will have their turn.
9. The President will then ask for any questions anyone has for any of the speakers.
10. Once the discussion portion is completed the President will re-state the motion and entertain a motion to vote.
11. Votes will then be counted and the results announced.

# Miscellany

- Metal collection is suspended for the season, the next newsletter may announce when it will be resumed.  
□
- Complaints are ongoing about pets leaving presents in yards. Tsk, tsk. Please bring the proper equipment when walking them and please pay attention, keep them under control, and pick up after them.  
□
- Please remember to keep a light on at night to deter crime. PSE often offers huge discounts on energy conserving LED lightbulbs that cost pennies a night to leave on, keep an eye out for those offers.  
□
- Refrain from revving loud engines, playing music loud enough to disturb others, and excessive speeds while driving through the community. Identify and report those that do, if possible.

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