

Orcas Highlands Association Newsletter

January, 2011

Dear Homeowners,

Welcome to **2011!** We sincerely hope the New Year brings promise of a better and brighter future for us all.

Newsletter: To start off, we want to announce that this will probably be the last paper newsletter to be delivered with your HOA billing. In order to economize and save postage costs, we will be sending out the newsletter by e-mail from now on. The added benefit is that we can send important information as it occurs, not just four times a year. If you are not on our OHA e-mail list, please send a short e-mail with the subject "OHA List" to:

Judy Cook - leraascook.aol.com or

Jim Hennessey - designprof@centurytel.net.

Also, if you know of a neighbor who does not have e-mail, why not print a copy of the newsletter for them. Otherwise, let the board know and we'll make sure they get one.

Snow! - Well, so far so good. But if you remember two years ago, we had a disabling storm on December 23rd.! So by the time you receive this we may all be knee-deep in snow. It's a good time to remind everyone - one more time - about snow removal, parking and safety.

- * We have a plowing service that will do the roads quickly after it snows
- * If ice occurs, we will endeavor to get sand or salt onto it asap
- * Please park your vehicle off the road so the plow can get through
- * You have to shovel your own driveway and the berm the plow creates when it goes by (or hire someone)
- * If you choose to park by the mailboxes, be sure to park on the South side and far enough back so people can get their mail.
- * Do not park on the North side of the mailboxes in order to keep the road clear for plow and vehicles
- * Stock up on food and emergency supplies - a week's worth of food is recommended
- * Get fresh batteries for flashlights and other emergency tools as needed
- * Don't run a generator indoors or in a garage with the door closed
- * Be safe with candles, heaters and fireplaces
- * Call a neighbor if you have problems or need items from the store, pharmacy, etc.

Our **Accounts Receivable** is improving. Payment is now expected for houses that were in foreclosure and arrangements have been made with some of our homeowners who are in arrears. We want to emphasize again that if you are having financial problems, please contact us to work out a suitable payment schedule.

We have a new **Bookkeeper** for the Highlands. Her name is Ann Lister, and she can be reached at 376-5032. If you have any problems with your billing or if you want to arrange payments for past-due bills, please contact her.

Water: By now you have read the Sounder article about the water meeting between our OHA and Eastsound Sewer and Water District. The situation with the well is being considered by the Board at this time. When a final decision and plan of action is determined, we will send an e-mail notice to everyone on our list.

Enjoy the New Year!

The Highlands Board