



**WILDFIRE & AIR QUALITY INFORMATION**

The website at the following URL is a good source of information about the location of wildfires.  
<https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/>

Air quality information can be found at:  
<https://nwcleanairwa.gov/air-quality-center/>

**WETLAND MAINTENANCE AND MONITORING**

Our wetland areas are serviced by two specialty companies: one for the maintenance and one for monitoring and reporting. The goal of both is to ensure that our stewardship of the wetlands conforms to the regulations established by the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Ecology for Washington State.



**Aqua-Terr Systems, Inc.** is a Pacific Northwest based environmental, biological, and land use consulting and management firm specializing in assisting clients with meeting project design standards and goals given regulatory requirements and best available science. Since 1988, they have served over 1,750 clients on over 40,500 acres of public and private land through local, state, and federal biological permitting and consultation processes. They assess biological critical areas on tracts greater than 1,000 acres and parcels less than 1 acre for large and small development projects, including commercial, residential, and public facilities.

**Squalicum Mountain Ecological Restoration**

(SMER) is the organization that maintains our sensitive native grown protection and wetland areas. They are specially trained to understand not only the requirements established by the applicable government agencies, but also the special circumstances imposed by local climatic conditions, local flora and fauna, and the local human population. They are responsible for

ensuring that our stewardship is compliant with all applicable standards and requirements.

**PET ADOPTION**

If your family is looking to adopt a new furry member, consider adopting from a foster-based rescue center. During a time when socialization simply isn't feasible, adopting from a foster home is a great way to get to know the personality and habits of the pet to ensure the best fit.



Rescued Hearts Northwest (RHNW) is a rescue center that focuses on re-homing local displaced dogs and cats whose owners have passed away or can no longer keep them. Meet Rupert (photo →), a benefactor of this service. RHNW also re-homes animals from the Whatcom Humane Society that would do better in a foster home while they wait to be adopted.



If you want to know more, please see their Facebook page or website for more information on adoptable pets.

[www.rescuedheartsnorthwest.org](http://www.rescuedheartsnorthwest.org)

## **SPOTLIGHT ON THE WETLANDS**

We are very fortunate to live in the beautiful Pacific Northwest. We can enjoy stunning views of snow-capped Mount Baker, we can fish, hike, paddle and take advantage of the trail system in our development. From time to time our newsletter will highlight some of the plants and shrubs that make our wetlands so lush and beautiful.

**Rugosa Rose** (*Rosa rugosa*) grows 4-6 feet tall on canes that are covered with sharp thorns. The Rugosa Rose spreads by suckers to form dense thickets over time. Also known as the "Rugged Rose", this shrub is low maintenance, weather tolerant, and pest resistant.



The Latin word *rugosa* means "wrinkled" referring to the crinkled and veiny leaves. Look for the large orange and red hips (the round portion of the rose flower just below the petals) in early autumn.

<https://www.thespruce.com/growing-and-caring-for-rugosa-roses-1403053>

**Salmonberry** (*Rubus spectabilis*) is a member of the rose family and its fruit is similar to a raspberry in shape and size. The berries may be yellow, orange, or red. They are popular as a food source, for medicinal properties, and for their aesthetic beauty. This berry has also been a part of the Alaskan indigenous people's diet for thousands of years.



[https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/plant-of-the-week/rubus\\_spectabilis.shtml](https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/plant-of-the-week/rubus_spectabilis.shtml)

**Nootka Rose** (*Rosa nutkana*) was first found in Nootka Sound, a waterway on the west coast of British Columbia that was named after one of the First Nation indigenous peoples of western Vancouver Island. This rose is also known as a Common, Wild, or Bristly Rose. They grow to be 2-9 feet tall and have beautiful pink flowers that bloom May through



July. Known as "deer candy" they are an important wildlife browse as the fruit provides food for deer, coyotes, and rodents — and the leaves and twigs are eaten by mice, squirrels, and beaver. The Nootka thickets are also used for cover and escape by birds.

<http://nativeplantspnw.com/nootka-rose-rosa-nutkana/>

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS**

The Board is still following Washington State Phase 2 guidelines, which limit gatherings to five people (outside the household). In practice this means we are still avoiding regular Board meetings — and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. In lieu of the minutes that would have been produced had we been having Board meetings, we previously provided a summary of Board activities and have included another herein (see "From the President").

During the next several months the Board will work with Windermere Property Management to develop the operating budget for 2021. When complete this budget will be approved by the Board and submitted for ratification at the next Annual General Meeting (AGM) currently scheduled for December 28. The AGM will likely be conducted using the Zoom teleconferencing tool. The result of the annual election of Board officers will also be announced at this meeting, based on mail-in ballots that will be distributed late November or early December.

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

First of all, on behalf of your Board of Directors (Board), I'd like to express our sincere hope that you are all coping well with this COVID-19 Pandemic and smoke-filled air mess that we are experiencing. The past quarter has been quite eventful and since we have not had the benefit of meeting minutes from our suspended monthly Board meetings, this "catch-up" will be a bit longer than usual. Here are some of the more interesting events and projects from the past few months:

- 1.** Graffiti on "The Meadows" Stone at the Thornton Road entrance to our community. This was reported to the Ferndale Police Department (FPD) who said that graffiti vandals struck far and wide that night — including Thornton, Church, and Vista roads. We provided a home security video of a suspect car and their investigation is continuing.
- 2.** Unauthorized entry to our Wetland trail system. This has happened multiple times in multiple places, all involving the unauthorized use of easements. In one case it was even a private property easement. The rules on this are clear and have been previously announced and posted to the website. The Board is preparing to install signs to clarify the access restrictions. To clarify, there are "walking paths", and there are "Easement Access" pathways. To the casual view, they look similar; but they are not.
- 3.** Mailbox relocation. The current configuration of our USPS mailbox cluster has several problems. The lighting is bad for after-dark collection of mail and the boxes are too far from some homes. The USPS has a one-half mile delivery limit. If a home is farther from the box than this limit, oversized parcels go back to the post office and must be picked up there by the recipient. We have an on-going project to move some of the boxes farther down (south) on Monument Drive to get within the one-half mile limit and to provide better lighting for both sets of boxes. All mailboxes will be organized to provide better sequencing for the postal workers and better access (not too high – not too low) for our residents. We are working

closely and positively with the Ferndale USPS to ensure compliance with their rules. We hope to notify you of the date for final solution within the coming weeks.

- 4.** Speeding. We continue to have periodic complaints about speeding -- mostly up and down Monument Drive but also on Jenjar. We take this as a potentially serious threat to the safety of our residents and have decided to install solar powered radar speed indicators. These will detect and flash the speed of passing cars. That information is recorded for assessment purposes only — to aid in the determination of potential remedial action. No photography is involved. Nothing about vehicle identification is provided. It only records the fact that an unidentified vehicle passed at a specified time going at a specified speed. We hope the flashing "reminder" will suffice to curb the speeding enough to make this a non-issue. If not, we can use the accumulated data to justify closer attention by the Ferndale PD. For reasons of budget, that change will probably come in 2021.

- 5.** Planter strips. A few months back we solicited homeowner input on the issue of what to do about our planter strips. These are the small patches of grass, some with trees, bordering our streets and usually between the street and a sidewalk. They are suffering from lack of water and weed encroachment. Due to the mailbox and speeding issues, the Board has deferred action on this to next year. However, we will water the trees to ensure their survival. We have, and continue, to encourage suggestions for remedies.

- 6.** Split-Rail fence repair. A fairly large number of split-rail fence sections were recently determined to be failing. We had our common area landscaping company inventory the fences and conduct the repairs.

There is more, but this is (more than) enough for one newsletter. Again, we hope this newsletter finds you healthy and happy.

Until next time ...

*Chuck Millard*, HOA President