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Jan. 2012

#### FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT (James Curdy)

I Hope everyone was able to take some time and relax while enjoying the holidays! It seems like life is so hectic anymore that it's hard to find time to enjoy them.

The weather here has been exceptionally nice to say the least but winter may be here soon. The polar bear swimmers had a particularly nice day with water and ambient temperatures at 41 instead of the typical 36 & 25.

Betty Skinner from the Business office just retired this past December after 23 years.



The business office full-charge bookkeeper job opening created when Betty retired in December just closed Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>, with 45 people applying for the position. Kelly Services is busy reviewing, screening and testing the applicants at this time. We expect to have the position filled by early February.

The golf course has been quite busy for this time of year even though surrounding courses have had equally good weather which generally limits our outside play.

The new Rental Cart Shed is taking shape. This will provide much-needed protection for them and help provide a better product by keeping carts clean and ready to go. Pro shop staff is particularly excited about no frost on them in the mornings this time of year.

#### Siding Installation



#### Siding and Doors are Almost Finished!



Now for the bad news;  
This winter we have had 6 burglaries with various items stolen ranging from alcohol to a flat screen television. The sheriff is working on them and we have provided as much information to them as we have but they have few leads at this time. So far there has been minimal damage done to the homes unlike in years past but still disconcerting to say the least. We will continue with the sheriff patrols for a while longer to try and discourage this activity but it is important that everyone help watch for suspicious activity.

Reminder; the garbage cans in the parks are for park users only and not personal garbage disposal. If you need garbage service please contact Waste-Management at 877-466-4668 or haul it to the County transfer station along SR243 just north of Rd. 26 SW.

Last summer we were having problems with the front nine irrigation pump and after extensive testing late last fall it was finally determined to be a drive problem. We expect to have it resolved in time for spring startup. The pump on the back nine that had a different problem the year prior ran great last year.

**ONE OTHER REMINDER-we have 2 committees with important tasks to get done in the next 2-3 months and they are both in desperate need of MEMBERS....they are the Recreation Facility which includes (pool, exercise & daylodge) and the Architectural Guidelines. If you are interested in either please call the business office at 509-932-4839. These committees and their work are extremely important to the future of Desert Aire and they need your participation.**

**Happy New Year to all.....and best wishes for a healthy and prosperous 2012.**

If you have any questions, thoughts, ideas or concerns feel free to contact me at:  
504 Clubhouse Way W or 509-932-4839 or [curdy@desertaire.org](mailto:curdy@desertaire.org)

#### **ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE - Cheryl Wolff**

The Architecture Committee must approve any and all structures before you begin a project. Please do not depend on your contractor to submit the paperwork. Double check with the office to make sure the forms have been properly completed and submitted. The Committee Members want to help you improve your property but it must be done within the regulations. You can download the Architectural Application Form and the regulations from the website or ask at the office for a copy. The only time you do not need approval from the Architecture Committee is if you are replacing an existing porch/deck, fence or roof with like materials.

During the past few months we have had a few windstorms so if you are not generally here in the winter you may want to check on (or ask a neighbor to check) your property to see if there has been any damage. So far we have noticed losses of roofing and an above ground swimming pool.

At the Architecture Committee's first meeting this year, we approved 1 stick-built home, 1 shed, 1 fence, 1 porch cover and licensed one golf cart path. The committee meets twice a month to look at requests from owners. Our meetings are held at the DA Office on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays at 3:00 PM. **Please note that if you plan to build any structure on your lot, you must first apply to the Architecture Committee.** You may view/print the Architectural Request Form at the DAOA website (address below) or you may request a copy from the Office.

If your request to the Architecture Committee is denied: "Any person having any record title or legal interest in the property or structure may request a hearing on the request before the Board of Directors, provided that the request is made in writing and filed with the Board within 30 days from the date of notice. Failure to request a hearing will constitute a waiver of all right to a hearing and determination of the matter."

The Architecture Committee is the enforcement arm for the Owners Association. That means that when a violation of our Governing Documents is reported to the Office, Committee Members follow up to verify that violation. We make every effort to contact the owner personally to speak with him/her about it in person. Due to circumstances, and the fact that we are all volunteers, that is not always possible. A registered letter is then sent from the office detailing the violation(s). As with the paragraph above, the owner can request a hearing with the Board of Directors.

You will find all of our Governing Documents on-line at <http://www.daoa.org> under the Desert Aire Owners Association tab. You may also request a hard copy from the Desert Aire Office at 509-932-4839.

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Speaking of Real Estate, New York's Central Park is nearly twice the size of the entire country of Monaco.

## Desert Aire Airport News – David Strand



The Desert Aire Airport District would like to take this opportunity to update you on our plans for 2012 and urge everyone to mark their calendars for this year's fly-in breakfast. As per our tradition, the breakfast

will be held on June 16<sup>th</sup> this year, which is the Saturday of Fathers Day weekend.

Presently, the most compelling problem we face at our airport is the deterioration of our runway. The asphalt is experiencing serious transverse and longitudinal cracking and each

year these cracks grow wider. In 2011 the airport district, along with financial support from the Port of Mattawa, took the first step to remedy the problem. We



commissioned the engineering firm of Reid Middleton out of Everett Washington, to design a new runway that includes a 60 X 3665 ft. asphalt runway that will comply with FAA Small A1 standards. There will be a 1000 ft. long turf surface for recreational type aircraft between the new runway and south taxiway. As of January 12<sup>th</sup> the design is 50% complete.

As we all are painfully aware, the economic situation in our country has declined over the last few years and since the WSDOT airport aid grant funds are generated from a tax on aviation fuel, these funds have continued to decrease since 2008. Even though we received no grants from the WSDOT in 2011, we were able to obtain a grant from Grant County EDC/SIP. This money will be used to construct an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) helicopter pad on the southwest part of the airport next to the tie down apron. We are also going to pave an area on the southeast part of the airport (near the Sagebrush Center) for parking visiting aircraft. This new parking will provide pilots and passengers a short walk to the Desert Aire shopping area and hopefully generate additional economic growth.

The future of the airport is important to our region. We continue to be thankful for the support from our community. Jeff Curtis, Ray Burdine, Christina and Adam Heslop are the newest additions to our Friends of the Airport group. And thank you to the Citizens Patrol group. You help us out so much!



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## WATERMASTER REPORT – Chris Guillen

I have finished the classes for my backflow assembly tester certification, which includes all the 10<sup>th</sup> edition test procedures. These new procedures are approved by the Washington Department of Health and set by the University of Southern California. The test that I had to take is pass or fail. The test is all hands-on. There is no written exam. You get two chances to test each of the four assemblies using proper test procedures.

The Water Department has found a couple of leaks that needed to be repaired. These leaks are caused by the age of our water system. Most of the leaks are a broken gate valve in the meter boxes. The gasket in the top of the valve gets old and rotten then the valve starts to leak. The other major leak is when the threads on the top of the valve break or crack causing a leak. Most of the time these leaks can be fixed with only a 30 minute shut down of the main line. Most people don't even realize that the water was off.

In December we found a property that was shut off for non-payment had hooked a hose up to the next door lot hose bib and was using their water. The owners

involved were contacted and a lock placed on the meter that was having their water used.

**Just as a reminder the water policy, effective August 1<sup>st</sup> 2009, states members are not to access the meter boxes in any way or they will be subject to the enforcement mechanisms of the policy.**

**All samples taken have been good. We are currently at 1108 connections to the water system. The total year to date gallons produced for the overall domestic water system is 2,578,730.**

#### **Conservation Tip**

In-sink garbage disposal devices use roughly 11.5 gallons of water each day. Try composting organic wastes instead of throwing them away.

#### **NOTES from YOUR SECRETARY – Richard Kummer**

Working as a volunteer Fire Department member, it has become clear to me that if you have a neighbor or neighbors that keep watch for you,

**PLEASE INSURE THEY ALSO HAVE ACCESS TO YOUR HOME, OR AT LEAST KNOW WHERE A KEY IS!**

### ***Did You Know?***

Stannous fluoride, which is the cavity fighter found in toothpaste, is made from recycled tin.

## **A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE DESERT AIRE CITIZENS PATROL**

The Desert Aire Citizens Patrol started in the late 1980's after there were some break-ins. After discussing the problem with Grant County Sheriff Weisner, a small group of "full-timers" decided to start patrolling evenings in the area and closing and locking gates, checking community property and looking for signs of trouble.

The more things change, the more they stay the same. Some of the problems found then, as now: speeding, dogs running free, loud music from cars and loud parties.

The Patrol started out using CITIZENS BAND (CB) radios with Dave Best and Elva Fisher serving as base

operators. Some of the volunteers were firemen and workers at Hanford and they supplied their own mobile CB radios.

Early on, the group started raising money by hosting spaghetti dinners and receiving donations from the local community. They paid the drivers in gas from the local gas station for every night they patrolled. The patrol also drove out on the airstrip to check for vandalism or trespassers.

In 1996, the Community Oriented Policing Services (cop shop) was built with funds from the Desert Aire Owners Association and built by local volunteers including the designer Lee Godfrey, Dave Sivills, Earl Upton, Al Fontes, Dick Winslow and others.

The cop shop was used by the Grant County Sheriff's office as a substation for their deputies to fill out paperwork and also by local COPS volunteers who attended the shop every day to give directions to travelers, answer questions, give out dog tags and communicate with the Sheriff's office. This service was discontinued in 2010.

Today the Patrol still locks up the park and restrooms and checks doors and windows of Association buildings. We also look for unusual things like fires, water running from homes and down the road, broken windows or doors. We have helped those whose homes have been broken into, by boarding up doors and windows and trying to contact the homeowners. The drivers log in almost 10,000 miles each year and over 3,000 hours of time split between driver and base.

We want to thank all of the past and present volunteers. We always have a need for more drivers and base operators. Please call (509) 932-0822 for more information. Our meetings are on the last Thursday of the month and everyone is invited to attend.

Please attend our Spaghetti feed in May, the exact date to be announced.

Thanks to you for all your support over the last 20 plus years Desert Aire!

Mike Wolff, DACP President.

*We are saddened to report that a founding member and driver of the Citizens Patrol, Albert "Al" Fontes, passed away last week. A memorial is planned for the end of the month.*

## Parks, Marina and Greenbelt Update – Don Sciascia

Happy New Year to all and we hope to have a prosperous one.

My name is Don Sciascia. You elected me to the board last June to represent you, the home owners, in Desert Aire.

As Co-Chair with Gary Varney on the Parks and Recreation Committee, I'm heading up the pool and workout area possible replacement project. So, we need your help and we need about 30 of you to be on a committee to determine what we should do to fix and or replace the pool facility and work out area.

The current pool is being challenged for water turnover rate and old systems problems. After a big week end the pool system struggles to keep up the correct water purification levels.

Chris has done a great job managing this and stays on top of the chemicals at all times. The pool does not meet current codes and only because we are grandfathered in can we keep it going and continue to utilize this facility.

We need to decide a course of action so we can put the suggested proposed action to a vote of the people. We will start meeting in March and you can be a member of the committee on line if you are away and have some input for the decision making process. Many of you have asked already about a better class of work out area due to the importance of our senior health care issues. This is your chance to have a say in the possible upgrade of both.



If you have some ideas and/or any expertise in this area we welcome your participation. We, the home owners, are the decision makers so let's get involved.

Please e-mail me at [d.sciascia08@gmail.com](mailto:d.sciascia08@gmail.com) or call the D.A. office and leave a message with Sue that you would like to be part of the process. Thanks again and let's make a difference and be part of the solution.

Here's to a better partnership in building Desert Aire.



Cozy Comforts is a 501(c)3 non-profit, charitable organization.

Our Mission statement: *To demonstrate love and provide comfort to children and adults who are in crisis situations, through the gifts of handmade blankets and other items, loving crafted by dedicated volunteers without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin or age, thus enriching the lives of those who receive the gifts as well as the lives of the creators of the gifts.*

There are no dues or specific requirements for membership except the desire to make blankets for local children in need of a blanket hug.

All blankets are made from new materials. They are knitted, crocheted afghans, quilts and fleece blankets. A Cozy Comforts label is sewn on, the blanket is folded into a square, tied with a ribbon like a present and a hang tag is attached and each blanket is inserted in a plastic bag to keep it clean until given to the child.

Through our fundraising efforts, such as the annual Holiday Bazaar, personal donations, applying for grants from businesses and foundations, we purchase many of the materials necessary to carry out our mission.

We have been making blankets since 2008 and made our 4,500<sup>th</sup> blanket in December. We deliver 120 blankets every month to local medical clinics, hospitals, Fire Departments, a women's and children's crisis center and a children's transitional center.

We meet every Friday at the Sagebrush Senior Center from noon to 3:00 and on the third Friday we meet from 10:00 to 3:00 and have a potluck lunch. It is a wonderful group of volunteers, enjoying friendship, a lot of laughter and, as an added bonus, doing something meaningful and necessary for children. We would love to see new faces. Whether you knit, crochet, sew or just want to visit, stop by any Friday.

Should you have any questions, wish to donate materials or make a financial donation feel free to contact: Diane Hanson, President 509-932-4039, Barb Hawkins, Vice President 509-932-2463, Karen Hatfield, Secretary/Treasurer 509-331-7028, Linda Rance, Purchasing 509-932-4882 or Carol Fuller, Membership 509-932-4948.

**IMPORTANT DATES:** Board Meeting Schedule:  
Effective August 2011 through June 2012 board meetings will be held the 2nd Friday of each month at 4:00 P.M., with no meeting scheduled in January. Meetings are held in the lower level of the Multi-Purpose building.

**BUSINESS OFFICE**

Sue Anderson 509-932-4839  
James Curdy, Jr.

**HOURS OF OPERATION**

Summer\*: Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Winter: Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

\*Summer Hours are March thru October

**MAINTENANCE / GROUNDS**

James Curdy, Jr. – Superintendent 509-932-4466

**WATER DISTRIBUTION OPERATOR**

Chris Guillen, Watermaster 509-932-5202

**Water Emergency (After hours)** 509-830-4332

Swimming Pool 509-932-4896

**GOLF-PRO SHOP**

Don Tracy – PGA Professional 509-932-4439

Tom Johnson, Tom Truax,

Carolyn Holmes, Brian Mullen, Linda Vincent