

Spring Newsletter 2004

Thompson Highlands Homeowners Association
Website: www.thha.org Email: board@thha.org
PMB # 824
1515 NW Saltzman Road
Portland, OR 97229

Greetings from your 2004 THHA Board
Craig Braun, Stan Bunch, Trish Heilman, Martina Winkler, Mike Edwards

Welcome – New Neighbors!

On behalf of the neighborhood, the THHA would like to welcome the new members to the neighborhood. We have had a number of people move into the neighborhood in the last few months. Let's please make an effort to welcome our new neighbors when we have the opportunity. For anyone new to the neighborhood, please feel free to call any of the Board members at any time with questions you may have related to neighborhood issues.

Neighborhood Information Available On The THHA Website

The THHA website contains news and information related to the neighborhood. The website is www.thha.org. The website includes: Contact information for board members, association address, neighborhood updates, board meeting minutes, a copy of the CC&Rs, and Architectural Guidelines, as well as photos from recent neighborhood events. If you have any comments on or additions to the website, please email webmaster@thha.org. If you would like to reach the Board via email on any other matters, please use the Board email address: board@thha.org.

Neighborhood Social Events

The Winterfest Party was a great success. For those of you who were not able to attend, you missed a very good time. Special thanks to the Trollinger's, who were kind enough to host the event.

If you have not yet attended one of our neighborhood social gatherings, they are very informal, a lot of fun, and provide a great opportunity to meet a few more of your neighbors. The Board will be sending out information about the annual Oktoberfest Party, which is typically planned for the third week in September.

Entrance-Way Modifications

The entrance-way to the neighborhood at Hibbard and Thompson has been recently modified by the THHA Board. The plants around the entrance sign have been replaced with new plants that can be easily trimmed to avoid blocking the entrance sign, as has occurred in the past. In addition, vandalism of the lights for the sign has been a periodic problem. The lights have been replaced with low-profile lights, which will be more difficult to damage than what was previously installed.

All the Trimmings

It's important to us all that our neighborhood remains well maintained and with a high curb appeal. Please remember to keep any trees or bushes that overhang a public sidewalk trimmed so as not to impede the use of the sidewalk. A nice looking neighborhood benefits us all.

Vote for Annexation:

The THHA Board received a great deal of input regarding the possible annexation of our neighborhood by the Tualatin Hills Parks and Recreation District (THPRD). The vast majority of neighbors did not want to be annexed by the THPRD. The benefit of this annexation would be access to the THPRD facilities, with a cost estimated to be around \$500-\$600 per year for most households in our neighborhood. The THHA Board strongly and actively opposed this annexation, not only to represent the majority of neighbors opinions, but also due to the controversial voting method being proposed to decide this issue. Many other neighborhood associations joined in this opposition. Here is a quick update of the situation:

The typical voting method employed in this type of annexation is known as a double-majority vote. In this voting method, both the annexing party and those potentially being annexed hold separate votes. If both parties vote for annexation, then the annexation is carried through. This allows both parties to decide if the annexation is good for them. However, the THPRD attempted to employ a much more controversial voting method. In this method, only one vote would be held including both parties, with the majority vote deciding the outcome. The problem with this method is that this allows the large number of people who want to annex an area (in this case those in the THPRD district) to override the votes of the smaller number of people proposed for annexation. The effect of this is that it allows a larger group of individuals the power to decide to levy a new tax on a smaller group of individuals. In addition, there were indications of this same voting method being considered in the future by the City of Beaverton to attempt to annex some neighborhoods like ours into the City of Beaverton. This invoked strong opposition from a number of neighborhood associations and some attorneys.

The outcome of all this was that due to strong neighborhood opposition, as well as assistance from the Mayor of Beaverton, the proposed annexation of our neighborhood into the THPRD has been taken off the table for the time being. For anyone interested in learning more about this issue, you can contact the Board and we can provide additional information.

Visitors Are Always Welcome!

The Board of Directors encourages all homeowners to attend our monthly board meetings. They are typically held on the second Sunday of the month at 5:45 PM. If you are interested in attending a meeting, you can call any board member to confirm the time and date. If you would like to receive notices or minutes of those meetings via email, please contact the Board at board@thha.org. Alternatively, you are always welcome to call any of us with your comments or concerns regarding neighborhood or board activities. We are here to work on your behalf.

Board Members and Contact Information:

Craig Braun, President	503.320.5970
Stan Bunch, Treasurer	503.439.0211
Trish Heilman	503.645.1204
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