

Tillicum Woodbrook Neighborhood Association

"Where our greatest assets are our people."

August, 2017

14506 Portland Ave.SW, Lakewood, 98498
communitymattersweb@gmail.com, (253) 988-2536

With temperatures hovering right at 100 degrees at the time we would normally hold our first-Thursday-of-every-month meeting of the Tillicum Woodbrook Neighborhood Association (TWNA), the TWNA board voted unanimously to cancel the August 3 gettogether. Here is a link to a helpful article in The Suburban Times by Springbrook Neighborhood Association President [Chas. Ames](#); and another listing [cooling station locations](#); and still another [if you don't have air conditioning](#).



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL *Annual Dues*

\$12 per year allows the TWNA to undertake projects supported by the membership – like signs advertising meetings and goings-on throughout the community; voting privileges and much more! Contact Treasurer Abby Henning at abbyanddwane@aol.com. Thank you!



Community Dinner – 2nd Thursday of each month, 6:30 P.M. at the Tillicum Youth and Family Center, 14511 W. Thorne Ln. SW.



**SPEND MORE
TIME READING!**

Fridays, August 4, 11, 18 @ 12:00 Young Builders Workshop. During the summer reading program, drop by the library for a fun craft which will help you "build a better world!"

Friday, August 4 @ 2:00 PM Curt Carlyle-Comedian Juggler - Laughs, comedy and juggling performances! You will see yo-yos fly at amazing speeds and juggling of the highest order.

For much more Tillicum Library news see below.



“Tillicum, Walk With Me”

Every Saturday, rain or shine (shine preferable 😊) 10 A.M. starting at the Tillicum Youth and Family Center. Join your neighbors for a walk through the neighborhood! Hosted by the TWNA in partnership with Habitat for Humanity. Questions? Call Becka at (253) 203-8752.

Councilmember John Simpson attended both the July neighborhood association meetings of Lake City and Tillicum/Woodbrook. There were a number of questions that concerned the residents of both neighborhoods and here below Simpson provides the answers by way of city officials:



Fireworks: “As we know, this is one of those public policy issues where there just does not seem to be any middle ground. For some, fireworks are a symbol of freedom, but for others they are a nuisance. Then there are those who operate fireworks stands, often for a charity. Complaints in Lakewood are the same as those in other communities, pets are startled by the noise and fires are sparked by the devices.

“There are a number of communities that have banned fireworks, though it’s not entirely clear how effective the bans are given fireworks are still discharged by many in those communities. Tacoma and Seattle are examples where bans exist, though fireworks are still a very common sight and sound in late June and early July to include Independence Day each year.

“While fireworks are not completely banned in Lakewood, the City Council has adopted a code that is more restrictive than what is allowed by State law. The State of Washington sets baseline rules for all fireworks to include date of sale and what days and times they may be used. The City of Lakewood has reduced hours and days when fireworks can be used. State law allows the fireworks discharge period to be from June 28 through July 5 (8 days) and from 6:00 AM 12/31 to 1:00 AM 1/1 (19 hours). However, use of fireworks in Lakewood is limited to 11:00 AM and 11:00 PM between 7/3 and 7/5 (3 days) and from 11:00 PM 12/31 to 1:00 AM 1/1 (2 hours).”

Amtrak safety measures: “Sound Transit has installed fencing where it is needed. For example, properties in Tillicum, on the ‘I-5 side,’ adjacent to the railroad right-of-way, Sound Transit installed a six-foot-tall chain-link fence except for the Taco Bell and parts of the Gerties properties. These two properties have private improvements that extend into the railroad right-of-way. Here, Sound Transit did not require fencing. For the section between Gravelly Lake Drive and Thorne Lane, there is also no additional fencing, given the eight-foot fence adjacent to the golf course. However, it is anticipated WSDOT will install additional fencing as part of the Connector Road project.

“We have heard reports that some individuals have broken through the fencing in which case it is up to Sound Transit to repair. If the fence needs repair, people need to provide a specific location so that it can be properly reported to Sound Transit. However, something that is probably not well known is that Sound Transit security inspects the lines through Lakewood and Tacoma daily. It is likely that if a fence needs repair it is repaired quickly.”

Tree Removal: “The City addresses tree preservation using the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), Chapter 14.02 LMC, environmental rules and procedures, Chapter 18A.50 LMC, tree preservation, and the Shoreline Management Act. The City, specifically, the CED Department receives a number of tree related inquiries annually. They spend a considerable amount of time on this issue. People complain that the city is too restrictive; people also complain that the city is not restrictive enough.

“For lots less than 17,000 square feet and located in single family residential zones, these properties do not need city authorization to remove trees, unless the property is located adjacent to a shoreline in which case it is very difficult to remove trees whether they are alive, in poor health, or in fact, dead. The other exemption is the railroad right-of-way. The City has no authority in this area; tree preservation was addressed in the Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared by the WSDOT Rail Division several years back.

“Note. The City has a healthy tree mitigation account. Some of these funds will be used to replant trees and install native vegetation around Waughop Lake this fall.”

School zone speed bumps: “According to our records, the City has not received a request at Tillicum Elementary school as part of our traffic calming program either from the neighborhood or school district. Nor, are we aware of a speeding problem in that area. Both Portland Avenue and North Thorne Lane have been participants in the city’s Neighborhood Traffic Control Program (NTCP) within the last couple years. For Portland Avenue, a speed radar sign was installed as part of the NTCP. That effort has reduced the 85% speed down to where Portland Avenue was taken out of the NTCP (the 85% speed is less than 7.5 mph above the speed limit) earlier this year. Our NTCP uses the 85% speed as a benchmark for being in the program. The 85% speed is the speed at which 85% of the drivers are driving SLOWER than. Also, a raised crosswalk was installed on Portland Avenue at Maple Street.

“For North Thorne Lane, this is still an active location in the city’s NTCP as the 85% speed is over 7.5 mph above the posted speed limit. This was/is a particularly difficult area. A speed radar sign was installed at this location. Since this installation, the 85% speed has only been dropped from 14.8 mph over the posted speed limit to 12.2 mph over the posted speed limit, so this area remains on the active NTCP list for further potential speed reduction measures. The roadway in this area will be changing substantially with the upcoming I-5 widening project, however, we are open to deploying additional speed reduction items in this area between now and then (somewhere around 4 years from now).”

Synchronization of stop lights at Berkeley and Union: “We are working with WSDOT to see if we can get them to time these signals so it is more responsive while at the same time accomplishing their safety goals related to the railroad (RR) tracks. Some background on the traffic lights in Tillicum at Berkley and Thorne.

“All of the traffic signals in the Tillicum area adjacent to I-5 are operated and maintained by WSDOT. There are essentially 2 sets of 3 signals each. (1) Berkley & Union and (2) N. Thorne Lane & Union. (3) There is a 3rd set of similar signals in DuPont at the Steilacoom/Dupont Rd. interchange.

“Each set of signals is controlling the two off-on ramp signals and the city street intersection at each of these three locations. The RR crossing is controlled by a different signal control system that must coordinate with the WSDOT signal system.

“WSDOT’s priority for how they coordinate and operate these signals is, first: the top priority is given to keeping vehicles from stopping on the RR tracks. The next priority is to keep vehicles from stopping on the bridge overpasses. Operating with these top two priorities decreases the efficient operations of the signals for other vehicular movements increasing their delay at the intersections, however, it places a premium on safety given Amtrak will be using these tracks later this year travelling at 79 MPH.

“These operational priorities have been enhanced by the recent signal work at these intersections in anticipation of the introduction of high speed trains onto the RR tracks.

“WSDOT is operating the signals this way now so that any issues related to the safe operation of these signals can be worked out before the highspeed trains actually start running.

“Because of the very close coordination needed between all three signals (Lakewood and DuPont) in each ‘set’ of signals, all three signals in each set are being run by the same signal controller – usually, each signal has its own separate controller. This provides better coordination for the signal preemption that is required when a train movement conflicts with a vehicular movement at these three interchanges and helps assure that the tracks will be clear when the train arrives at the intersection.

“With respect to the issues with the left turn movement from the overpass to Union Avenue at the No. Thorne Lane interchange not getting a green arrow indication to facilitate this movement, our traffic signal design engineer (Jon Howe) speculates that the complexity of the signal operations at that location have used up all of the capability of the signal cabinet & controller to that location so that there is no more capacity to add a protected left turn movement.

“On the positive side, these signals will be removed as a part of the upcoming I-5/JBLM widening project given the construction of two new interchanges will provide for grade separation for trains and vehicular traffic. The latest information we have from WSDOT is that this widening project could be underway by late spring/early summer 2018 and be finished by fall of 2021. This widening project will replace all six of these traffic signals with roundabouts and vehicular traffic using the freeway overpasses at these two locations will go over the RR tracks on a bridge structure.”

Scroll to the very end of the document [linked here](#) to see what these freeway overpasses are currently designed to look like.



More Tillicum Library news:

Fridays, August 4 and 18 @ 3:00 PM Cooking with Irene. This popular class will introduce you to basic recipes and show you innovative techniques to adapt them to your own preference. You will also be introduced to natural recipes which include health benefits.

Saturday, August 5 @ 12:00 PM Family Bi-lingual Storytime. Enjoy stories in English and Spanish

along with music, movement, and fun! Families with children ages 4 and younger will enjoy this program.

Tuesday, August 8 @ 11:00 AM & 2:00 PM Work Source Workshops

11:00- Prepare for Interviews Learn the benefits of pre-interview prep and how to respond to tough questions in the most positive way possible.

2:00 - job Seekers Guide to the Cloud Learn how cloud technologies such as Google Drive, Microsoft OneDrive, and Dropbox can assist you in your job search.

Tuesday, August 8 @ 2:00 PM Earth Heroes: "Salmon, the Ultimate Champion"

See what it's like to migrate through a salmon challenge course – we'll read, leap, dash and "swim" to experience the journey & life cycle of these famous fish. Ages 5+. **This event requires registration.**

Tuesday, August 15 @ 2:00 PM Tillie's Craft Time

This is a make-it-take-it, hands on crafting program. All supplies and instruction will be included. All ages are included, under 3 must be accompanied by an adult. *(Please register for this program.)*

Friday, August 18 @ 12:00 PM Far Out – Solar Eclipse

During this event, you will witness an interactive display of what will take place during the upcoming solar eclipse on August 21. A limited supply of eclipse glasses will be available. Families with children ages 6 and up.

Saturday, August 19 @ 1:00 PM Family Movie Matinee

Find out what the newly released DVD title will be for the month of August! Free popcorn and drinks will be served.

Wednesday, August 23 @ 11:30 AM Building Block Party

Block play is an important activity for mind development in younger children. This party will take place before the library is open to give the children adequate space to create their projects. Straws and connectors will also be included. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Friday, August 25 @ 1:00 PM The 3D Printing Revolution

3D printing is reshaping manufacturing in the 21st century, and unlocking the potential for all of us to be "makers." Learn about the technology and see a demo of the library's new 3D printers. *** This event requires registration**

Tuesday, August 29 @ 11:00 AM Get Smart: Intro to the Internet

New to the online world? Learn how to navigate the web using Google Chrome and Internet Explorer.

Jeannine Adams, jadams@piercecounitylibrary.org