

Richmond Beach COMMUNITY NEWS

Winner 2020 Second Place Newsletter Award from Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA)

FEBRUARY 2022

Holiday lights



THE CLARK GRISWOLD AWARD WINNER BY THE STICKELMAIER FAMILY
-PHOTO BY TERESA PAPE

By **Teresa Pape**
RBCA Executive Director

In December, the RBCA held the second annual Richmond Beach Holiday Home Decorating Contest. The community could enter themselves or nominate a neighbor. Three judges toured all the entries on Saturday, Dec. 18, and scored the displays on showmanship, coverage and aesthetics. The winner of each category received a special light bulb trophy, a certificate suitable for See **Holiday Lights**, page 4-5

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The Unicorn is reborn



ABOVE LEFT - THE OLD AND NEW VERSIONS OF THE ROYAL UNICORN SIGN; RIGHT - ROSE WERELUS AND JOE MONTERO SHOW OFF ONE OF THE NEW DRAGON MURALS BY LOCAL ARTIST, RHIANNON ROSS, INSIDE THE REVAMPED RESTAURANT.

By **George Buswell**
RBCA Vice President

Long-term residents of Shoreline and Richmond Beach will recognize the name “Royal Unicorn” from its iconic sign prominently located on Richmond Beach Road across from the QFC shopping center. The Royal Unicorn (“Unicorn”) has for many years been a restaurant and karaoke bar serving Chinese food from their storefront tucked in behind the Union 76 gas station on Richmond Beach Road.

Recently the restaurant changed ownership. The new owners are Joe Montero and Rose Werelus, who also own and operate the Vault 177 Craft Beer and Cocktail Restaurant as well as Spin Alley Bowling here in Richmond Beach. When asked about the purchase of a new restaurant, Montero said, “The opportunity presented itself at a time where we were ready to expand. We are fully invested in the Richmond Beach community and want to bring



-PHOTOS BY GEORGE BUSWELL

this landmark restaurant back to its former glory.”

Werelus, who manages Vault 177 and Spin Alley, will also manage the new business at the Royal Unicorn. She offered, “We have heard so many interesting tales of the iterations of this business in the past. It seems everyone has a Unicorn story. We can’t wait to start our new legacy and see what new stories people will have to tell.”

Werelus and Montero intend to keep the quirky vintage vibe of the Unicorn. They are retaining the retro drink menu and some of the décor, but they are upgrading the facility with new flooring and fresh paint throughout. There will also be new kitchen equipment, a new state-of-the-art sound system and the facility will receive a thorough cleaning from top to bottom. Their goal is to bring back the golden age of the Royal Unicorn.

The management, kitchen staff and owners of the Royal Unicorn all have ties to the Shoreline

community, which creates a unique knowledge of the history of the area and a higher investment in the project. Bill Montero, Joe’s father, was a Shoreline rotary member and on the city planning commission. Rose Werelus is a Saint Luke Parochial School and Shorewood High School alumna, whose children also attend Shoreline Schools. Brad Thomas, executive chef for the Royal Unicorn, is also a graduate of Shorewood High School. One of

See **Royal Unicorn reborn**, page 8

Strawberry Festival update

By **Teresa Pape**
RBCA Executive Director

Good news is on the horizon for the annual Strawberry Festival. Plans are already in the works to bring the community a family friendly, safe event. We are working with the City of Shoreline and will be following all safety protocols while keeping our fingers crossed that the community stays healthy as we head towards spring.

Will it be the huge extravaganza of years gone by? Well, no. We are excited to just have a small spring festival. This event will be modest and basic, but it will still focus on celebrating all the wonderful things in our community.

The lack of money-making events over the past few years has put a huge strain on the RBCA’s budget. We are looking for sponsorships and donations to bring this event to fruition. If you would like information on how to make a donation or sponsor one or more of the activities at the festival, please reach out to Executive Director Teresa Pape at execdirector@richmondbeachwa.org.



Streetzeria Benefit Dinner anticipated to be another sell out

By **Sheri Ashleman**
Event Coordinator

Streetzeria welcomes Richmond Beach residents and neighbors to the eighth annual benefit dinner to support the Richmond Beach Community Association on Wednesday, March 16, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Participation in this fundraiser is by pre-order only. Schedule your pickup/take out meal package by calling Streetzeria at (206) 755-5433 starting March 9. Reservations will be scheduled in 15-minute increments between 4:30

See **Benefit Dinner**, page 8

Student life

By **Finley Stroh**
Contributing Writer

“Scary,” “nerve-wracking,” “worried,” “awful,” “gut-wrenching.” This is how Shorewood High School juniors, Faith Isakson, Ally Carter and Sylvia London, described how they feel about gun violence and safety at school.

Students shared the magnitude of living in a world where school gun violence, lockdowns and feeling unsafe at school are a daily reality. They also shared their thoughts on how schools and the greater community can support students’ mental health.

In the past month and a half, there have been multiple school gun violence threats in the Seattle area, some stemming from the recent TikTok trend linked to gun violence threats nationwide. These threats hit close to home for the Shoreline community and have increased the conversation around gun violence, especially as it impacts students in our community.

Students emphasized that this trend is not just a trend; it has real life consequences. “Trends like these and the recent uptick in gun violence make me nervous that one day my school will end up being the one on the news,” Carter said.

Feeling uncertain about safety at school is a concern students expressed especially regarding trusting others and the lack of control and uncertainty students have in these situations. Carter said, “It makes it hard to trust other people. Living in a world where I feel like I could die just for going to school, a place where I’m legally required to be for eight hours a day, is hard.”

Isakson described uncertainty about going to school with people whom she doesn’t really know. “I don’t know everyone’s

home life or what they have access to. I really hope that no one brings a gun to school, but that’s all I can really do,” Isakson said.

Students recognize that the solution to gun violence may not be more police. “I don’t feel super confident about any outside enforcement because I think prevention is not more police, but maybe gun control, mental health resources and a shift in society.” Isakson said.

Carter shared their perspective for the need for more open dialogue at school about gun violence. “I wish teachers and administrators at our school would be more open with how we talk about gun violence at school and let kids know that they’re safe and that there’s space to talk about their problems.” Additionally, Carter said, “I want to be able to build a community where we can trust each other to talk about things like this in a meaningful way.”

Students specifically emphasized the importance of school therapists and psychologists, not only to support those impacted by the threat of gun violence, but also to address the mental health struggles of students who may possibly be at risk of progressing to gun violence. “It’s good to talk about these things, and I want there to be an open environment at Shorewood for us to talk about it rather than sweeping this topic under the rug,” said Carter.

Students expressed hope in how the school community could grow and learn through discussion despite the challenges faced by living in a world where school violence is a real threat. London said, “Perhaps this could even foster an environment in which students feel comfortable in confronting their own mental health and looking out for the mental health of other students.”

Letter from the RBCA President

By **Jessica Jain**
RBCA President

Dear Neighbors,

I hope the New Year is finding you well and healthy. I know that we are continuing to navigate a very tricky time through this pandemic, and I hope this newspaper brings you a small spark of “normalcy.”

This month I would like to invite you to read the article by fellow board member, Amy Borg, about some changes we are making to our membership program and why becoming a member is vital to our continued operation. Like many organizations, the RBCA has several overhead operating costs that are not often thought about while attending an event. These are the costs associated with just maintaining the existence of our group. Please consider becoming a member, if you are not already, and help us to “keep the lights on.”

Another way you can consider helping us out is through a direct donation on our website. We have received a few very generous donations from individuals, and they are so very much appreciated.

You might also think about becoming a sponsor for one of our upcoming events. I know we think of sponsors as businesses, and we are grateful to our local businesses for their continued support. But you as an individual or a family or other small group are invited to sponsor as well. We have many opportunities at many different levels. Please reach out if you have any questions or would like to explore sponsoring an event.

And finally, I want to hear from you! It has been so long since we have been able to hold a community meeting, and the board and I feel as if we are losing the voice of the community we serve. Please write to me with any thoughts or concerns that you may have; but specifically, this month I would love to hear from you about the Strawberry Festival. We are looking forward to having the event again, but we are looking at making some changes—some for the health safety of all involved and some just because we’d like to start some new traditions, while not ignoring the old.

Please email me at president@richmondbeachwa.org with any ideas you have or thoughts about what the Strawberry Festival means to you or what you absolutely don’t want to see change. I look forward to hearing from the community!

RICHMOND BEACH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

www.richmondbeachwa.org
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The mission of the Richmond Beach Community Association Board is to promote the well-being of the Richmond Beach community.

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Richmond Beach Community News
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SUBMISSIONS

The RBCN welcomes submissions including articles, Letters to the Editor and Kudos. Submissions must be relevant to our community, copyright-free and submitted by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Electronic submissions are preferred.

For verification purposes only, submissions must include name, address, email address and phone number. Submissions are subject to editing.

Send submissions to:

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The Marge Unruh Spirit

By Tom Petersen

The Marge Unruh Community Service Award is an honor bestowed upon people and organizations that have worked to make Richmond Beach a great neighborhood, keep it that way and point it toward continued success.

Contributions come in many forms. When thinking of nominees for the 2022 awards, a reminder of the accomplishments of some past recipients, to whom we owe tremendous gratitude, is instructive.

Volunteers

Marge Unruh was a person who gave unselfishly of herself, volunteering for jobs large and small and taking the lead when new ideas were hatched for neighborhood fun. Back in the 1970s and 1980s, she rallied and coordinated volunteers from the school PTA and the Shoreline Fire Department's part-time Richmond Beach brigade to put on ice cream socials, pancake breakfasts, parades and the Halloween Carnival. Marge's successor as the neighborhood dynamo was Sheri Ashleman, who revived and sustained the Strawberry Festival (it had been off and on since 1913). The RBCA Board is a hands-on organization, with members coordinating, building, supporting and staffing all the events, but they are backed by the creativity and numbers of people throughout the community to make the fun happen.

Service and activism

Richmond Beach is by far the most active, busy and involved of Shoreline's 14 neighborhoods. Marge Unruh set the tone in modern times, saving the Richmond Beach School gymnasium long after the rest of the 1925 structure was demolished. She single-handedly kept it going as a sports and neighborhood center until the building couldn't stand any longer. In this spirit, awards have to gone to people like Tom McCormick and Tom Mailhot, whose pro-bono

business and legal expertise have protected the neighborhood's rights and interests throughout the decade-plus Point Wells redevelopment controversy, and Melanie Granfors, the Shoreline Fire Department Public Information Officer, who envisioned a new purpose for Station 62 and saved it for the community.

Community

There are people in and around Richmond Beach that are "just doing their jobs," but they create the institutions and direct the services that help everyone feel good. Past award recipients include Anina Sill, long-time manager and beloved soul of the Richmond Beach Library; Dick Deal, past head of parks for the City of Shoreline, who saw to the creation of Kayu Kayu Ac and the clean up and improvements to the community and saltwater parks; and Vicki Stiles, who recently retired after decades running the Shoreline Historical Museum, where the records and precious artifacts from Richmond Beach's past are preserved.

Businesses and donors

The very first Marge Unruh Community Service Award in 1999 went to restaurateur Vladimir Oustambassidis, who opened his business, Pizza Mia, to fundraisers for the RBCA and unhesitatingly supported the organization whenever it was in need. This same spirit and generosity continues uninterrupted at the successor business, Streetzeria, with its owner, Greg Bye, a recent honoree. Other examples of businesses and entrepreneurs whose volunteerism, lending of space and equipment, expertise and financial support include Gorgeous Gardens; former Spin Alley owner, Harley O'Neil; and realtor, Jack Malek.

Look at the people and organizations currently doing the work of these pioneers and paragons for ideas about who to nominate in 2022!

Anina's Corner

By Anina Coder Sill

I was befuddled when I could not find the glasses I had recently purchased, so I tried systemically retracing my steps. When I was a child, my mom used to say, "Look in the last place you had it" when I lost something, which I found irritating even if it was good advice.

In this mission, the search included a friend's house, a walk in the snow, pockets, additional snow checks as it melted and the kitchen counters. No luck, so I got creative and checked in and behind kitchen drawers, refrigerator and nextdoor.com lost and found. I thought they would magically appear someday in a strange place and decided not to take my "good" glasses with me next time I went walking.

A few days later, my funny friend sent me a photo of my glasses with a message "Recognize these?" She found them in one of the best places of all . . . on her head! She'd found them at her house, put them in her purse glasses case and didn't know they were mine until she put them on and her eyesight became wonky.

I will work on being more mindful and will keep laughing with friends as I lose other things!



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RBCA Marge Unruh Community Service Award Nomination Form

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From Holiday Lights, page 1

framing and a gift card to Vault 177. The competition was a bit tougher this year as many people were able to top previous winners' decorations.

The first winner was Ken Howe in "The Silver Snowman" category. Ken won the Orca category in 2020 and returned with a whole new concept. Ken's display featured a life-size sleigh with the mean one himself, the Grinch, and animated lights of Max the dog stealing presents. This display also featured the saying, "Being most unpleasant, he stole every present," all spelled out in lights. Ken sure stole this award hands down. Ken made all of his decorations himself, including waterproofing the wrapped packages and the life-sized sleigh and Grinch.

Richmond Beach's brightest holiday lights display and winner of "The Clark W. Griswold" award went to the Stickelmaier family. Their home featured a variety of holiday-themed items. A heart of lights welcomed you to the yard. The trees were full of ornaments, candy cane strings, a flamingo, a penguin and a real wood-burning fire. Each judge pointed out something special in addition to all the lights. Keith Stickelmaier shared, "So many people still have a big love for putting up Christmas lights and such, as do we. We love to decorate. Our other passion, Halloween, also gets the works as well. And I am definitely the Clark Griswold in our family for sure."

"Window Wonderland" was a new category this year. The judges were looking for a special window display, and Johanna and Colin Coolbaugh's two-story Christmas Tree was the clear winner. Oh Christmas tree, how beautiful was the green glow of this light

creation. This work of art received two separate nominations. It was an example of how a creation is enjoyed not only by the homeowners, but by others in the community as well.

Betsy Costello was awarded "The Orca." Her house brought elements of the Northwest to the North Pole—deer drinking by a river of blue and green lights, icicles streaming down from the highest peaks, evergreen trees and all of the natural wonders that the Pacific Northwest has to offer. On winning this award Betsy shared, "I love being a part of this incredibly lovely community. Walking to the park every morning, getting to know my neighbors and this honor make me feel like I wouldn't want to live anywhere else, even in the darkest of days!"

The holiday spirit truly came alive with this annual event. We had more entries than the previous year. We thank everyone who participated and would like to extend a special thank you to our judges, Kris Fordice, Betty Ngan and Tom Petersen. We also want to thank Bob Fordice for taking photos of each entry and to Craig Pape who led the caravan as the judges made their way through the community. This yearly event is such a wonderful sight as it fills the community with goodness and "lights."



THE JUDGES ON A COLD NIGHT: KRIS FORDICE, BETTY NGAN AND TOM PETERSEN -PHOTO BY TERESA PAPE



THE GRINCH TRIES TO STEAL KEN HOWE'S SILVER SNOWMAN AWARD - PHOTO BY TERESA PAPE



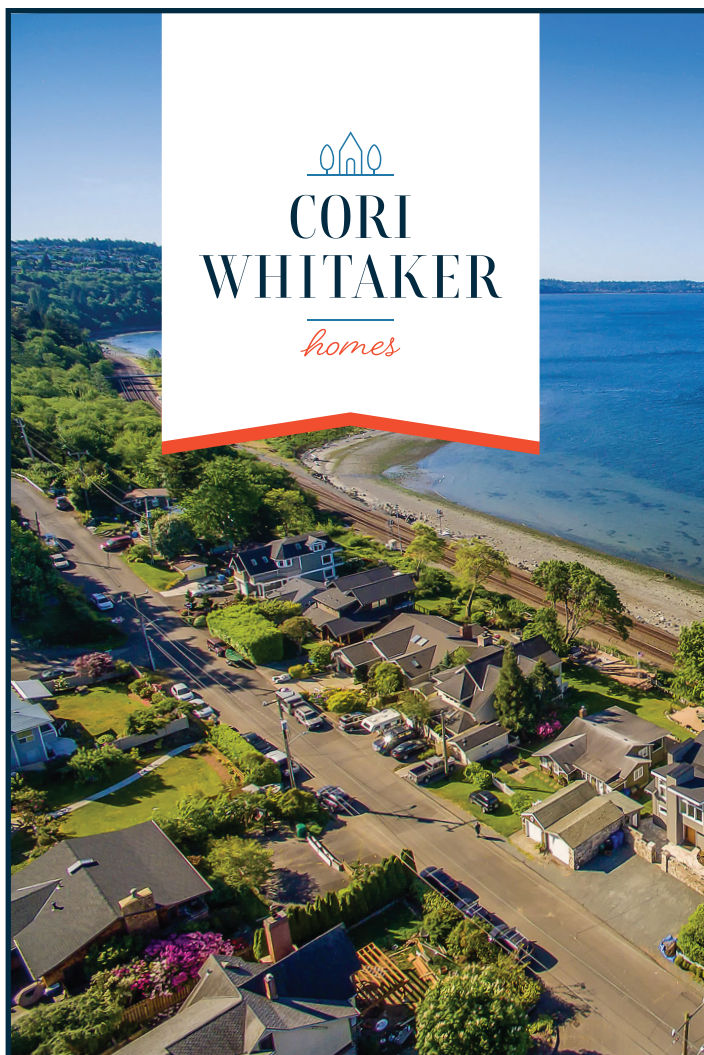
URSULA, ELKE, KEITH AND KRISTIAN STICKELMAIER WERE HONORED TO RECEIVE THE CLARK W. GRISWOLD AWARD AS A FAMILY - PHOTO BY TERESA PAPE



BETSY COSTELLO ACCEPTS THE ORCA AWARD IN FRONT OF HER NORTHWEST THEME CHALET -PHOTO BY TERESA PAPE



COLIN COOLBAUGH HOLDS A STIRNG OF LIGHTS FROM THE WINDOW WONDERLAND WINNING DISPLAY - PHOTO BY ALICIA SCHRODER



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From Holiday Lights, page 1



TOP LEFT - KEN HOWE'S SILVER SNOWMAN WINNING DISPLAY (PHOTO BY BOB FORDICE); BOTTOM LEFT - BETSY COSTELLO'S ORCA DISPLAY (PHOTO BY TERESA PAPE); ABOVE RIGHT - JOHANNA AND COLIN COOLBAUGH'S WINDOW WONDERLAND DISPLAY (PHOTO BY BOB FORDICE)

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Kudos



By Teresa Pape
RBCA Executive Director

To **Karisa Justice Karjalainen** for her support in publicizing RBCA events within the Meadowbrook apartments community. It is wonderful to have this valuable community connection.

To **Kris Fordice, Betty Ngan and Tom Petersen** for being the judges of the annual Holiday Home Decorating Contest. We could not have had winners without them.

To **Alicia Schroder** for creating one of the iconic and memorable trophies for the Holiday Home Decorating Contest. Winners will be sure to display this "major award" for years to come.

To **Jenni Wilson of Beach House Greetings** for setting up a place for the holiday card mailbox. Beach House Greetings is always willing to help the RBCA and to be a store location we can count on for all our needs.

To **George Buswell and Tom Mailhot** for finding time between the winter storms and snow to take down the Community Holiday Tree.

To **the employees at Fred Meyer** who collect the carts from the parking lot. During the snow days, they would watch people's loaded carts at the store entrance so people could go get their cars to load up their groceries. You have no idea how hard it is to push a loaded grocery cart through the snow and slush!

If you would like to acknowledge someone, please don't hesitate to send a note to execdirector@richmondbeachwa.org. We all could use some good news now and again.

RBCA still looking for new treasurer

By Tom Mailhot
RBCA Treasurer

You might have seen last month's article about RBCA's need for someone to step forward to be our treasurer for the next few years. Well, no one has stepped forward yet, so if you were thinking about it but waiting to see if someone else might volunteer first, please don't wait any longer.

Our current treasurer (me) has reached my six-year term limit, so I cannot serve on the board any longer. Having an accounting background and having some experience with the QuickBooks accounting program are both helpful, but they are NOT a requirement—the only requirement is that you are a RBCA member in good standing (dues current) and that you run (and win) in our annual board member election in May. If you volunteer for the position, I can almost guarantee you will run unopposed, so winning will not be a problem.

The treasurer has multiple partners who help them manage RBCA's finances. We have a CPA who helps us with filing our federal tax returns. Our executive director pays most of our bills and collects from our event sponsors, while the advertising manager collects from our newspaper advertisers. They also record all this activity in QuickBooks. This takes care of most of the day-to-day activity, but it does leave the treasurer with several responsibilities:

- The treasurer must go through the QuickBooks process that matches the activity entered by the executive director and advertising manager to the corresponding bank payments or deposits. This takes around 30 minutes a week.
- The treasurer must reconcile the entries on our bank's monthly statement to QuickBooks' bank register. This takes less than an hour once a month.
- The treasurer is responsible for withdrawing cash from the bank to use as change at our events.
- The treasurer should create a report each month to present to the rest of the board at our monthly board meeting.

We have step-by-step documentation that explains how to accomplish these tasks, so you will get a running start in understanding the job.

If you have an interest in filling this position or in finding out more about it, please contact me by emailing treasurer@richmondbeachwa.org.

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New members needed to sustain RBCA

By Amy Borg
RBCA Board Member

Now is normally the time of year when we ask people to either renew their RBCA membership or to become new members of the RBCA. Make no mistake, we are still going to do that, but first we want to give you a financial update and tell you about some changes.

After two years of pushing through the pandemic, and enduring harsh limits on the types of events we could safely host, we took a hard look at our options. The bottom line is that we really need your help to be able to continue because right now the income for the RBCA is not covering the expenses. We have done the best we can to raise money, but we need to make some changes to ensure the RBCA can keep hosting the fun events and art projects that benefit our community.

The first change is the timing of our membership dues and the second is the creation of a Donor Program. This month, we will tell you about the change in the membership drive. Next month we will explain the Donor Program.

In the past, renewing members have paid the annual \$20 fee on the date membership dues were paid the previous year. This approach has worked, but it has created some confusion as to when fees are due, and it also creates more work to manage membership renewals throughout the year. To remedy this, we are changing to an annual renewal on April 1, and the cost will remain \$20. All renewals will be effective on that date and the membership will be good for one year. By doing so, the RBCA Board will have a better idea how much revenue we have to work with for the year. If you have recently paid your dues, don't worry; we are giving grace this year, and you will continue to be a member through March 31, 2023. If your membership renews after April 1, 2022, we are asking you to pay early. The bottom line is we need you and the other adults in your household to help our community by becoming a member.

The number of paying members we have had in recent years does not come close to providing enough income to cover our fixed costs. It helps, and thank you to those of you who are members, but it's not enough. Our fixed costs (executive director salary, legal fees, taxes, accounting and our three storage units) are just over \$40,000 per year, and dues from our 352 members cover less than 20% of those costs. We get additional revenue from our events and generous sponsors, but we need about 770 new members to cover the remaining gap of \$15,400.

Why continue to be or become a new member? The RBCA

Bylaws state that the association is made up of members who pay dues, which entitles the member to attend meetings and cast a vote on Bylaw changes and activities of the RBCA. More importantly, you now know that these dues help to cover the operating costs for the RBCA. Your participation will help us continue to plan and host events and projects that are enjoyable for our community including: Oktoberfest, Halloween Carnival and a refreshed Strawberry Festival. These events generate revenue, but equally important are the ones where we break even, such as Bingo in the Park and the Christmas Tree Lighting. And let's not forget the Orcas and the mural projects! All these great events come together to make Richmond Beach a most enjoyable place to call home.

What do we need you to do? Please go to the website to join the RBCA or renew your membership for \$20, and ask your neighbors and friends to join (go to richmondbeachwa.org). If you are not sure whether you are a member, we will publish the complete list in the March newspaper along with more information on how to renew or join and pay the dues. We look forward to filling you in on the details of the new Donor Program in next month's paper.

Lastly, a sincere thank you to all our sponsors who have truly made it possible for us to continue to host events during these difficult years. We thank them for that, but at the same time we know that a healthy RBCA is one that relies on both a high membership rate and the contributions of our sponsors and donors. Increasing membership and launching our new Donor Program will give us the boost we need to make the RBCA sustainable.

Blood donations are needed

By Thomas Petersen

The next nearby Bloodworks "Pop-Up" will be at the Edmonds Waterfront Center (senior center) on February 10, 11, 14 and 15.

The Puget Sound region is amidst a blood shortage emergency. The ongoing effects of the pandemic, the usual slowdown during the holidays and the snows at the end of December left the shelves bare. New and experienced donors can visit schedule.bloodworksnw.org to find a donation opportunity nearby.

COVID-19 notice. Appointments and masks required. There is no deferral from donating if you have received the COVID vaccine or a recent booster. Prospective donors are all carefully screened.

Richmond Beach Garden Tour 2022



By Kris Fordice
Event Coordinator

As I write this, my garden is covered in snow in the deep freeze. Our gardens are all hibernating, and the promise of spring will be here before you know it. The 2022 Richmond Beach Garden Tour will be on Saturday, June 4, 2022.

The 2021 Richmond Beach Garden Tour was a huge success and broke all previous attendance records. Between 350 and 400 people toured each of the nine gardens. The weather was a bit of a concern, but the rain held off and didn't dampen the spirit of the hosts and guests. Three miles away in Edmonds it was pouring rain, but Richmond Beach was essentially dry. Thank you to all the garden hosts and volunteers who helped coordinate the event.

I'm looking for gardens for this year's tour. We welcome all gardens and gardeners! Contact me, Kris Fordice, at gardentour@richmondbeachwa.org.

This is an all-volunteer event sponsored by the Richmond Beach Community Association. Please become a member of the RBCA to keep events like this happening!

Putting away the tree for another year



THE HOLIDAY TREE HAS BEEN PUT AWAY. RBCA THANKS THE RICHMOND BEACH FIRE SAFETY CENTER; STREEZERIA; EVENT SPONSOR JILL LANGER OF WINDERMERE REAL ESTATE, NORTH, INC., AND VOLUNTEERS TOM MAILHOT AND GEORGE BUSWELL FOR PARTICIPATING IN THIS ANNUAL DISPLAY.

-PHOTO BY GEORGE BUSWELL

Letter to the Editor

Re: 20th Avenue NW - new sidewalk presentation by the city

Dear Editor

The community made their thoughts known on the new sidewalk survey with 223 responses. Laura Reiter, City Project Manager, and Darren Murata of DOWL presented three initial design alternatives during a Zoom meeting on January 12, 2022.

Discussion followed about the major concerns: (1) vehicle speed control and requests for speed bumps along the road. For example, motorists disregard the stop sign to the Saltwater Park entrance; (2) stormwater drainage to eliminate ponding and the use of permeable concrete for the new sidewalk (favored by 77 respondents); and (3) the removal of trees. There was overwhelming support for preserving trees along 20th. The arborist, Tree Solutions, will be inspecting the affected trees and delivering a report in February 2022.

The expressed feeling is that folks do not want to cover the street with painted stripes, lines and excessive concrete and destroy the beautiful and calming nature of the walk to their jewel of a park, Richmond Beach Saltwater Park. Someone said that an idea that has been around for 15+ years is to extend the design of the street to become a "Grand Promenade" befitting the entrance to the park.

Strong comments were made against the city's plan for a 10-foot-wide sidewalk to be shared with bicycles for fear of leading to accidents between pedestrians and cyclists (21 survey respondents favored shared usage). The city states that 10 feet is the standard for the safety of all using shared-use sidewalks. However, some experienced cyclists said they would prefer to use the street.

Among the other safety improvements mentioned were:

- Lighting:** 53 in favor (25%)
- Crosswalks:** 60 in favor (28%)
- Separate bike path:** 59 in favor (27%)
- Stormwater repairs:** 94 in favor (44%)

For further updates watch the website at shorelinewa.gov/20AveSidewalks.

Jonelle Kemmerling
Richmond Beach resident



Team building for the community

By Teresa Pape
RBCA Executive Director

No matter how big or small an event is, it takes a team of volunteers to bring it to the community. As we are starting to brainstorm this year's Strawberry Festival, we realized many of our past volunteers are no longer able to assist us. This leaves us with a huge need for help. If you are interested in bringing a spring festival to the community, we would love your ideas and time.

The Halloween Carnival has a dedicated team of volunteers that each has their own niche, whether that be activities, prizes, food and/or volunteer monitoring. Each person works within their assigned area keeping the workload light. When all the small committees come together, the event runs cohesively and efficiently. We would like to use this model for the upcoming Strawberry Festival.

If you want to help organize food, activities, games, prizes, vendors, volunteers or a long list of other things, we can surely use your help. You will not be alone. There will be timelines and checklists for each coordinator and volunteer to follow. Please reach out to me, Executive Director Teresa Pape, at execdirector@richmondbeachwa.org to volunteer for the Strawberry Festival team.

From Benefit Dinner, page 1

to 7:30 p.m. Walk ups cannot be accommodated. Last year the event sold out several days before the event, so it is highly recommended that you make your reservation early!

For this event, the meal package will include a whole 12" pizza and salad. Choose from either the popular kale Caesar (croutons, lemon and grana Padano) or a house salad (mixed greens, tomato and house-made tomato vinaigrette). The pizza selections for the night will be the four most popular pizzas on the menu: The Magnuson Park (traditional pepperoni); The Magnolia (old fashioned cheese); The Golden Gardens (homemade Italian sausage and caramelized onions) or The Carkeek Park (thyme mushrooms, finished with truffle oil). All pizzas come with red sauce and shredded mozzarella. With the large volume of orders, modifications or alternatives will not be available.

The suggested minimum donation for the package, which feeds two to three people, is \$30 (additional donations are gratefully accepted). Payment can be made by credit card, cash or check to Streetzeria. All proceeds will be donated to Richmond Beach Community Association to support the awesome events and services this neighborhood organization provides for the community to make Richmond Beach a very special place to live.

From Royal Unicorn reborn, page 1

the bartenders, Sidra Brown, also attended St. Luke Parochial School. So many of the staff have ties to the Richmond Beach community and are excited to bring this historic venue back to life.

The menu at the Royal Unicorn will be a mix of Asian fusion with a solid base of quality Chinese food. There will be bahn mi sandwiches on French rolls—but with non-traditional fillings such as Korean bulgogi beef and Thai cilantro chicken. The Royal Unicorn will also offer “bowls” with a choice of protein, veggies, brown or white rice or noodles and a choice of sauces. They have already held one tasting night on January 31 and received lots of great feedback for the new executive chef, Brad Thomas.

As of this writing, Montero and Werelus still hope to open the Royal Unicorn on February 4, but there have been a few setbacks. “In all honesty,” said Rose, “the timing has been difficult with inclement weather, supply chain issues and with the current surge in Covid cases, but we are optimistic and know our community is excited to get back into the Unicorn.”

Montero and Werelus already have karaoke lined up at the Unicorn, with Soundsation KaRiOke for Friday through Sunday nights in the Sing-A-Long Lounge. And there will be at least one dart league planned for the three new dart boards that are being installed this week.

The re-opening of the Royal Unicorn as a high-quality dining and conveniently located entertainment venue will be a greatly anticipated and much appreciated addition to the neighborhood. As Werelus said, “I think the Royal Unicorn will be the perfect spot for our palace of karaoke, food and fun!”



ABOVE - ROSE WERELUS AND JOE MONTERO WITH ONE OF THE NEW DRAGON MURALS; BOTTOM TWO PHOTOS - SHOW THE PROGRESS OF THE LARGE DRAGON MURAL BY LOCAL ARTIST, RHIANNON ROSS. -PHOTOS BY GEORGE BUSWELL



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