

SCOUT, THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FORT WEST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

APRIL, 2016

GARAGE SALE

Debbie Pinchok (dpinchok@tds.net) says the FWOA garage sale this year is scheduled for April 30, 8:00 to 1:00. Arrangements are being made with KARM to pick up items that do not sell and that you would like to donate. You need to notify Debbie if you want to participate. If you have furniture, bikes, sporting equipment, collectibles, appliances and such, tell Debbie so that they can be promoted in our advertising. Advertising will be placed the newspapers and on-line.

Watch also for the annual neighborhood Dumpster. V-P George Nennstiel is working on that and will announce details before long.

SPEEDING ON FWOA STREETS

Our speed limit is 25 mph, but many of our residents ignore it. What to do about this? It is not a new issue, and FWOA has looked into it previously. We have only 2 speed limit signs, but FWOA has been told the Town does not want to put up additional signs. If we had more speed signs, would they have any effect on speed? We will re-visit the issues of signs and speed bumps with the Town engineer and will discuss it in our next newsletter.

FWOA POOL

Plans are being made to open the pool for on May 18, 2016. Early bird fee is \$250, regular is \$300. We are hoping for 50-55 or more members this year to cover the expenses of maintaining the pool. Remember, membership in FWOA is required for membership in the pool. Volunteer Dee Littrakis is heading the pool effort and she will need help and support. Mark Holder is the pool treasurer. Pool fees will cover such as pool maintenance, chemicals, new tarps and possibly some new furniture, as well as contributing to the pool resurfacing fund. The resurfacing is estimated at \$30,000. The pool fund would welcome special contributions. Keep in mind that the pool requires a lot of work and a lot of attention. Our thanks to Dee and Mark and all

who contribute their work on our behalf. Remember also that the pool is important for our property values. It helps make our homes attractive to buyers.

FWOA MEMBERSHIPS

At this time we have about 130 members; 92 residents have not paid and we need another 50 or so just to get to last year's membership. But we really want our membership numbers nearer 222, the number of homes in the 'hood. Teresa Ward Keenan will put out a followup call for dues in a few days. Make sure you do your part to support FWOA; it's in the interest of all of us. Think about what the entrances and common areas would look like without FWOA maintenance. Think about what the neighborhood would become without oversight of the restrictions. There are lots of other reasons for paying your dues. If you haven't joined, step up; do your share. Some of the people complaining about speeding are not members; we need a united front to get things done.

CAMPERS IN DRIVEWAYS, RESTRICTIONS IN GENERAL

The Restrictions say a camper can be parked at home for only seven days without permission of the Board. FWOA believes that does not mean a camper can be moved for a day to start a new 7-day clock. If this is an issue for you, please check the rules for yourself; see by-laws at fortwest.net.

We do see occasional challenges to the Restrictions, and FWOA is convinced that the Restrictions must be upheld. Please read them for yourself at fortwest.net (click on by-laws) and help us adhere strictly to the rules. It's in the interest of all.

STREET SIGN AT LAWTON

The cul-de-sac on Lawton for many years had a 'dead end' sign, which was not very appealing. But now the Town has changed it to a small rectangular sign saying 'no outlet,' placed atop the street-name sign so that it will not be easily missed. It should work very well!

NEIGHBORHOOD COMPLAINTS

Every owner loves FW, but here are a few nagging issues. With every membership drive residents complain of street-parking, especially on curves. And some of our cul-de-sacs have too much street parking, trailers and boats. A small number of homes are not in the best of

repair. That issue is covered in our by-laws, so FWOA will look in to that.

The barking of dogs is a big and continuing issue. What to do about that? The rules say dogs are permitted as long as they are not running loose and not a nuisance to the neighborhood. If your dog is a continual barker (sometimes the owner does not know), please look for ways to quiet him. Where is Cesar Milan (Dog Whisperer) when you need him?

BEES IN YOUR BOX?

Neighbor Heather Fricke says the postman has asked for help in ridding bees from our mail boxes. The little critters can be touchy. Readers might look on the web to find ways to deter them other than spraying, as bees have a rightful place in the grid. Be kind to bees (wasps, maybe not so much) and kinder to our postal carriers!

ABOUT THE FWOA WEBSITE

Michele Leuciuc is doing a revamp of the FWOA website, much needed and much appreciated.

TREES, AND LANDSCAPING

Landscaping takes a lot of effort, and some money, but it does wonders for the neighborhood. Please inspect your yard; do your trees LEAN INTO THE ROAD? Can you do more to make the neighborhood proud of your yard?

GARBAGE CANS

Garbage cans have become a little bit of an issue for FW. A trip through the neighborhood tells the tale. And let's face it: Open or poorly placed garbage cans can be unsightly. The Restrictions say: "...garbage cans shall be concealed from view by appropriate screening, which must be approved by the Planning Committee." Of course, the rule would not apply on pickup day! Some folks use shrubbery for their screen, while others park the can behind the home. This is just one of many efforts we can make to keep FW beautiful.

HAPPY SUMMER TO ALL!