

Walden Woods

News

December 2005



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WALDEN WOODS NEWS is a monthly publication produced and distributed by homeowner volunteers for the edification and enjoyment of all Walden Woods homeowners. Questions, ideas and news contributions may be submitted to any member of the Communication Committee: Bob or Polly Ellis (688-5949), Ruth Johnson (688-5128), or Joe Sikora (219-0713).

SAY IT AIN'T SO, SANTA

According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, while both male and female reindeer grow antlers in the summer each year, male reindeer drop their antlers by mid-December. Female reindeer retain their antlers till after they give birth in the spring. Therefore, according to every historical rendition depicting Santa's reindeer, every single one of them, from Rudolph to Blitzen, had to be a girl.



We should've known. ... Only women would be able to drag a fat man in a red velvet suit all around the world in one night and not get lost.

Editors Note: And only a woman would sit on a cold rooftop waiting for a fat guy in a red velvet suit?

BOARD PASSES 2006 BUDGET AWAITS RATIFICATION AT ANNUAL HOMEOWNER MEETING

By now, everyone should have received a mailed copy of the 2006 budget approved by the Conservancy Board of Directors at their November "workshop" meeting. In case you need to hire an accountant just to balance your checkbook every month or simply have trouble reading a spreadsheet, here's a bottom line summary of the budget.

If you live in the **Woodmoor Council** (estate homes on Pierce, Hawthorne, Thoreau Circle and Mercer), your monthly association fee is going to **increase by \$3.00**. The increase includes a \$1 administrative fee that until now had been included in the administrative fee charged to the Conservancy. It also includes a \$2 charge to cover the expense for an annual cleaning of common element storm drains. The cleaning was proposed to the Board by our Environmental Committee after reviewing recommendations by the DEP and the town's Environmental Officer as a means to clean up and maintain Walden Meadow pond. It is an expense that will be shared by all Walden Woods homeowners.

If you live in the **Village Council** (condo-style homes adjacent to The Green and on the Knoll), your fees will **increase \$2.00** for the annual cleaning of storage drains identified above.

If you live in the **Ridge Council** (Pond Bridge and Picket Lane), your fees are going to **decrease \$4.00**. This is not because you're generally liked better by the Board of Directors; it's because of your decision to forgo any landscaping services on the ridge for 2006. That will save you \$6.00 a month. Coupled with the \$2.00 charge for the annual cleaning of storm drains gives you a net decrease of \$4.00.

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MORE WINTERTIME REMINDERS



Christmas tree recycling is the third week in January on your normal pick up day. Don't put the trees in plastic bags.

If you see any evidence of property damage by snow plows, blocked storm drains, icy conditions or snow areas missed by the plow, notify Elite Management (1-888-666-8300 toll free) immediately.

Unless you don't care about their being damaged by snowplows, please remove any decorative planters, etc. that you may have near your driveway.

Bring in those trash receptacles as soon as possible after pick up. We don't need to have vehicles or snow plows trying to run an obstacle course.

POSSIBLE NEW YEARS RESOLUTION

Don't believe all you hear, spend all you have or sleep all you want.

ODDS AND ENDS

Signposts:

The street signs for the Knoll have been ordered and should be installed within a couple of weeks. Now if we could just afford a few more lightposts

Insurance:

All homeowners will be receiving a notice from Elite Management in the near future regarding the need to provide them with proof of homeowner insurance. Because Walden Woods does not have a group policy that covers our homes, it's important for all of us to carry individual policies to ensure that any homes lost or damaged by fire will be repaired or replaced promptly at no cost to the conservancy.

HO Directory:

The first edition of the Walden Woods Homeowner Directory will be published in January. If you do not want your name, address and/or phone number listed in the Directory and have not yet notified Bob Ellis (688-5949), please do so before January 15th.

SAT for Dummies (answers on page 3)

- 1) How long did the Hundred Years War last?
- 2) Which country makes Panama hats?
- 3) From which animal do we get catgut?
- 4) In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution?
- 5) What is a camel's hair brush made of?
- 6) The Canary Islands in the Pacific are named after what animal?
- 7) What was King George VI's first name?
- 8) What color is a purple finch?
- 9) Where are Chinese gooseberries from?
- 10) What is the color of the black box in a commercial airplane?
- 11) Who is buried in Grant's Tomb?



A PARTY TO REMEMBER???



If you couldn't make the Holiday Party last Friday, you missed a good one. Good food, good wine and enjoyable neighbors. Several of our better known and heretofore respected residents, however, did exceed their capacity for imbibing the fermented grape and it made for an interesting, if not entertaining evening. Some of the lowlights follow:

- A discussion among several residents regarding the quality of the various appetizers and desserts available quickly evolved into a food fight reminiscent of Animal House. It was finally agreed that while Sheila Sikora's chocolate cake was tasty, it lacked the throwability

and stickability qualities of Janet Terkildsen's guacamole dip.

- Several tables were unfortunately destroyed when they couldn't support the weight of the Woodmoor homeowners who needed a "dance floor" for their impersonation of the Rockettes. Fortunately, many of the Village and Ridge attendees did not have to witness much of this immature behavior as they had already migrated to the cozy confines of the basement for a game of "Twister".



- Polly Ellis, Meeting House "caretaker", was last seen running out the door screaming after several homeowners settled an argument on what wood burned better by throwing various pieces of furniture into the fireplace.



- The police responded to a Windsor Locks resident complaining of the noise around 10:30 but did nothing other than remove Standards Committee representative Ruth Johnson who kept insisting they change the color of their car.

- Jan Moeller, Chairperson of the Social Committee responsible for the party, was reported missing by spouse Jackie on Monday and was later discovered hiding in the Meeting House coat closet.

Those who survived all agreed it was a highly successful party and are already looking forward to something similar in the Spring.

All kidding aside, **kudos to the entire Recreation/Social Committee for coordinating this enjoyable (and well behaved, non-destructive) party.**

ANSWERS TO SAT FOR DUMMIES

- 1) How long did the Hundred Years War last? **116 years**
- 2) Which country makes Panama hats? **Ecuador**
- 3) From which animal do we get catgut? **Sheep and Horses**
- 4) In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution? **November**
- 5) What is a camel's hair brush made of? **Squirrel fur**
- 6) The Canary Islands in the Pacific are named after what animal? **Dogs**
- 7) What was King George VI's first name? **Albert**
- 8) What color is a purple finch? **Crimson**
- 9) Where are Chinese gooseberries from? **New Zealand**
- 10) What is the color of the black box in a commercial airplane? **Orange**
- 11) Who is buried in Grant's Tomb? **Grant, of course, who'd you think?**

2006 BUDGET (cont'd from page 1)

Not as bad as you thought it might be huh? There's a reason. Actually, there are two reasons we managed to avoid a much greater impact on our individual budgets despite some heavy capital expenditures planned for 2006. (1) the \$41,000 we received from the Country Walk developer for not having to build two additional tennis courts and (2) the dedication and expense control effort by our outstanding Conservancy Board of Directors and Frank Goeckler, our property management representative.

Now that all of us have received copies of the board-approved budget, the next step is our acceptance or rejection of the budget at the Annual Homeowner Meeting on December 21st (7:30PM). To reject the budget requires a negative vote (either in person or proxy) by 75% of all homeowners currently residing in Walden Woods. If the new budget is rejected, we begin the new year using the old budget. If not rejected, the new budget will be assumed to be approved by the majority of homeowners and will be ratified. **Note: We will also be electing Directors to serve on the Woodmoor, Village and Ridge Councils at this meeting. Each elected Director will also serve on the Conservancy Board.**

It should be pointed out that in prior years, there have never been enough voters on the budget to affect its acceptance or rejection. This indicates that either the proposed budgets have been brilliantly prepared or that not enough people care to bring their ballot to the meeting or send their proxy. As always, the final decision is up to us.

HOLIDAY POSERS

- Q: What's the most popular wine at Christmas?
A: "I don't like sprouts"!(*read it again; it takes awhile to get this one*)
- Q: If athletes get athletes foot, what do astronauts get?
A: Missile-toe!
- Q: What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?
A: Frostbite.



- Q: What do you do if Santa gets stuck in your chimney?
A: Pour Santa flush on him.
- Q: Why was Santa's little helper depressed?
A: Because he had low elf esteem.

- Q: What do you call a bunch of grandmasters of chess bragging about their games in a hotel lobby?
A: Chess nuts boasting in an open foyer!
- Q: What do you get if you deep fry Santa Claus?
A: Crisp Cringle.
- Q: How come you never hear anything about the 10th reindeer "Olive" ?
A: Yeah, you know, "Olive the other reindeer used to laugh and call him names" (*finish your groan, then move on*).
- Q: Why is Christmas just like a day at the office?
A: You do all the work and the fat guy with the suit gets all the credit.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Unless otherwise indicated, all events are held at the Meeting House

Wed, Dec 21st @ 7:30pm ANNUAL HOMEOWNERS MEETING to ratify 2006 Budget and Elect Council Boards of Directors

NOTE: There will be no Game Night/Book Swapping event in December. It will resume on January 28th. Call Dick Armstrong, 285-0803 for more information.