



# SKAGIT HIGHLANDS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

TO PIC OR NOT TO PIC

LANDSCAPING  
MAINTENANCE

ASSESSMENTS &  
ESCROW

PARKING

HOA GOVERNANCE

# SUMMER IN SKAGIT HIGHLANDS

No. 2

## TO PIC OR NOT TO PIC



Many of you are sprucing up the exterior of your homes. Do you need to fill out a Property Improvement Form before doing so? Maybe. Here are some common things that come up:

- Replacing the front door with the same type NO
- Replacing the front door with a different style YES
- Adding a storm or screen door YES
- Adding A/C units or heat pumps YES
- Adding solar panels or anything else to the roof YES
- Adding or removing trees YES
- Adding plants or decorative elements that exceed 1' in height YES

To learn more, check out the complete PIC handbook is on the HOA website at [www.skagithighlandshoa.org](http://www.skagithighlandshoa.org). Scroll to the footer and click on Property Improvements (PIC). The application is also in the footer in the right hand column.

## PARKING



Street parking is at a premium on some streets in our community. If there is a concern with an abandoned or junk vehicle, or vehicle is blocking a driveway or is otherwise improperly parked and it is on a city street, that is an issue for the Mount Vernon Police Department to address. To read up on what is considered legal parking, please see <https://www.codepublishing.com/WA/MountVernon/#!/MountVernon10/MountVernon10.html> Section 10.20.150 does say parking on any public street is limited to 24 hours. If you are working from home and as such your vehicle stays put for days on end, consider leaving a note on the dashboard with your address or contact info. Neighbors may not know which vehicles belong to which households, and leaving a note can help distinguish resident vehicles from truly abandoned vehicles.

If the vehicle in question is parked in an alley, that is HOA jurisdiction, the police will not address it. To report a vehicle blocking in the alley, contact the community association manager at [skagithighlands@trestlecm.com](mailto:skagithighlands@trestlecm.com) or call 425-214-9344.



## GARBAGE CANS

As the weather warms up many of us head out of town for the weekend. If you leave before the trucks empty your bins, please arrange it with a neighbor to bring your cans back from the street. Empty cans left out are not only an eye sore but can make navigating our narrow streets and alleys that much more challenging. And, it's an easy way to avoid a Courtesy Notice from the HOA.

# MAINTAINING LANDSCAPING

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All the sunshine we've had certainly has caused the grass and weeds to grow! The community association management drives through the community once a month to evaluate not only landscaping and exterior tidiness but also to check for exterior alterations.

Remember – the first letter, the one titled Courtesy Notice is just that – a notice. A simple call or email to the CAM showing the correction is all it takes for the violation to be closed out. If you've made an alteration to the exterior of your home and it was not approved, you will be asked to fill out a PIC form and submit it. Forms and guidelines are found at [www.skagithighlandshoa.org](http://www.skagithighlandshoa.org) at the bottom of the home page.



## GRILLING DINNER?

The aromas wafting through the neighborhood certainly indicate many are. Some have taken advantage of the covered front porches and have been grilling there, out of the weather. When done cooking, please do not store the grill on the front porch. On the side or behind your home is OK.

## SLOW DOWN

Children on bikes and boards and other wheeled modes of transportation are seen daily now on our sidewalks and streets. Please, give yourself extra time in your commute and slow down and be watchful for children playing.

## BUYING OR SELLING ITEMS?

Did you know there is a vibrant Facebook Buy & Sell group dedicated to our community? The admins do their best to make sure only homeowners and renters are in the group. Check it out – [www.facebook.com/groups/skagithighlands](http://www.facebook.com/groups/skagithighlands) It's a great place to pass on or look for children's toys and clothing and household goods.

## ASSESSMENTS & ESCROW

Firstly, welcome to the many new homeowners! When a home is purchased in the community, the first few months of HOA assessments is prepaid. After that, it is up to the homeowner to continue making timely payments. It was noted that several new owners may not know this and are now accruing a past due balance on their account. Simply go to [www.trestlecm.com](http://www.trestlecm.com) and click on the tab in the upper right hand corner that says MY-COMMUNITY to register or log in. If you need help, email [skagithighlands@trestlecm.com](mailto:skagithighlands@trestlecm.com).

## CURIOUS ABOUT HOA GOVERNANCE?

Tune into a board meeting! It's easy to do so from the comfort of your own home. Links are on the HOA website. Meetings are the third Wednesday of every even month at 6:00 p.m. Listen in on what the Board discusses and how decisions are made. Their decisions directly affect your property values and what you pay in assessments every year.

## IDEAS TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITY BETTER?

Let the Board know! Either email the community association manager at [skagithighlands@trestlecm.com](mailto:skagithighlands@trestlecm.com) or attend a board meeting and share your ideas with us. Meetings with links are posted on the HOA website. Meetings are held virtually on the third Wednesday of even months at 6:00 p.m.

## STREET TREE MAINTENANCE

Many of us remember the horrible tree trimming job the City did a few months ago. After repeated requests the City made to homeowners, the City took matters into their own hands and trimmed trees such that branches would no longer interfere with the mechanized arms of the trash/recycle/yard waste trucks. It's also helpful to not put the bins directly under a tree if that's an option.

The trees that are between the sidewalk and the street and adjacent to your property are your responsibility to maintain. Trimming branches that are hazardous to street vehicles as well as pedestrians on sidewalk is important. It also promotes healthy growth and gives the trees a better shape. Here is a resource from the WSU regarding pruning trees and shrubs [FS182E\\_FINAL.pdf \(wsu.edu\)](#)

Spring time is a good time to trim the street trees when they begin actively growing.

The Board is considering requesting a bid to professionally trim the trees next spring. If we all do our part, it will greatly reduce the cost of trimming over 1200 trees in our community, saving the HOA tens of thousands of dollars. And that means keeping assessments low.

## QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?

Please contact our community association manager:  
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425-214-9344