



WELLINGTON CROSSING NEWSLETTER

April 2008

Volume 1, #3

Odds and Ends

It's nice to see that a few people have donated books for any of us to read. If you look inside some of the furniture facing the elevators you probably can find some books. If you don't find any or if you don't find any to your liking, try another floor. If you have some books you would like to donate, just add them. There is a senior center which had a policy that anyone could take any book but the person taking the book is supposed to replace it with two. We don't have such a policy but it certainly is a nice guideline.

Speaking of books, it is nice to see that a few people have taken the initiative to start a book club. A relatively large number of people seem to be interested. Is this the start of the Wellington Readers? Maybe we need another group to form also so that neither gets too large and cumbersome.

By the way, the Waltham Public Library has changed its policy regarding how long you may keep a book before renewing. The time has been extended to three weeks.

I know that a few of us are interested in becoming part of the Wellington Walkers. Who is going to get that ball rolling? What about the Wellington Knitters? In addition to us all paying monthly Condo fees, we should each think about some way of doing, in some small way, some volunteer service for the good of our community. Who is going to take the initiative of organizing the Wellington Wellwishers or the Wellington Welcomers?

If you are new to the area, this tidbit of information may be of use to you. The State of Massachusetts funds different nonprofit

agencies throughout the State to provide all forms of eldercare information and services to the people in their designated area. In this part of the state the organization called Springwell is the agency. They are a source of a wealth of information about all sorts of services available. One should think of Springwell as a knowledgeable and objective information resource which also happens to be a service provider. As taxpayers, we should not hesitate to contact them for advice and/or to find out about the services if we think they could help even a little.

If you are thinking about voting in the fall for this country's next president and haven't registered yet, you should do it soon. You can actually call Waltham City Hall and a very pleasant person who works there will gladly mail out the paperwork. If you are not aware of where we vote, it is not too far from here. The directions are easy. When you go down Clocktower Drive to Trapelo Road, you should take a left turn and then take the first right turn that you can onto Abbott Rd. You then go 3 blocks down (to the end) and then take a left onto Warwick Ave. Then you take the first right turn onto Putney Ln and you will go past a little construction and then be entering into a school parking area. Enter the building through the doors on the far left end. It actually is very easy.

The building representatives appear to have the ear of the current board of trustees and Crowninshield Management. The board and the management company seem to be very responsive to our representatives. There continue to be many additional improvements such as the recent additional handicap parking signs and designated

spaces and also the superb job of fixing the settling cracks and imperfections in the hallways. Sweeping of the garage floors was done and soon the garages will be power washed.

The representatives have provided a list of items which were discussed at the March meeting. The items range from discussion of Buildings 1 and 3 garage door repairs to requesting that two (2) home owners be appointed to the Board of Trustees in addition to the three (3) Pulte Trustees. The list is long and the gist of most of the items is listed here:

- Erection of a Private Property sign.
- Removal of the telephone poles on Trapelo Rd.
- Handicap signage in inside garages.
- Garage clutter.
- Semiannual hallway carpet cleaning.
- Location of the hallway thermostat.
- Ticketing of cars illegally parking in the handicap spaces.
- Establishment of a Reserve Fund Budget Task Force by unit owners.
(More to come in the future on this important topic)
- Owner representative involvement in any contracts awarded.
- Information about changes in Waltham which affect us, and the name of our City Councilor.
- Trash on the property...and recycling.
- More rapid review and approval of these newsletters to allow more timely information to be included.

In future issues of this newsletter we will try to include a column that the representatives will submit.

Tip of the Month

Our smoke detectors do not have batteries but our Carbon Monoxide sensors do. If your Carbon Monoxide sensors are starting to chirp, it really is time to replace the batteries. If you have been here a year or so, it's time to think about replacing the 9 volt battery inside each Carbon Monoxide sensor in your unit. The sensors are a pain in the neck to get to, so you should be careful and not even attempt it unless someone else is around to give you some moral support. Actually, the media is trying to convince everyone that we should change the batteries each fall when we change our clocks for daylight saving time. As an alternative, some stores are now selling 9 volt batteries which are specifically designed for use with smoke detectors or carbon monoxide sensors. They use lithium ion and are designed to last 10 years. The downside is that they cost about 3 times as much as alkaline ones.



Tip of the Month #2

We all probably know where the circuit breakers are located within our units. Do we know where all the GFCIs are? The Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters are inside a few of the electric outlets near our kitchen sink counter and our bathroom vanities. They are the rectangular outlets which have a little RESET (on) button and a little TEST (off) button. In most of our units that have two bathrooms, there is only one GFCI used to protect the vanity outlets for both bathroom vanities. It is likely that it is actually located in the smaller bathroom and not in the bathroom you most frequently use. If

someday, you are using an electric razor or a hair drier for example and you turn it off and then back on again and it doesn't work, it might be the GFCIs. If you currently don't know where it is, now is probably a better time to locate it than when the problem arises (if it ever does). If it does, all you will probably have to do is push the reset button. By the way, it is recommended by the manufacturer that we actually test each of our GFCIs on a monthly basis but very few of us do.



Food for thought

If you are a Boston Globe newspaper subscriber, this may be useful information for you. The Globe sometimes does not do a good job of alerting subscribers that their subscription is expiring. Part of the reason is that they don't do a great job in maintaining correct billing addresses for subscribers who move even though they do a great job with our delivery address. (Don't forget, all of us have moved recently.) The Globe sometimes sends the notice to our old address because they still consider it as the billing address. This is especially true if you have been paying with a credit card and you got an introductory special subscription price for the current new address. However, they really do a great job of notifying the delivery service when to stop delivery at our current delivery address. It then gets a little frustrating for a while in the building because often there seems to be a paper short and no one knows why. The delivery people then start putting unit numbers on all the papers for a short time until the situation straightens out.

Eventually when all of us are here for a long while, this will not be an issue.

Computer tip of the month

If you are inquisitive about a friend's age, go to a web site called ZABA. It is amazing that so much information is so easily available about most people. (Unfortunately, some of it is incorrect.)

By the way

This item is primarily for our snow birds, although the service is available to all. If you have an e-mail account and would like to receive these newsletters electronically, we will try to accommodate you. All you have to do is let us know and provide your name, unit number and e-mail address. Initially we will be delivering the paper copy also but if enough of you sign up, we can save quite a few cents in printing costs and will only continue to print and distribute the hard copy version to those who prefer the hard copy.

Quote of Note

"Back to the time made simple by loss of details" –Robert Frost

BUILDING REPRESENTATIVES

Town Houses	Dan Blechman #26-3
Building 1	Richard Griffin #1201
Building 2	Jeanne Proia #2203
Building 3	Sydney Hudig #3404

Final comments

Does anyone want to write a few helpful cooking tips to be included into a future issue? If you would like to respond to anything in this newsletter or contribute some news or ideas to future issues of the newsletter, you certainly can speak to one of

the representatives. If you have access to e-mail, it is even easier. All you need do is compose your thoughts and send them in an e-mail to CondoNews@comcast.net . This issue, for example, actually includes ideas submitted by 3 different people.



CROWNINSHIELD CORNER

Crowninshield Management would like to remind residents to call their office directly in the event of an emergency during normal business hours. Crowninshield's number is **978.532.4800**.

Calling the Crowninshield office during the work day to report an emergency will ensure that these situations are addressed in the timeliest manner.

The "emergency number", 781.599.4430, connects to the answering service and should be used during non-business hours, between 5:00 p.m. and 8:30 a.m.

Crowninshield Contacts:

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