

Highlands

By Karen Story



Our heartfelt condolences go out to David's family.

Mail theft

in the Highlands

Recently a Highlands resident found a pile of stolen mail when she was out walking. There were about 20 pieces of mail from several addresses. The mail had been opened, and included bank statements and birthday cards.

Other neighbors have reported mail theft problems in the recent past. One had a \$20 check "washed" and rewritten for \$920 and several Netflix DVDs stolen. Last month, someone had two checks stolen from their mailbox, altered and cashed for much more than they were written for.

The post office says that mail thieves will often take mail out of one mailbox, open it while walking down the street, remove checks, credit cards, or cash, and then put the opened mail into another mailbox.

Consider installing a locked mailbox at your residence, or use a post office box or commercial mailbox service. When you are away from home for an extended time, have your mail held at the post office (you can sign up for this online) or ask a neighbor to pick it up. You can also take outgoing mail to work, or drop it off at the post office.

There are various kinds of locking mailboxes:

- Individual types are available at www.locking-mailboxes.com.

- The cluster type is available from www.usmailboxes.com, www.mailboxes4less.com or www.mailboxworks.com.

There's a lot of good information on the Internet about preventing mail and identity theft. Remember to

Watermain replacement

Have you been wondering what's going on on N.E. 87th Street? The city has hired Buno Construction to replace the watermain from 112th Avenue N.E. to 116th Avenue N.E., and along 114th Avenue N.E. from N.E. 87th Street to N.E. 85th Street.

They are replacing 8-inch concrete and 12-inch ductile iron pipe with 20-inch ductile iron pipe. A major portion of the project will involve boring a 42-inch casing under the railroad crossing on N.E. 87th Street. The contractor started that work first and it should be completed by the time you read this.

The contractor's hours typically are from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., although they are permitted to work as late as 6 p.m. If all goes well, the project will be completed by early June.

If you have any questions concerning the project, the city's project engineer can be reached at 587-3829, or you can call the on-site construction inspector, Mike Redmond, on his cell phone at (206) 915-9807.

112th sidewalk — the saga continues

I asked the Public Works street crew if the watermain replacement project could delay the 112th Avenue N.E. sidewalk project. They replied that the watermain project "won't keep us from being able to start on the project." However, they need to start at the south end of the project and work their way north, and the watermain project equipment is cur-

rently in the way. So this will undoubtedly cause some additional sidewalk schedule delays. Hopefully, by the time you read this there will at least be some progress on this ill-fated project.

Taking care of where we live

In his inspiring book, "Personal Village," Marvin Thomas says, "You will benefit from the contributions of time and energy that you make to your community." Those contributions certainly can take place at the neighborhood level — all efforts will have an impact. Here are a few examples.

Cans, papers, plastic bottles and fast food containers aren't most people's idea of lovely landscaping. Litter is unsightly, and it also lowers our property values.

Please help keep our neighborhood looking good! Consider taking a small plastic bag when you go walking, and pick up a piece of litter or two. Or take the kids on a neighborhood litter patrol, and teach them to take care of where they live.

Also remember to keep sidewalks and walkways clear for pedestrians. Place garbage bins in the parking strip or close to the curb, so there is room for bikes or strollers on the sidewalk. And remember to trim vegetation so it doesn't hang over the walkway.

Did you know that washing your own car can be bad for the environment? Wash water contains oil and grease, heavy metals, and soaps, which can destroy aquatic habitat and the quality of our water.

You can find more information on Kirkland's Public Works Web site: www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/department/Public_Works/Storm_Surface_Water/Car_Washing_in_Kirkland.htm.

If you're a dog owner, clean up after your four-legged friend. I found three pile" on a single walk around the neighborhood the other day. Also, be considerate of private property — some people don't want dogs watering their landscaping. And remember that dogs must always be on a leash when they are outside, unless your yard is fenced.

In other news, the Highlands entrance sign landscaping will begin in the late spring, after the water main has been replaced. If you'd like more information about this project, or would like to be involved, send me an email. You can find my e-mail address on our Web site at www.kirklandhighlands.org.

The black cords across the south end of 116th Avenue N.E. are a traffic counting device. It's part of the seasonal counting and monitoring that is done citywide. The data are used to monitor how traffic is growing around the city, as well as for regional transportation planning and development impact reviews.

E-mail list

The Highlands e-mail list is an easy, stress-free way to find out what's happening in the neighborhood and the city. Signing up is easy and stress-free too. Go to www.KirklandHighlands.org and follow the simple instructions.

Meet your city council

On March 15, the Kirkland City Council will attend the Highlands neighborhood meeting for an extended question and answer session. Hopefully, you received a mailing from the city, asking you to submit questions for the council. Some of the topics they will cover include:

- Pedestrian safety and sidewalks in the Highlands
- What is the city doing to prepare for emergencies?
- Annexation — what's in it for us?
- What are the plans for the railroad tracks?
- Downtown Kirkland issues such as bars, drugs and overdevelopment
- Totem Lake mall development status
- City programs to reduce chemical use

There will be time for socializing with the council members after the meeting. Refreshments will be served. All of the questions and answers from the meeting will be posted on the city website March 30.

A sad goodbye to David Jordan

On Feb. 5, Highlands resident David Jordan died following an accident in the mountains. His wife, Marnie, is

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