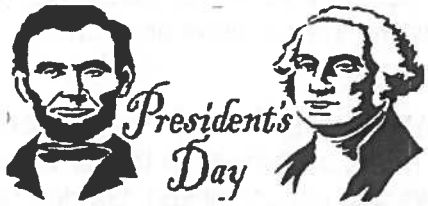
Cheesman Tower West

Newsletter – February 2018



New Laundry Machines: Change is on the way

Thanks to everyone for your attention to the vote allowing the Board's approval of a new 10-year contract for laundry machines. The required majority was achieved, and the Board moved ahead with your support and signed a contract with CSC ServiceWorks for new washers and dryers. This is the same company (with a new name) that has managed our laundry machines for the past ten years.

We will be receiving brand-new machines with more cycle choices, including:

- Small load choice
- Light, medium and heavy cycles
- Hot, warm and cold water options

There will be NO CHANGE in the cost to wash and dry! In addition to the cash method of adding value to our laundry cards, a new machine will be installed permitting us to use debit/credit cards to add value.

Installation dates are being finalized now. The change-out will likely occur in March. The plan is to proceed with alternate floors, so that laundry options will always be available while the change takes place. Once the machines are removed from a laundry room, that room will be thoroughly cleaned prior to installation of new machines. Plans and dates will be publicized in plenty of time for everyone to plan ahead.

Smoke Detector Annual Certification

It's time, once again, for our annual smoke detector certification. In February each unit will receive a form for your signature, certifying that your smoke detectors have been tested and are in working order. THIS IS IMPORTANT! The forms must be signed and returned to the office in advance of our annual fire inspection later in the spring.

According to the USFA, most smoke detectors have a normal life span of about ten years. Even if you've performed regular maintenance and your smoke detector is still functional, you should replace it after ten years (or earlier, depending on the manufacturer's recommendations).

Whether you have a battery-powered or hardwired smoke detector, most can be tested by pressing and holding the test button on the device. It can take a few seconds to begin, but a loud, ear-piercing siren should emanate from the smoke detector while the

button is pressed. If the sound is weak or nonexistent, replace the batteries with new ones. Never replace smoke detector batteries with used batteries. Test again to help ensure proper functioning. While you're at it, look at the smoke detector to make sure there's no dust or other substance blocking its grates, which may prevent it from working even if the batteries are new.

Meet Your Neighbors: Gardener Elspeth MacHattie

Elspeth is head, by default, of the all-volunteer Garden Committee (watch this space for spring news and opportunities). Gardening is in her genes, as she's descended from generations of British and Canadian fruit and dairy farmers. She reads seed catalogs and *The Well-Tended Perennial Garden: Essential Guide to Pruning & Planting Techniques* for fun. And has cats. And does crossword puzzles. And tap dances once a week!

Elspeth's day job as a freelance copyeditor of nonfiction books for Stanford University Press and John Wiley & Sons gave her the skills to edit our Rules and Regulations when she served on our Board some years ago, an accomplishment for which we're forever indebted. She says she's grateful to live in a place full of friendly people, happy cats and dogs, and helpful staff (and is particularly grateful to Ray right now for doing winter garden watering during this dry spell).

Hey, Ray, what do I do if my drains are slow?

The time to call Ray for help with drains is when they start slowing, *before* they clog completely. If he can easily snake the line, he will do so. If not, Bridget will provide you the names of plumbing companies familiar with our building and its delicate pipes so you can get professional help without risking further pipe damage. It's always a good idea to use biologic drain cleaners regularly. These are available for sale in the office.

Mirror, Mirror on the Wall.....

Many of us using the north parking ramp out of the Humboldt Street garage have experienced difficulty seeing oncoming traffic on Humboldt Street. A mirror has been installed on the north side of the driveway to help us detect traffic approaching from 12th Avenue. It's an aid, but use caution when exiting the garage.

Let there be LIGHT!

What just happened? We replaced old fluorescent light fixtures throughout the building and garages with new LED fixtures that provide two important benefits: they are brighter and they are *extremely* energy efficient!

Reminders

When taking dogs out for their "walks," please take them some distance from our entryways. What they leave behind is not an attractive addition to our landscaping!

Please leave the lids of the washing machines open when you finish doing laundry. That way they can dry and air out, avoiding mold and mildew inside.

The next ***Board of Directors meeting*** will be held Thursday, February 22 at 6:00 pm in the Community Room. Attend to learn more about what's going on in the building.

The final ***Subcommittee on Hardwood Flooring meeting*** will be held Tuesday, February 20, in the Community Room, at a time to be announced. Last chance to hear the results of recent research and contribute your thoughts on this important issue!

If you have contributions or other ***suggestions for future newsletters***, please send or bring them to Bridget in the office. If you need to update your email address or want a printed version of the newsletter, see Bridget.

Office hours are Monday-Friday, 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. In case of an emergency after hours, a manager will be on call at Weststar and can be reached at 720-941-9200 ext 1.

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