



Deer Run Community News

Newsletter of the Deer Run Community Organization - January 2020

Holiday Lights Winners

Spectacular displays lit up the holidays for Deer Run. Winners of our 2019 Holiday Lights Contest are pictured inside this issue, along with their imaginative night-time displays. Each winning family received a \$50 gift certificate from Central Market.

Annual Meeting Date

Please mark your calendar. The Deer Run Community Organization (DRCO) Annual Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 11, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., in the lower-level meeting room at the Poulsbo Library, 700 Lincoln Rd., Poulsbo WA 98370. Agenda will include the election of one DRCO director for a two-year term. The meeting will include reports by the President and Treasurer of DRCO on the current status of DRCO. There will also be an opportunity for open discussion.

DRCO is a volunteer-run organization, and relies on the willingness of members to serve two-year terms on our three-member Board of Directors. Please consider running for a position on the Board.

Deer Run Yard Sale - June 2nd

It's not too soon to start preparing for our annual Deer Run neighborhood yard sale on Saturday, June 2nd, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Deer Run and Meredith Heights customarily hold neighborhood yard sales on the same day each year and share the cost of advertising.

Living with wildlife

It seems like we've done everything possible to displace wildlife and replace their habitat with paved streets and manicured lawns; but somehow they continue to adapt and thrive in our remaining wooded margins. What's surprising is that, despite their relative abundance, we don't often see them. People sometimes overreact to reported sightings; but the truth is coyotes, raccoons and bears are amazingly smart about staying out of sight and avoiding problem encounters with

humans. Coyotes live on a diet of rats, rabbits, nuts and berries; but they are opportunists who can and will take an unwary cat or small dog. Pet owners need to be vigilant about letting cats roam free and leaving small dogs unattended. When wild animals become behavior problems, it is nearly always caused by people who feed them or leave pet food where they can get it. People who feed wildlife create serious problems for their neighbors -- and sad endings for wild animals that have been encouraged to think of humans as their friends.



DRCO

Board of Directors

Dennis Peters
Bob Stewart
Gene Bullock

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Gene Bullock, Vice President
Candy Peters, Secretary

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DRCO

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Board Meetings

Board meetings are open to all DRCO members. Contact us for the dates and locations of upcoming meetings at deer.run.co@gmail.com

The DRCO Board will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 16, and a brief meeting will be held immediately after our Annual Meeting on Wednesday, March 11. Members will be notified of future meetings.

Holiday Lights Winners

The following three Deer Run families were winners of the 2018 Deer Run Holiday Lights Contest:

Tom and Darla McGinity, 1990 Gustaf St. (top photo below)

Troy Harrel, 18130 Miss Ellis Loop NE (middle photos below)

Jeff Bruchs and son Gage, 18348 Miss Ellis Loop NE (bottom photos)

Each family was awarded a \$50 Central Market gift certificate.

Winners are not eligible to win again for two years.



Deer Run House Paint Approved Colors

Our Covenants, Rules and Regulations (CCRs) require DRCO Board approval when you repaint the exterior of your home or make major landscape or other changes that alter the street appearance of your property.

Remedy for failing to comply can be costly; but, fortunately, most members recognize the need to maintain standards

that protect the quality and appearance of our community and the value of our properties.

The DRCO Board has included a detailed palette of approved exterior paint and trim colors on our website (www.drco.org). The palette includes a large selection of colors compatible with character of our neighborhood; plus the necessary

form you'll need to submit to the DRCO Board before you begin to paint.

While the approved palette includes a wide selection, the DRCO Board will consider other choices that, in the opinion of the Board, don't clash with our neighborhood color scheme.

Is it okay to feed birds?

Gene Bullock, President, Kitsap Audubon Society

This question comes up whenever I give a presentation. People who love birds want to know if it's okay to feed them. My answer is not a simple "yes" or "no." Let's talk about some of the pros and cons.

Why I am in favor of feeding birds

To be honest, I feed birds mostly because I enjoy watching them. But the main reason I encourage people to feed birds is that our birds are seriously threatened, and need all the friends they can get. People want to save what they know and love; so encouraging them to feed and watch birds helps build an army of advocates who will actively support efforts to protect them. It's also a wonderful way to connect families --and especially children -- with wildlife and nature.

Feeding birds doesn't seem to delay migration or make them dependent on handouts. The year-round availability of feeders has prompted some species to push their ranges further north. West Coast examples include California Scrub Jays and Anna's Hummingbirds. Anna's Hummingbirds are now thriving because more people feed them all winter. These feisty little birds

now visit winter feeders as far north as Cordova, Alaska.

Feeding birds is a big business

Birds are not only a source of joy, but also a boon to the U.S. economy. According to government statistics, more than 40 million households feed birds. To feed this booming market, growers harvest more than half a million tons of birdseed every year with a retail value of \$5.5 billion. There are more than 1,516,000 birders in Washington State alone, and at least 47 million nationwide. Birdwatching and related businesses generate about \$107 billion in annual U.S. revenues.

The downside of feeding birds

Many species of birds seem to benefit from feeders; but there is no dismissing the added risks. Encouraging birds to mingle at bird feeders increases the likelihood of exposure to sick birds. So being a responsible feeder of birds means regular cleansing of feeders to prevent the buildup of disease organisms like Salmonella. It also essential to keep seeds fresh and water baths clean. If diseased birds show up at a feeder, it is imperative to take down the feeders, clean and sanitize them, and stop feeding for a couple

of weeks so diseased birds can't reinfect them..

Encouraging birds to congregate at a feeder also makes them more vulnerable. You can help make them safer by locating feeders and bird baths close to protective cover -- but not so close that cats and other ground-based predators can ambush them from cover.

Bird feeders and windows can also be a lethal mix. Placing feeders more than 30 feet from the nearest window or closer than five feet reduces the likelihood of fatal collisions. You can also use screens, UV reflecting decals or streamers to interrupt the reflections they mistake for safe avenues of escape.

Bird feeders can also attract rats. But the judicious use of baffles and predator guards can block access to feeder trays. The use of "no mess" sunflower hearts and also reduce spillage.

If you decide to feed birds, be sure you use all precautions to keep them safe. You can also improve their chances *for survival* by avoiding the use of toxic chemicals and planting bird-friendly native plants and shrubs. They will reward you with endless displays of grace and beauty.

Deer Run Community Organization
P.O. Box 756, Poulsbo WA 98370

FIRST
CLASS
POSTAGE



Please provide DRCO with your Email address so we can contact you promptly when necessary with neighborhood alerts and important announcements. Email it to deer.run.co@gmail.com. This information is not shared and remains confidential.

Holiday decorations - Previous winner



**2019 display by 2018 Holiday Lights winners, Cliff and
Laura O'Brien, 2108 NE Bjorn St.**