

The Hilltop Herald

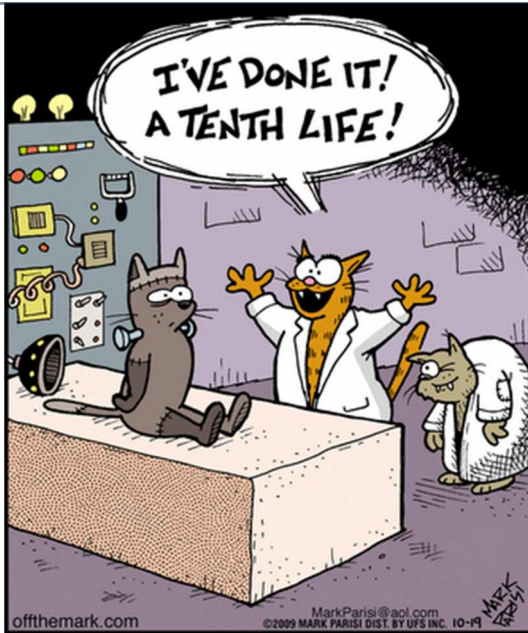
SEATTLE, October 2022



Photo by | David Ledbetter

Alley in Downtown Olympia, WA 2001

Cougar's Column



Happy Autumn Hilltop friends. Winston here with another installment of Cougar's Column. Let's get right into it. I freaked out in the elevator a few weeks ago. I mean really freaked out. Michelle and I were in the elevator heading back to the apartment. She was holding me, I was in my harness and all was well right? Mind you the elevator was full, no place to go. Anyway, the elevator door opened and there was this dog sitting there. I heard Michelle say bla bla bla bla and the dog started to get on the elevator. That did it, I flipped. Tore Michelle's hand up pretty good. I lost my cool. I'm not a mean cat but I was trapped with nowhere to go. Michelle understands, she wasn't

angry with me, thank God. She loves me unconditionally. I probably won't be making any trips downstairs anytime soon. Which is fine with me. Although I get treats when I visit the office staff. Michelle's hand is all healed with a really nice scar. Michelle's friend in Albuquerque says my middle name should be "Wolverine".

I've discovered the joy of sitting in the window and watching birds. It's kinda like kitty TV. Michelle opens the window for me and I love watching the crows and pigeons. Sometimes one will land on the window sill and I'll crouch down and act like a hunter. Of course the bird is safe, I can't get it. As is customary, I've included a couple of cat themed cartoons in honor of Halloween.

Cheers,
Winston Wolverine Schmidt



"A problem well defined is half solved."

-Charles Kettering

By Jan Denali

Hello Hilltop Neighbors,

This is to let you all know that once again during this coming election season, I am available to support you in casting your vote. I do this because I believe in democracy. I feel democracy does best when lots of us participate. That's not to say that I think the political process is simple or straightforward. It is time consuming and often messy but what else are we going to do? Do you really want to sit it out and leave it to others to decide all this stuff?

I will support you in a non-partisan way between now and November to get your ballot in the mail on time. I can also help you or friends and family to get registered to vote or to change an address if need be. I enjoy talking about all the details of elections, the candidates, the process.

Call on me!

In January 2023, my election support work will become more specific because I ran (unopposed) in our 37th legislative district for a precinct officer position for the Democratic Party. Our precinct is the neighborhood apartment buildings going north to Madison and east to Broadway. I think that's right. I have a little while to get that figured out!

Jan Denali 206-293-0333 jandee725@yahoo.com

NEW RESIDENTS AT HILLTOP HOUSE

Loren Miller #308

Marilia Cathcart #1102-04

Rus Cooper-Dowda #1109

Valerie Edmunds #805

Angelina S. Salazan #806-08

Georgia Galvin #705

John Sepulveda #214

Jin Hai Wu #404

Yi Lin Li & Zhuan Hao Li #605



THE WORD OF THORNTON By Thornton Bowman

Welcome to all of our new residents. My name is Thornton. I am the Executive Director.

Different residents have asked me to use my space in this Herald to address some things they have questioned. I'll give that a go.

Who does what? First, staff here do have specific roles, but we all try to help each other out when and if we can. Also, if you need something, it's always best to come to the front desk when we're open (M-F, 8AM – 4PM), or leave a message on our main line (206-624-5704) when we're not open. We'll direct your need to the right person.

AJ – Responsible for the garden and landscaping. He is the Relief Manager Sunday through Tuesday and every other Saturday.

Ana – Ana takes on many roles. She handles accounts payable, does most of the postings, creates most of the fliers, builds out the monthly calendar, puts together the Hilltop Herald, is primarily responsible for activities, and assists Katie with other accounting tasks and purchasing.

Esmeralda – Lead housekeeper and also helps Victor with some maintenance issues.

Jack – Jack is a backup Relief Manager, but also delivers packages to people.

Janice – Janice is in charge of the front desk Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights from 10 PM until 6 AM. She keeps an eye on the cameras and is available for first responders and lockouts if needed.

Karen - Karen is our Service Coordinator. In that role she helps residents with resources they may need. She also works with volunteers, helps Ana with the calendar and activities. And is the main contact for making a reasonable accommodation request.

Katie – Katie is the Director of Finance and Operations. She is responsible for Hilltop's overall accounting, budgeting, financial audits, taxes and licensing, payroll, and is the lead for HR matters.

Margarita – Margarita is our second housekeeper and the one you will see here on most Saturdays.

Marleni – Marleni has the front desk overnight shift Monday through Thursday from 10 PM until 6 AM. She and Janice have the same responsibilities.

Roem – Roem works with Victor doing building maintenance. He is the staff you will see here most Sundays.

Sharif – Sharif is the Relief Manager Wednesday night through Friday night and then every other Saturday.

Stephanie – Stephanie is responsible for leasing. That includes recertifications, background checks, and file maintenance. She is our primary contact with Seattle Housing Authority, as well as with those who handle our payments from HUD.

Thornton – I am an employee of Hilltop’s Board of Trustees charged with making sure we meet the Board’s mission which includes staffing, program development, legal matters, and contracting. I am the primary contact for HUD and our mortgage holder.

Victor – Victor is Hilltop’s Maintenance Supervisor. He is responsible for the continued upkeep of the entire building, grounds, and building systems.

Why do I have to have my apartment inspected for pests?

Whether they do it or not, all landlords in Washington state are required under RCW 59.18.060 section 4 of the Resident Landlord Tenant Act to have a program to control infestations. Tenants are required under RCW 59.18.130 section 2 to maintain their apartments in a condition that doesn’t promote an infestation or assume all costs of any needed pest extermination. Hilltop uses Western Exterminators because they use some of the mildest chemicals for the control of pests.

When will we put up the promised smoking shelter?

It’s done. For you smokers in the building, there is a shelter for you in the southeast corner of the back parking lot. Please try not to leave a mess.

MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT IS ALMOST HERE



Stacey McKenzie and Brandy Curjo from the Cornerstone Group will be here on Thursday, October 27th at 11:30 to provide you with the Medicare updates for 2023 and to also assist you if you need any help with changing your Medicare plan. They have been coming to Hilltop every year for over 10 years. Both are certified Medicare trainers and licensed insurance brokers.

*Thursday,
October 27th
11:30 am
Act. Rm*

RESIDENT THOUGHTS...

“I am sick and tired of trying to empty my trash and finding numerous Unbroken Boxes shoved into the bins, thus, leaving no room for normal waste. If my reach were extended, I would pull every box out and display them on a table in the lobby with a sign on the wall reading TABLE OF SHAME!

The total lack of regard is disrespectful and shameful. Hilltop is Our Home and, what we do reflects upon all of us.

You have my permission to post in your next newsletter should you desire.”



Dia de los Muertos is a holiday celebrated in the beginning of November by the Mexican culture not only in Mexico but in many parts of the U.S as well.

The holiday, celebrated for a few days, gets family and friends to come together and remember their lost loved ones. Home alters known as ofrendas in Spanish, are built and include sugar skulls (calaveras) and Aztec marigold flowers. A picture of the family member or friend who passed is placed on the ofrenda as

well as their favorite food, snack and drink.

Last year at Hilltop an ofrenda was created in the lobby, this year we will do the same and welcome residents to bring their loved ones pictures who have passed and be placed on the alter.

“To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die.” -Thomas Campbell






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| ACORN | FALL | LEAVES | RAKE |
| APPLE | FOOTBALL | MAIZE | SCARECROW |
| AUTUMN | GOURD | NOVEMBER | SEPTEMBER |
| CHESTNUTS | HALLOWEEN | NUTS | SLEET |
| CHILLY | HARVEST | OCTOBER | THANKSGIVING |
| CIDER | HAY BALE | PUMPKIN | |
| COBWEB | HAYRIDE | QUILT | |

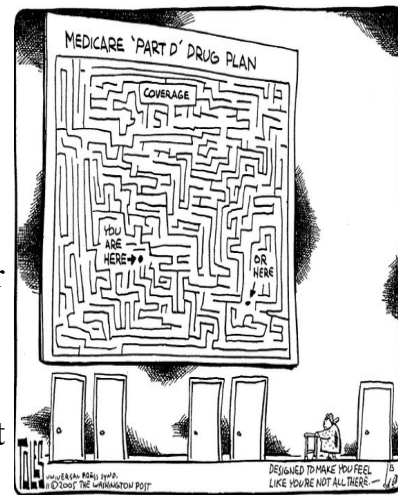
Medicare Open Enrollment Season

Medicare open enrollment happens from Oct. 15 through Dec. 7 every year, giving you a dedicated time period to change your Medicare coverage. This is not the only time when you can change your coverage, but the fall enrollment period gives you the most flexibility with which changes you can make. Plan availability and the cost of Medicare change each year. It is recommended that all enrollees review their options annually to compare rates and make sure they're getting the best deal. Below are the changes you can make:

Parts A & B Original Medicare		Part C Medicare Advantage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change original Medicare to Medicare Advantage (or vice versa)
Part C Medicare Advantage			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change Medicare Advantage Plan
Part D Medicare Prescription Drug Plan			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add, cancel or change prescription drug plan

But Wait, There's More.....

Open Enrollment time is more of “Open Season” for scammers to prey on older adults. Remember, no one from Medicare will call or text unsolicited to ask for money or to help with enrollment or some other service. The scammer, usually associated with a telemarketing firm, will pitch fake benefit plans over a phone call. Typically, these plans will require you to disclose personal details to enroll. Once you share your information, the scammer may use it to steal your identity and bill Medicare for services you did not receive. Also, an agent from a legit company may ask to meet with you in your home. Please feel free to meet with them in the lobby where you will be able to get some support if you begin to feel uncomfortable or pressured in any way.



Hilltop House is a nonprofit corporation which owns a 124-unit apartment building. It is an equal opportunity facility that provides housing to low-income individuals 62 years of age and older through the Department of Housing and Urban Development's 202 Program. Residency is open to all qualified persons without regard to race, color, creed, national origin, handicap status, religion, familial status, political persuasion, sex, or sexual preference.

