



# NNN: There's No Place Like Home

**Issue 8     Northwest Neighbors Network**

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*Northwest Neighbors Network (NNN) launched February 1, 2019, dedicated to enabling local residents to age in place -- living in the comfort and security of their own homes and communities with support from local, dedicated volunteers.*

### NNN service area:

- ♦ Shoreline
- ♦ Lake Forest Park
- ♦ Edmonds
- ♦ Woodway
- ♦ Lynnwood
- ♦ Mountlake Terrace
- ♦ Brier

## NORTHWEST NEIGHBORS NETWORK—February 2021

### HAPPY SECOND ANNIVERSARY, NNN!



February 1, 2021, NNN will be kicking off our “Terrible Twos” (although it seems more like that should have been last year with all of the COVID-19 challenges). While we won’t be celebrating in person like we did last year, we have so many great memories of continuing to serve our members and add more volunteers, we want to share a few highlights.

#### Welcome new members!

2019=21 New Members  
2020=24 New Members

#### Welcome new volunteers!

2019=16 New Volunteers  
2020=4 New Volunteers

**In 2020, we fulfilled 590 service requests with 1,430 hours of service**

#### Enjoying new events!

Despite the pandemic, our socially-distanced events helped us stay connected. Combining 50 walks with online talks, our book club and more, we keep looking for more ways to stay active and engaged.

2019=90 Events (all in person!)  
2020=140 Events

#### Showing our community our gratitude!

We delivered thank-you notes and sedum pots purchased from a local business to let our members and volunteers know how much they mean to us.

**Welcome new Board Member, Tom Wilcox!**

## SENIOR TIPSTERS GUEST COLUMN: PROPERTY TAX DEFERRALS

Thanks to a great NNN member suggestion, we're introducing a guest column for members and volunteers to share their thoughts and expertise. Let us know if **YOU** would like to contribute a future article. Email: [info@northwestneighborsnetwork.org](mailto:info@northwestneighborsnetwork.org)

### King County Property Tax Exemptions

King County estimates that there are thousands of qualified seniors and persons with disabilities who have not yet registered for this very helpful program. I would be among that group if not for a friend's suggestion that I look into it a few years ago.

Although I wasn't eligible then, I was the next year due to a change in my income. Now, because of a legislative change, the household income limit has changed to enable more people to qualify. If you looked into the program in the past, you'd be wise to check the new details. You may be able to apply for exemption and, like me, find you're qualified.



Eligibility for King County's Tax Exemption and Deferral Program is based on household income, home ownership and occupancy and being age 60 or older or retired due to disability. Review the application and detailed requirements on the [Department of Assessments website](#). The website has a helpful [User Guide](#) for applicants and several instructional videos that provide clear step by step directions.

In-person appointments have been suspended due to the pandemic, and response times to calls and emails, and processing applications, has been slower than usual. Like everything else, doing business has become more complicated these days, but starting the process of applying for the programs should be well worth your while!

*Anne Guthrie has enjoyed her time as a volunteer and is happy to have found an organization with great people who will be there for her own future!*

### Snohomish County Property Tax Exemptions

January is here and gone, with income statements arriving, reminding me that tax season is on, and the annual income tax report will be due. Also coming to mind are my Snohomish County property taxes. I've been meaning to file for a senior tax exemption and now found enough information and forms online to get me started.

The available exemption programs (discount or deferral) are based on age or disability, ownership, occupancy, and income. Income dictates whether you qualify for a deferral or a discount.

Besides income limits, you must meet one of the following criteria: At least 61 years of age, unable to work because of a disability OR a veteran receiving compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs at a total disability rating for a service-connected disability.

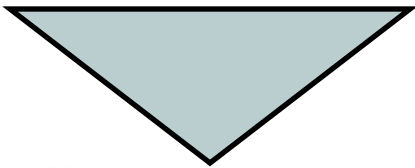
To apply this year, your assessment year is 2019, with 2020 and 2021 as your tax years. If you paid prior years' taxes, you may be eligible for a refund. In order to receive a refund, applications must be filed within three years of the date the taxes were due.

To apply for a 2021 tax reduction, you need to supply Income Tax returns for 2019 and 2020. To apply for a three year refund, you'll need 2018 as well. Applicants must meet all qualifications in the assessment year to receive property tax relief. A renewal application is required every six years. After your initial application and approval, you will be notified by your county assessor when it is time to submit a renewal application. The [Snohomish County assessor website](#) and [brochure](#) include additional details.

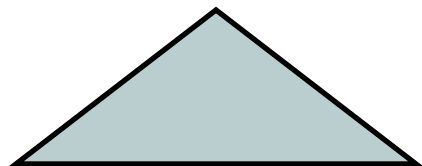
Filing my 2020 federal tax return seems to be priority one, then completing and sending in the SnoCo exemption application and tax return copies. It's time to get in gear, because before I know it, April 30 taxes will be upon me. Here's hoping the pandemic hasn't slowed down processing too much.

*NNN member Carol Freeman has been a Mountlake Terrace homeowner for 24 years. She loves reading cozy mysteries, especially PNW authors, and since retirement has rediscovered her younger, exuberant self.*

## READY FOR FUN IN 2021: EVENTS, ONLINE CONNECTIONS



**2** MORE SLEEP  
**0** MORE MUSIC  
**2** MORE TEA  
**1** MORE BOOKS  
 MORE SUNSETS  
 MORE CREATING  
 MORE LONG WALKS  
 MORE LAUGHTER  
 MORE HUGS  
 MORE DREAMING  
 MORE ROAD TRIPS  
 MORE FUN  
 MORE LOVE



Are you ready for more “something” in 2021? Most of the items listed to the left are achievable **despite** COVID-19 restrictions. Do you have other ideas in mind? How about:

- **King County Library Tech Tutoring?** Get help with software or technology questions. Go [online](#) and make a 60-minute appointment. Be ready with your name, email, and computer question.
- **SnoIsle Library Online Crafts & Chats?** Whether you’re a daytime crafter or night owl, there’s a group for you. (Search on a range of topics for events just right for you.)



**Don’t Forget our NNN Events! Where Will You Join? What Would You Like Us to Add? Ready to Start Your Own?**

Do you want the latest list of events hosted by NNN? From our [web-site](#), click the **Events** tab in the middle of the page (*image below*). (NOTE: For Members-only events, login is required for extra details.)

We have three weekly Walk & Talk groups (Edmonds, Lake Forest Park, Shoreline), weekly online chats (Monday informal drop-in and Thursday TED-Talk topics). We can’t wait to add more to help our members stay connected.

Send **YOUR** ideas to [info@northwestneighborsnetwork.org](mailto:info@northwestneighborsnetwork.org)

Jan	February 2021						Mar
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
31 Stroll Edmonds	1 Walk in Lake Forest Park Let's Chat	2 Walk And Talk In Shoreline	3	4 TED Talk Discussion	5	6	
7 Stroll Edmonds	8 Walk in Lake Forest Park Let's Chat	9 Walk And Talk In Shoreline	10	11 TED Talk Discussion	12	13	
14 Stroll Edmonds	15 Walk in Lake Forest Park Let's Chat	16 Walk And Talk In Shoreline	17	18 TED Talk Discussion	19	20	
21 Stroll Edmonds	22 NNN Book Club Walk in Lake Forest Park Let's Chat	23 Walk And Talk In Shoreline	24 Open Forum For NNN Volunteers Only	25 TED Talk Discussion	26	27	
28 Stroll Edmonds	1 Walk in Lake Forest Park	2 Walk And Talk In Shoreline	3	4	5	6	



## 2021: USHERING OUT THE YEAR OF THE RAT!! BRING ON THE OX

*This article is from guest contributor & NNN Volunteer: Anne Guthrie*

This Chinese New Year ushers in the **Year of the Ox** on February 12, lasting until January 31, 2022, marking the close of the tumultuous Year of the Rat. With its element of water, the Year of the Rat is known for constant changes with a fast and active yang. In contrast, the Ox is associated with yin, which is slow, soft and more passive. The 2021 Year of the Ox has been predicted to be a year with no explosive or catastrophic events, favored with economic recovery, but only when problems are solved with great discipline. It's also said to be a good year to focus on personal relationships and an especially fortuitous year to get married.

The Chinese zodiac has 12 earthly branches, and each is represented by an animal, the Rat, followed

by the Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep, Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Pig. According to mythology, a race was held by a great deity to determine which creatures would be the namesakes for each. The animals competed by first running and then swimming across a river. It's said that while both Rat and Ox easily swam across the river, Rat asked the good-natured Ox for a ride on his back, then jumped off at the last minute to quickly cross the finish line to win the first place in the zodiac.

People born in the year of the Ox are described as having an honest nature and are

known for diligence, dependability, strength and determination. They are said to be patient and rarely seek to be the center of attention or seek praise. Although they may say little, they can be also stubborn or opinionated. Recent years of the Ox are 1913, 1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997, 2009. Some well known people born in the year of the Ox include Napoleon Bonaparte (1769), Vincent Van Gogh (1853), Walt Disney (1901), and Barak Obama (1961).

As we look ahead to the new year, with these predictions, hopefully we will leave strife behind and begin the road back to more peaceful times.



## 2020: SHARING A FEW POSITIVE NOTES

At our final All-Hands meeting of 2020, we asked if anyone had any positive things they experienced during the pandemic. Here are just a few:

- A lot of online learning (e.g., Zoom )
- Getting an e-bike and using it
- New ways to learn (webinars)
- Attending the Village to Village National Conference (via Zoom)
- Arts and Culture options available virtually (e.g., Seattle Chamber Music Festival)
- Learning more about herself – introspection, and nature
- One member reported gratitude for being able to visit the synagogue online

## COMMUNITY SHARING: WASTE DISPOSAL

We all play a part in making sure hazardous waste is properly disposed of. How can you take part?

**King County:** If you live in King County, you can take your household hazardous waste to any of the county's four collection sites, or visit the traveling Wastemobile. You don't need to make an appointment, and there's no fee for this service. The Wastemobile will kick off 2021 with a three-day visit (Feb. 19-21) to the UW Bothell Campus, 18115 Campus Way NE in Bothell. Learn more here:



[Hazardous Waste Management Program website.](#)

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**Snohomish County** residents, visit the [Snohomish County Hazardous Waste website.](#)

## COMMUNITY SHARING: ONLINE OPTIONS

**Age Friendly Seattle** kicks off a series of monthly online events starting February 4, 2021. The events feature information and resources for older people, caregivers, and their families. Guests do not need to pre-register, and can either call in, or link via instructions on the [Aging King County Close to Home website](#). Close to Home presentations are scheduled on the first Thursday of each month, starting February 4, 2021, from 10:30–11:30 a.m. Pacific Time. Visit the [Virtual Events page](#) for the current week's livestream link.

Live and recorded captioning is provided in English, Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese. A phone call-in option is also available.

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### AgeWise TV: Live on the Seattle Channel and Online for Previous Episodes

AgeWise TV (launched in June 2020) is a series of programs designed for older people featured on the Seattle Channel (Channel 21 on Comcast). AgeWise TV was the brainchild of Pike Market Senior Center staff and was developed through community collaboration. Each one-hour program features lifelong learning and physical activities to help older viewers stay connected and healthy during the COVID quarantine. To watch episodes that have already been shown (like episode 116, where you can learn to cook a healthy frittata or reminisce about Frederick and Nelson's dining), visit the [AgeWise TV homepage](#).

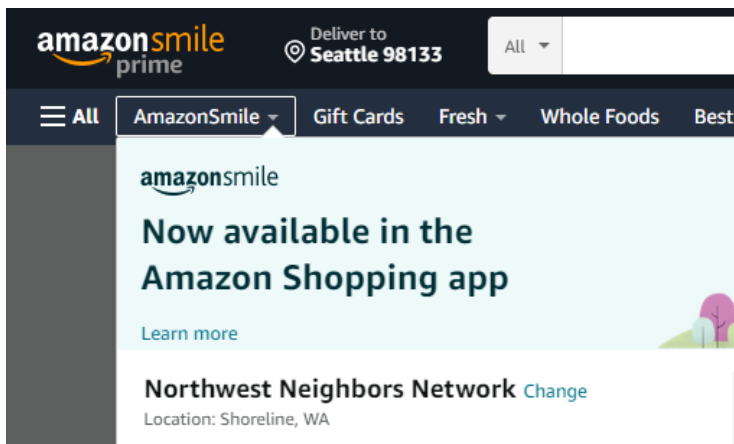


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**AgeWise TV**

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## READY TO SMILE WITH NNN? (AMAZON SMILE)



### Help NNN Smile!

If you shop on Amazon.com, did you know you can select Northwest Neighbors Network as the nonprofit to receive donations every time you shop? After you select us as your charity, log in at **smile.amazon.com** and help us reach more seniors in our area as we add more members, volunteers and supporters!

**Other ways to give? Yes!** From our NNN homepage, review how you can donate via PayPal, or check, or through our website. (Click the NNN [Donate](#) tab.)



## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Are you interested in submitting a poem, story, article, drawing, or photo to the newsletter? Member sharing is a key foundation of our community. You have a lot to share, and we value your ideas and that secret talent we have yet to discover. Call or email today. We're excited to hear from you.

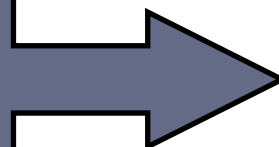
## GROWING OUR NNN BOARD—WELCOME TO TOM WILCOX!

Have you or a friend been thinking about joining our Board and helping make a difference? We meet online once per month to discuss our Strategic Plan, plus additional items are handled via email, phone, and Zoom calls. We're excited to have you or someone you recommend as part of our growing team, and just got to welcome our newest member, Tom Wilcox, in January. We are also forming an Advisory Board for single topic expertise to guide our board.

## NEW MAILING ADDRESS

With the challenges of collecting our mail during COVID shutdowns, we needed a more accessible address for our nonprofit mail, so we've added a new mailing address: PO Box 293 Edmonds, WA 98020

**Save the Date!**  
**Our next All-Hands  
 Volunteer meeting is  
 March 26 from 1:00-3:00 PM**



Contact: 253-237-2848 or email: [info@northwestneighborsnetwork.org](mailto:info@northwestneighborsnetwork.org)