

NORTHGATE NEWS

Volume 40, Issue 38

February 2010

Northgate Residents' Ownership Corporation

Important Dates

Feb. 5, 12, & 26th-Teen
Drop-In

Feb. 15th- NROC Of-
fice Closed for
Presidents' Day

Feb. 18th- NROC
Board Meeting

Feb. 24th- VT Legisla-
tive Day in Montpelier

Feb. 25th- Community
Dinner and
"BIG BAND" Birthday
Party
for Bea Winkler

Get your TAXES done for FREE!!! Just call 2-1-1
Free Tax Preparation is still available in Burlington.

You can find out if you're eligible and
get an appointment by calling 2-1-1.

Free tax preparation services are available on weekdays,
evenings and Saturdays during tax season. Services are pro-
vided by IRS-certified volunteers. Whether you qualify de-
pends on your household income and on how complicated
your tax return is. For more information about Free Tax
Preparation call 2-1-1.

"BIG BAND" Birthday Party

and Community Dinner in honor of

Bea Winkler

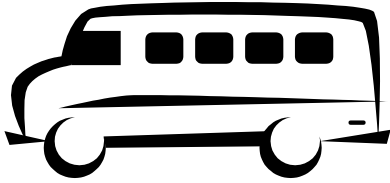
Inside this issue:

Van Schedule & Event Calendar	2
PetWise	3, 4, 5
Management	6
Word Search and	7

Join us for a pot-luck community dinner and birthday party
in honor of our long-time newsletter editor Bea Winkler
February, 25th, 2010 from 6:00pm-8:00pm
in Northgate's Community Hall.

The theme is the "BIG Band" era. Music and activities will be
provided. Bring a favorite dish to share.

RSVP to Abby at rsvp@northgateapartments.org or call 658-
2722 x 19.



Van Trips for February

<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Lo-</u>
	Monday, Feb. 1st	Noon	Commodities
	Tuesday, Feb. 2 nd	10AM	Hannaford's/Bank
	Friday, Feb. 5 th	10 AM	Costco/Williston Stores/ Price Chopper/Shelburne Stores
	Tuesday, Feb. 9 th	Noon	Hannaford's/Bank
	Friday, Feb. 12 th	10 AM	Price Chopper/Shelburne Stores
	Friday, Feb. 19 th	9 AM	Food Shelf/ Hannaford's/Banks
	Monday, Feb. 22 nd	Noon	Hannaford's/Banks/ Costco/Williston Stores

Residents interested in attending the van trip should meet in front of the NROC office 5 min. before time listed above. Got questions about van trips?

February Calendar of Events

Fridays, Feb. 5, 12, & 26th-Teen Drop-In 7:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m. in Northgate's Community Hall. Teens 13 and up can drop-in for food and fun with Megan (yes she is back for a limited time only, get her while you can!)

***Thursday, Feb. 18th-** NROC Board Meeting 6:00. *Please note change in nights.

Wednesday, Feb. 24th- VT Legislative Day in Montpelier. If interested call Abby at 658-2722 x19

Thursday, Feb. 25th- Community Dinner and "BIG BAND" Birthday Party for Bea Winkler. The theme is the "BIG Band" era. Music and activities will be provided. Bring a favorite dish to share. **RSVP** to Abby at rsvp@northgateapartments.org or call 658-2722 x

PetWise

by

Donna B. Russell

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Northgate Pet Committee and the Pet Policy, passed by Northgate residents in September, 1990, that allows residents to house pets in their apartments. To give you a better understanding of, and a greater appreciation for, what it took to accomplish this, I am reprinting the history of the Pet Committee in the next three issues of the newsletter.

A Brief History of the Pet Committee - Part I

Prior to the buyout of the Northgate Apartments property by the limited partnership on December 31, 1989, there was a "no pets" policy at Northgate. However, this policy was not enforced and many residents did have pets.

At the time of the buyout, residents were asked for input on a variety of issues. The most heated and controversial of these was the pet issue. Some residents did not want pets allowed at all. Many others felt pets should be allowed, but some restrictions should apply. So, the boards and management asked residents to submit drafts of a proposed "Pet Policy."

At the same time, a group of three residents (Donna Deal, Pam O'Brien, and Bonnie Rocheleau) got together to form an ad hoc committee to work toward allowing pets at Northgate. After reading the policies submitted by residents, Donna Deal called Donna Russell, who had submitted one of the proposed policies, and asked her to join the fledgling Pet Committee. Meetings were held in Donna D.'s kitchen. Shortly thereafter, due to a potential conflict of interest, she resigned from the committee.

At a residents' meeting soon after the buyout, Donna Russell and Bonnie Rocheleau presented the pet issue to residents, and ten other people signed up to join. Just prior to this meeting, Pam O'Brien also found it necessary to resign. This left twelve members on the Pet Committee.

The Pet Committee met to begin planning strategy and Donna Russell was elected as Chairman. The Committee met with management representative Kathy Tyrell, NHI Board Director Brenda Torpy, and NGRA Board President Ann Marie Dennis. Management presented a very stringent pet policy that allowed only one pet per household. This meant many animals already on site would be displaced and most likely euthanized. The Pet Committee fought hard to do a site-wide survey of residents to find out exactly how residents felt on the pet issue. The Committee was told that at least 51% of the households (there being 336 apartments) would have to be in favor of pets. There were other criteria as well: number of pets, type of pet, pets that would not be allowed, owners' responsibilities/liabilities, restriction of pets to inside apartments or on leashes, etc.

Bonnie Rocheleau resigned from the committee during this process; and the remaining eleven members drafted a resident questionnaire, divided into teams, and took the

survey door to door. The committee guaranteed resident anonymity, and personally picked up the sealed questionnaires. An unprecedented 90+% of the questionnaires were returned, and the Pet Committee set about compiling the results. Donna Deal, although no longer on the Committee, volunteered to draft a spread sheet to make tabulating the results easier. The vast majority of Northgate residents wanted pets, and wanted more than one. Significantly less than 50% wanted dogs, however.

The process of forming the committee, doing the resident surveys, and drafting a policy to reflect residents' wishes (both those who did and did not want pets -- hence the "indoor only" rule), took the Pet Committee a period of months, and involved contacts with area veterinarians, Vermont Tenants Association, and the press.

In the summer of 1990, the Pet Committee presented the results of the survey to the combined NGRA and NHI boards, and offered testimony from area veterinarian Michele Tulis, and the local humane society. Following the presentation, the boards put the pet question to a vote. The initial vote was tied with half of the board members voting for, and half against. The new chairman of the NGRA Board, Maryann Papin, cast the tie-breaking vote. Before doing so she said that although she personally did not want pets here, as a representative of the residents she felt she must vote for what the majority of the residents wanted. Therefore, she voted in favor of pets at Northgate. With her deciding vote, pets became an official part of the Northgate community.

Immediately, the Pet Committee set to work to help residents come into compliance with the new policy. Those families who had more than two pets were required to find new homes for their excess animals. Residents who already had dogs on site prior to the buy-out, were allowed to have their dogs grandfathered in. Since all pets had to be registered with the Management Office on or before August 31, 1990, the Pet Committee contacted area veterinarians about doing an on-site vaccination clinic so residents could get the shots required by the new policy by the registration deadline. Dr. Barbara Burroughs, of Brown Animal Hospital, agreed to do the clinic in August, and gave residents a five dollar per vaccination discount as well. At the time, she was the ONLY area veterinarian willing to do an onsite clinic.

After seeing its dedication to the Northgate community, and the hard work done by the Pet Committee on behalf of residents, and following the approval and implementation of the new Pet Policy, the NGRA Board voted to make the ad hoc Pet Committee an official committee of the NGRA Board. (This took place at an NGRA Board meeting near the end of 1990 or early 1991.)

[NOTE: Part II of the History of the Pet Committee will appear in the March newsletter, and will deal with the history of the dog issue.]

Dollars and Sense

[In this new section of *PetWise* I plan to bring you a money-saving tip each month of the year. If you have a tip you'd like to share, send it to me at PetWiseDBR@aol.com.]

February Tip: Pet Medications. As with human medical treatment, the cost of veterinary care and medications for pets are expensive. In an attempt to save money, some people turn to the internet to buy discounted medicines for their pets. However, many of the medicines sold online have been found to be inaccurate in type of medication, dosage, and

potency. Some unscrupulous companies have even passed off fake pills as the real thing. It is always best to buy your pet's meds from your local vet to be sure you're getting meds that are safe and will work to help your pet get or stay healthy. If you decide to go ahead and order online, investigate to make sure the company you are ordering from is legitimate and has a good reputation. Buying from your vet may cost more initially, but will save you money in the long-run and could save your pet's life.

February Website(s) of the Month

These links are perfect for February, because they highlight a truly heart-warming story. Enjoy!

<http://faiththedog.info/> -- The story of a little pup with serious birth defects and lots of heart, who was rescued and touched the lives of her new family, and now reaches out to touch many other lives as well. All it took was a lot of work and a little "Faith."

[http://drawthedog.com/?p=657&utm_source=DTD+subs+to+feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed:+DrawTheDog+\(Draw+the+Dog\)](http://drawthedog.com/?p=657&utm_source=DTD+subs+to+feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed:+DrawTheDog+(Draw+the+Dog)) -- Cartoonist Jim George, a former Disney animator, draws cartoons based on real animals. This one features Faith, the little dog who learned to walk on two legs because that's all she had.

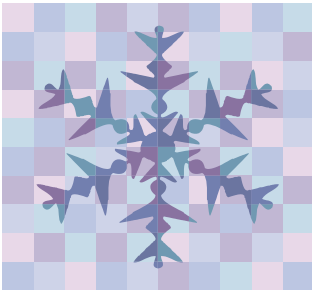
Committee Members Available to Residents

The following officers/members of the Northgate Pet Committee may be contacted as noted below:

Chairman:	David Russell	862-1172 (after 1 p.m.)
Secretary/Co-chair:	Donna B. Russell	862-1172 (after 1 p.m.)

The next Pet Committee meeting is to be arranged. If you are interested in pet issues, or in becoming a member of the committee, please call the Pet Committee Secretary.

NOTE: If you would like to contribute articles, poems, stories, tips, or helpful hints about your pet, pets in general, or pet issues, or have pet-related questions, please send them to PetWise at **PetWiseDBR@aol.com** and put "Question," "Article," "Tip," etc., in the "Subject" line. These should be no more than 3-4 short paragraphs, or 20 lines of poetry. Longer submissions may be edited for space.



Management and Maintenance News

IT'S WINTER IN VERMONT!

WHEN YOU SEE THE FLASHING YELLOW SNOW LIGHTS ON, IT'S TIME TO MOVE YOUR VEHICLES FROM THE PARKING LOTS. ALL VEHICLES MUST BE MOVED BY 8:30 A.M. OR RISK BEING TOWED AT THE OWNER'S EXPENSE.

WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM

As many of you may know, Northgate has begun a pilot program for weatherization of apartments, including the installation of new, energy efficient boilers. At this time, we have completed this work in nearly 30 units. The work includes:

- Insulating the top of the concrete foundation
- Dense packing and insulation of the overhanging sill
- Air sealing and addition of 12 inches of insulation in the attic
- New bathroom fan and venting
- Adding an attic access hatch in the upstairs hallway
- Installation of a new energy efficient boiler and venting.

Based on testing before weatherization and after the weatherization was completed, we are happy to report that residents should see a decrease in their heating bills. We are excited about this project and appreciate everyone's cooperation as we move forward with energy efficiency at Northgate!



TRASH TOTERS

Be sure you are bringing in your trash toters and blue recycling boxes after the trash hauler has emptied them. During the winter these can get lost in the snow if they are left out and staff is plowing.

All work orders should be called into extension 11.

Please do not leave messages on the staff voice mail system. If we are out sick or on vacation, your work order may not get addressed in a timely manner.

In the event that you have no heat or hot water, please do not try to fix the problem yourself! All boiler system issues must be addressed by the maintenance staff or our heating contractor.
**PLEASE DO NOT TOUCH
THE BOILERS!**

BASEMENTS

Please remember: we do not guarantee dry basements! All personal belongings should be on pallets off the floor in order to avoid getting wet if water comes into your basements.

BE SURE TO CLOSE BASEMENT WINDOWS!

As the temperature falls, please make certain that your basement windows are closed and locked. Leaving basement windows open in freezing temperatures can cause the pipes to freeze and possibly burst, which will flood your basement and perhaps your neighbors.

Valentine's Day

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid.
The remaining letters spell a popular Valentine's Day item.

For Sale

None

Interested in posting an
ad? Contact Abby at
658-2722

P I H S D N E I R F D I P U C A L
V D H S U R C A C F B A L E N D O
N Y N T I A E A S O L C T O Y M V
S R N E N S N L Y E H O I E R I E
T L E D I D S F A O N T W S A R B
R E Y S L R R E C T C T L E U E I
A W S E R I F O N A I A I C R R R
E E S E E E L L R D S O O M B S D
H J C N S A V T R O N U N T E D S
T G D N T O T O P I P O A S F N A
E N Y E A A R O L L G C F E H I T
E I S D U M R B E L O V E D B I G
W L O D R P O A F F E C T I O N P
S R E M A L F R R E N T R A P A R
E A Y C N A F O R E V E R L I K E
R D R O T I U S D N O I T O V E D

ADMIRER	COUPLE	FLOWERS	LOVERS
ADORE	CRUSH	FONDNESS	PARTNER
AFFECTION	CUPID	FOREVER	PROPOSAL
ATTRACTION	DARLING	FRIENDSHIP	RELATION-
BEAU	DATE	GIFT	SHIP
BELOVED	DEAR	GIRLFRIEND	RESTAU-
BOYFRIEND	DEVOTION	HEARTS	RANT
CANDLES	FANCY	JEWELRY	ROMANCE
CANDY	FEBRUARY	LIKE	ROSES
CHOCO-	FLAME	LOVEBIRDS	SENTI-
LATES			MENT
			SUITOR
			SWEET-
			HEART



Volunteers Opportunities

VT Legislative Day,
Feb. 24th, 2010 in
Montpelier. Join us
in advocating for
affordable housing
in our community.

Newsletter Help= give
a hand with folding and
labeling each month.

Interested?? Call Abby
658-2722x19

Word Search Contest-

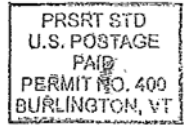
Give your completed word search to Abby by Feb. 19th and be
entered to win a \$5 cash prize.





275 Northgate Road
Burlington, VT 05408

EGRWSH**61



Get your Taxes done
for FREE!!
Call 2-1-1 for more
info.

Editor
Bea Winkler

Contributors
Donna Deal
Sara Noth
Donna Russell
Abby Russell

**Northgate Apartments Office
Hours of Operation**

Monday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday *12:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.*
Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Closed February 15th for Presidents' Day

**Northgate Apartments Office
Phone Number 658-2722**

Work Order & Emergency Line - x11
Donna Deal – x14
Sara Noth – x15
Wendy Thibault– x11
Abby Russell - x19

If you need this translated, please contact the office.

Si vous avez besoin de cette traduction s'il vous plaît contacter le bureau.(French)

Nëse keni nevojë për këtë përkthyer ju lutemi kontaktoni zyrën.(Albanian)

Ako trebate ove prevedene kontaktirajte ured.(Croatian)

Nếu quý vị cần phiên dịch này xin vui lòng liên lạc với văn phòng.(Vietnamese)

Ak potrebujete tento preložený kontaktujte kanceláriu.(Slovak)

Если вам нужен этот перевод, пожалуйста, обращайтесь в офис.(Russian)