



Now Hear This!



Navy League of the United States

Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council

Volume 62, Issue 02

February 2009

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President	Dave Thomas 360.373.2673
Vice President	Gary Gunderson 206.365.4219
Treasurer	Tim Katona 360.674.2628
Secretary	Susan Larson
Judge Advocate	George Rose

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- ★ United Rentals

NEW MEMBERS

- ★ Dave Dykema
- ★ Maura Mattson
- ★ Jesse Oliver
- ★ Doug York

Guy Stitt bids Farewell as Council President



Guy Stitt received accolades as our council president for 2008 at our recent Installation Dinner on January 16. He thanked the members and the business community for their continued support and for making the Council the largest in the Northwest. Our Council is one of the top Councils out of over 230 councils worldwide. We have set new records in membership and community affiliates this last year. We raised the funds and landed the Lone Sailor Statue on the Bremerton Marina Breakwater.

Almost 100 people attended the affair held at the Kitsap Conference Center at Bremerton Harborside to honor the 2008 Officers and Board of Directors and witness the installation of Dave Thomas as our New President and the new officers and members of the 2009 Board of Directors by Larry Salter, a BROLPN Past President and National Director of the Northwest

Region of Navy League.

Representatives from the Navy, Marines and the Coast Guard expressed their special thanks for the support Mr. Stitt and the Council has provided this year. Ryan Dunn from Congressman Norm Dick's Office read a letter of congratulations from the Congressman. Special awards were given to Chaplain Brown, Sandra and Earle Smith, Will Lent, Norma Parker and Carolyn Dankers for their contribution to our council during 2008.

A complete list of the new Officers and Board of Directors is included in this newsletter.

Our special thanks to the planning committee consisting of Will Lent, Carolyn Dankers, Tina Salter, Alice Thomas, Carol Meteney, Guy Stitt, Linda Corpe, Dave Thomas and Larry Salter.

Submitted by Carolyn Dankers



President's Message

It is my honor and privilege to serve as your President for 2009. I look forward to an interesting and

productive year.

First, I want to thank Guy Stitt for his leadership and effort over the past two years, as Vice President and President of our council. During his "watch" our council has grown considerably in numbers of individual and business affiliate members and in our improved financial condition. Guy's attention and extraordinary effort in both of these areas will serve us well for many years. We will seek to maintain those gains and continue to build on them.

For my part as your president, I intend to focus on our mission, "...to inform the American people and their government that the United States of America is a maritime nation and that its national defense and economic well being are dependent upon strong sea services – United States Navy, United States Marine Corps, United States Coast Guard and United States Merchant Marine." In carrying out that mission, we shall endeavor to (1) Educate national leaders and the nation, (2) Support the men and women of the sea services, (3) Provide assistance to sea service families, and (4) Support youth programs.

How do we, as a council, accomplish these lofty goals? Frankly, as a volunteer organization, we do it one small step at a time. Every one of us has volunteered to be a part of this organization and to support its mission. We have over 550 members, and have grown to be the largest council in the Pacific Northwest. I ask all of our members to contribute what they can toward supporting our mission by serving on our committees, giving a few hours, a few days, or if able, a lot of your time, as some of our members have done and are doing this year. Many hands make short work of large projects. If you can find a way to give a little of your valuable time, please contact any board member or me directly. A list of all of our committees

is included in this newsletter. If you are interested in helping with any of the jobs/committees listed, please let me know.

Our most immediate needs are for a Newsletter Editor and for additional members for our Armed Forces Gala committee. Our newsletter, under the superb guidance of Norma Parker, is in great shape. Norma has asked to be replaced as editor after serving for three years. Please contact her or me if you are interested in helping with this job. The Gala is our biggest event of the year and even though it will be in May, we need to form the committee and get started now.

On February 26th, Commander Submarine Group Trident will conduct a ceremony to acknowledge and celebrate the 1000th patrol conducted by a Trident Ballistic Missile Submarine (SSBN). Included in this newsletter is an invitation to all Navy League members to attend that celebration. Our council is raising funds to provide a reception following the ceremony. Both the ceremony and reception will be at Bangor Plaza. I hope to see many of you there.

At the January board meeting, the board approved moving the Lone Sailor statue dedication to Saturday, May 23, to coincide with the Port of Bremerton Kitsap Harbor Festival May 22-25, 2009. Please stay tuned for additional information on the dedication ceremony. The Lone Sailor committee can still use your help with fund raising and with the final installation and dedication ceremony.

Starting with our March luncheon, we are changing venues. Our monthly luncheon meetings will be held at the Naval Undersea Museum at Keyport. If you are not familiar with the museum, it is immediately outside of the gate to the Navy Installation at Keyport. The meeting room at the museum is downstairs and there is an elevator available.

In the words of a former shipmate and boss, I will attempt to "keep the main thing the main thing" during my tenure as your president. Let's work on that important Navy League mission, and let's have fun while we do it. Thank you for being Navy League members. I look forward to continuing to work with all of you.

Dave Thomas

Membership Data Base Updated

We have started out 2009 great in regards to recruiting new members. United Rentals joined as our 23rd active Community Affiliate – Welcome to Navy League and thank you for your support. In addition to the new members associated with United Rentals, we also have one new member joining her husband as a Navy League member. Welcome Maura Mattson.

On the database side of my responsibilities, I have updated our various databases and reconciled them with National. One of the new things we are going to try this year is contacting our members more often via E-Mail. Up until now, we have used the E-Mail list to notify members that the newsletter is available for download. The list has been primarily associated with the newsletter, with an occasional council information note. We are expanding the list to those who have an E-Mail address, but receive their Newsletter via the postal system. If you receive your Newsletter by regular mail, you will continue to get your Newsletter mailed to you, but you will also receive email notifications of important council activities. If anyone would like to get on the E-Mail list or needs to correct their E-Mail address, please send me an E-Mail at LTSalter@msn.com.

Thank you for all your support and lets break the 600 threshold for members this year.

*Submitted by Larry Salter,
Membership and Database Chairman*

Nametags

Want a Navy League nametag so that others can learn your name?? Just ask as you check in at the next luncheon.

Due to rising costs, nametags will be \$10 after February 1.

You may also contact Carolyn Dankers at c.dankers@wavecable.com to place your order now.

Northwest Navy Notes: February 2009

Greatness through Service – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

By Rear Adm. James A. Symonds, Commander, Navy Region Northwest

On January 19 we, a Nation and Navy at war, honored a man of peace. **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**, was a man who changed history. He did more than lead America towards a new birth of freedom and civil rights: he boldly challenged our thinking and forced America into self-examination, helping us to change, to grow, to prosper.



Dr. King once said “everybody can be great, because everybody can serve.” Like many of you with connections to the military, be that active duty, retired, veteran, family member, or supporter, Dr. King’s belief in greatness through service resonates very strongly with me. As we honored Dr. King on his holiday in events around Navy Region Northwest, it reminded me that his

life and his hopes for the future have much to teach America, and the Navy.

Dr. King summoned the best qualities of people from all over our great Nation. He earned respect not only for his practice of non-violence, but also for his steady

courage. He kept true to his mission. The principles for which he fought are those for which we in the Navy fight: we too believe that providing an equal opportunity for service provides an equal opportunity for greatness.

Today’s Navy provides opportunities for service, and greatness, in hundreds of ways: earlier this year the High Speed Vessel 2 Swift was in Jamaica, training local defense forces and delivering medical and educational supplies to hospitals and schools;

USS Taylor was in Bulgaria, forging partnerships and enhancing security in the emerging democracies of the Black Sea region; Everett-based USS Rodney M. Davis is underway near South America, countering the illegal trafficking in drugs that enslaves individuals and whole societies; and on January 13th, USS John C. Stennis departed Bremerton for the Western Pacific, and anywhere else it’s needed, to win war, preserve peace, or help those in need. The Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsman on those ships are, with steady courage, staying true to their mission: they are protecting American freedom, and working for a more secure, stable and prosperous future for the world.

We can all learn from Dr. King’s example, take inspiration from his accomplishments, and make a real difference. The Navy Ethos statement reads, “We are professional Sailors and Civilians; a diverse and agile force exemplifying the highest standards of service to our Nation, at home and abroad, at sea and ashore.” Our military has for many years been at the forefront of institutions rewarding achievement and ability, regardless of ethnic origin. We’re an institution where opportunities are limited only by the individual’s goals and talents, not by where they’re from, where they worship, or who their parents are. We strive every day at Navy Region Northwest to serve the citizens of our community, our country, and our world. In the words of Dr. King, and exemplified by his life, because we serve, we too can be great.

2009 Officers and Board of Directors

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George Rose

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Alice Thomas

Tina Salter

Ron Testa

Norma Parker

Karen Ebersole

Roger Wood

Charles Grosvenor

Mark Lowe

NRD Seattle Recognized Inside the Beltway

The key to the U.S. Navy being the premier maritime force in the world is in large part due to one "strategic imperative"...the Sailor. The U.S Navy employs the finest applicants in the world, and one reason is due to Explosive Ordnance Chief (EODC) Kevin Parra. Chief Parra along with 14 others were recognized for their significant contributions to Navy recruiting during a ceremony at the Navy Heritage Museum in our Nations Capital on Jan. 7

Vice Adm. Mark E. Ferguson III, Chief of Naval Personnel and Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Total Force), was guest speaker at the event and said as the "face of the nation," the 2008 Recruiters of the Year are bringing in new recruits that are the finest he has seen in all of his 30 years of service.

"Your true legacy will always be those individuals who are the future Master Chiefs, Leading Petty Officers and Officers of the Navy," said Ferguson, talking to the recruiters of the year. "You've once again met every challenge in securing our future and safeguarding our most important asset – our people." Ferguson said that the Navy must set a goal of being a "Top 50" employer, and in that battle to reach that goal, the Recruiters of the Year, along with the rest of the Navy recruiting force, have been able to meet or exceed Navy recruiting goals for the past 20 consecutive months.

"Your example, your presence is louder than any commercial or website and is more authentic than any pamphlet or YouTube video," said Ferguson. "[New recruits] come to the

Navy because they see the promise of their future in you and for that we are very grateful and we thank you."

*Submitted by
Commander Chris Phillips
NRD Seattle's
Commanding Officer*

Legislative Affairs Prepares Presentations

We are soliciting members to assist in contacting our Legislators to present the Grass Roots Presentation One and Two that has been prepared by our National Committee of Legislative Affairs. As a Council Member, if you are interested in participating in this very important committee please contact Carol Meteney, cmeteney2@wavecable.com or our new Co-Chairman, Mark Lowe, mark-d-low@comcast.net. Training for presentations is available from Bill Waylett via conference call.

We are starting to schedule meetings with our Congressman and Senators. Some are due for the second presentation and it is important that we keep the communication current and updated.

Submitted by Carol A Meteney



Chief Parra reported to NRD Seattle from EOD Mobil Unit 11 out of Whidbey Island. Parra a 16 year Navy combat veteran and was named "National Warrior Challenge Coordinator of the Year." NRD Seattle is proud to have this extraordinary chief as part of its CPO Mess and exemplifies daily the Navy Core Values of Honor, Courage and Commitment. Chief Parra is the first EOD Technician to fill a recruiting billet.

Operation Holiday Spirit



Tina Salter and Alice Thomas, co-chairs of Operation Holiday Spirit report great success with our first year of reaching out to 20 local military families during the holiday season to help bring some added joy and laughter. Our Council members have been very generous and local organizations and businesses have been so supportive of the program. Everyone wants to show appreciation for all that the military and their families do for us on a daily basis.

The Northwest Region Chaplains provided the important link for our Council and the families. Thank you for your constant care of those who serve and their families.

Our special thanks go to the following:

- Community Affiliates
- AMI International
- Land Title & Escrow
- Reid Real Estate
- Skookum
- TriWest Healthcare Alliance
- Businesses and organizations
- All Star Lanes
- Famous Dave's Bar-B-Q
- Massi Aviation
- Northwest Golf Range & Timer Falls Miniature Golf
- Obrigado/ Lisa da Silva
- Obrigado/Tony Milan II
- Red Robin Gourmet Burgers
- Retired Officers Wives Association (ROWA)
- Seaport Spa
- Silver City Brewing Company
- Steel Magnolias
- That's-a-some-Italian Ristorante
- Olive Garden Restaurant

Submitted by Carolyn Dankers

Get involved!

Now is the time to step up to the plate and take an active part in Council activities.

Our new President, Dave Thomas has issued a call for volunteers for this year so that we may continue to make a difference in our support of the Sea Services. Think about whether you would like to work on a short term project or a very specific type of job or whether you would like to volunteer for a more long term role. There is work and fun for everyone.

If you are interested, and just want to explore the possibilities, contact Dave Thomas at 360 373-2673 or by email at Dthomas751@comcast.net or any of the officers.

Commissioning of the USS George H. W. Bush

The complete commissioning ceremony of the USS George H.W. Bush (CVN77) is now available on the National website, <http://navyleague.org/>. It's a very stirring ceremony honoring our 41st President with many civilian and military dignitaries participating and credits given to the Navy League for organizing the commissioning ceremony. The Hampton Roads Council raised over \$5 million to make this ceremony possible.

Visit our website <http://brem-olympic.nlus.us/> for a link to this important site or you can go direct to the above sites.

Submitted by Dave Thomas

January Luncheon Delivers Facts



Speaker Kaj Ahlburg address the January luncheon as Dave Thomas looks on in a lively question and answer period after an informative presentation on Terrorism in the Mid East.

Speaker Kaj Ahlburg, who watched the 9/11 attacks from his office window in Manhattan, discussed "Al Qaeda and Islamic Terrorism" to a spellbound audience. The room was packed with 86 members in attendance. Mr. Ahlburg dispelled the myths of the stereotype terrorist. Gone is the myth that the terrorist is from a low economic environment, poorly educated and a loner. Mr. Ahlburg stated the current bio for a terrorist is a person who is well educated, multi lingual, average age of 26 and married with children.

As Mr. Ahlburg listed the goals of previous attacks, the room became very quiet as the reality of the facts settled into each person's mind. The fact that most attacks cost as little as \$50,000 and that many attacks can be financed by local cells is very concerning.

If you missed the luncheon, you missed a vast amount of information. Be sure to reserve your space for the February luncheon now. Call CTC 360-782-5500 early for reservations for the February 10 luncheon if you need to be on the base access list. If you have base access, please call Concurrent Technologies Corporation (CTC) 360-782-5500 to RSVP so the caterer will have an accurate count for the lunch.

Notice: March luncheon at new location – Keyport Naval Museum. Watch for more information.

2009 Committee Chairperson List

Audit Committee
Awards
Budget & Financial Planning
Float Coordination
Fund Raising
Historian
Legislative Affairs
Lone Sailor
Membership Database
New Member Outreach
Newsletter
Photography
Programs
Public Affairs
Booth Events
Operation Holiday Spirit
Memorial Day Celebration
Trident 1000th Patrol
Armed Forces Day Gala
Veteran's Day
Trips & Tours
Website
Youth Support

Norma Parker
Alice Thomas
Tim Katona
Louis Mejia
Guy Stitt
Karen Ebersole
Carol Meteney
Ron Testa/Tim Thomsom
Larry Salter
Carolyn Dankers
Norma Parker
Norma Parker
Will Lent
Sandra Smith
Tina Salter
Tina Salter
Tim Katona
Mark Lowe/Will Lent
Earle & Sandra Smith
Will & Sandra Smith
Byron Faber/George Rose
Sheila Broumley
Chuck Grosvenor

If you would like to volunteer to join any of our committees, please contact the committee chair person. Contact information is available in your Membership Directory or contact any Officer or Board member.

BROLPN Council Members Invited to Ceremony for USS Ohio

In February (exact date to be announced at February luncheon), Commander, Submarine Group Trident will host a commemoration of the 1000th Trident Patrol. This ceremony marks the milestone of the ballistic missile submarine conducting 1000 successful patrol periods since the first launch of the USS OHIO (SSBN-726) first deployed in 1982. An invitation has been issued for all our council members to attend. There will be more information on the website and an E-mail will be sent to everyone with the final arrangements and date.

Strategic deterrence has been the sole mission of the fleet ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) since its inception in 1960. The SSBN provides the Nation's most survivable and enduring nuclear strike capability. The Ohio-class ballistic missile submarines, built in the 1980's & 90's, replaced older ballistic missile submarines and are far more capable.

The Ohio class constitutes the current evolution of the US Ballistic Missile Submarine. USS OHIO (SSBN-726) first deployed in 1982 with a complement of 24 C-4 missiles. 14 Ohio class SSBNs remain in service and all now carry the Trident II D-5 Ballistic Missile, extending the submarine's reach to more than 4,000 nautical miles.

Submitted by Mark Lowe

Tours and Trips and Adventures

George Rose has joined Byron Faber to be our new tour directors. Byron is out of town currently, but George is busy planning a new schedule. Tours are being planned for March 2009. NOAA will be our first tour of 2009 and should be available for sign up soon.

Submitted by Carol Meteney

Comings & Goings

USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) departed Naval Air Station North Island Jan. 17 to continue its Western Pacific deployment after picking up Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 9 personnel and equipment. The Stennis and CVW-9 will join Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 21 to form the John C. Stennis Carrier Strike Group (JCSCSG) as they head west for deployment.

The regularly scheduled deployment is part of the Navy's Fleet Response Plan

(FRP), which is designed to allow the United States the ability to rapidly respond with flexible and sustainable force to any global commitment on short notice. "Anytime we deploy, our primary mission is to standby and be ready to support the war on terror wherever that may be," said Stennis Commanding Officer, Capt. Joseph Kuzmick.

The deployment is scheduled to be approximately six months, and JCSCSG will be prepared to respond to the needs of any operational situation. This deployment is part of America's maritime strategy under the FRP to maintain a force of combat power overseas, capable of protecting America's vital interests and insuring regional stability.

USS Nebraska, SSBN 739 (Blue) said farewell to their commanding officer, Cmdr. Matthew Colburn during a change of command ceremony at Naval Base Kitsap, Jan. 12. With the traditional reading of orders and a goodbye to the Sailors he commanded, Colburn turned over his boat and crew to Cmdr. Gerhard Somlai. Colburn is expecting to transfer to Fleet Forces Command in Norfolk, Va.

BROLPN Loses a Good Friend and Council Member

Jerome (Jerry) Joseph Baltzer entered into eternal rest Friday, December 19, 2008, at his home in Sequim, Washington, at age 73. Jerry was born in Chicago on March 8, 1935, where he lived until he moved to Southern California in 1985. In 1995 he relocated to Washington.

Jerry proudly served in the U.S. Army in Seoul, South Korea, in the aftermath of the Korean War. After his discharge, he served as a lifelong member of numerous service organizations including Navy League, giving of himself and his time tirelessly. At the time of his death, Jerry was retired from work as a machinist and handyman.

Jerry is survived by his wife Carolyn; his children Cathleen, Michael, Christine, Derek and Randy; loving sister Marcy; his grandchildren Kyle, Courtney, Charlie, Amanda and Austin; his nephews Kevin, David and Brian; and his niece Jenny. Cousins Sandy and Carol also mourn his death.

Memorial contributions may be sent to Olympic Theatre Arts Center, Friends of the Fields or The Volunteer Hospice of Clallam County.

Save the Date

Please mark your calendars for 2:00 PM Saturday, May 23rd, Memorial Day Weekend to help us properly dedicate the Navy League's Lone Sailor Statue on the Bremerton Marina Breakwater. Congressman Norm Dicks has been invited as our key note speaker. We would be honored with your presence. Your attendance will be a strong testimony of local support to our local Navy community as we memorialize our sea services commitment to our nation's defense; past, present and future!

Submitted by Ron Testa

Capt Olson To Speak At February 10th Navy League Luncheon

The monthly luncheon for the Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Navy League will be held on Tuesday, February 10th, at 11:30 a.m. in the Bangor Plaza Naval Base Kitsap - Bangor. Captain Mark Olson, Commanding Officer, Naval Base Kitsap will serve as the guest speaker. He will be available to answer questions regarding what is currently happening in both Bremerton and Bangor facilities.

You must make reservations. Enter only through the Main Gate off Luoto Road if you do not have a Base Pass. Call Concurrent Technologies Corporation (CTC) (360-782-5500) to make reservations. If you have not made reservations by Tuesday, February 3rd and do not have a Base Pass, contact any Board Member for assistance getting through the gate. You will have to ride with a council member who has a Base Pass. The cost of the luncheon is \$15/person.

Starting in March, we will be having our luncheons at the Keyport Museum. It will not be necessary for a Base Pass. However, you will still need to make reservations so we have a head count for the caterers.

Lost and Found

Found – a knife at Poulsbo WalMart on Friday 12/26/08. It has NUWC Keyport BZ Award on it. Contact Ed Zak at edzakly@hotmail.com if you have any clues as to how to return this to the rightful owner.

Lone Sailor Dedicated May 23, 2009

The Lone Sailor statue, erected on the new Bremerton Breakwater is the figure of a man, seven feet high and made of bronze. His face, religion and ethnic origin are whatever we want them to be. He could be officer or enlisted, male or female. He could be active duty, a reservist, or civilian. He could be standing on any ocean or bay and the sailor could be standing on the fantail of a destroyer, in the engine room of a submarine, on the hangar deck of an aircraft carrier, or in any other special place where Navy people live and work. In fact, he could be any member of the sea services.

In his expression there is a thoughtful look—of loneliness and yet of something more. He is thinking of home and the pain of separation, the challenges that his family faces in making a life without him. But he is also thinking of the task at hand, the mission of his ship or squadron, the ideals of the great nation, which he defends. He knows that each hour of his deployment across the oceans is an investment in that defense. And so his look is also one of purpose: excellent in his work, sure of himself and of his leaders, a man people count on, he radiate confidence and strength.

This is adapted and modified from a presentation made by C.A.H. Trost, Admiral, U. S. Navy and Chief of Naval Operations in 1987 when the original Lone Sailor statue was dedicated on October 13, 1987, the 212th anniversary of the founding of the Navy.

The formal dedication for our Lone Sailor is on May 23, 2009, at 2pm on the breakwater at the Bremerton Marina at Harborside and everyone is invited.

Welcome EHT Enterprises, Inc.



EHT Enterprises, Inc. (EHT) a Pacific-Northwest general contractor is diverse and encompasses new construction, renovation, demolition, alteration, repairs and design/build projects. EHT focuses on general construction for federal and commercial clients and serves naval bases as well as the Army, Air Force, GSA, USPS, FAA and USACE. Annalee Todd, President, has facilitated the expansion of EHT to include multiple Western and Northwestern states, including Alaska.

Currently serving as President of the Puget Sound Naval Base Association, Annalee is an active member of the Economic Development Council for Kitsap County, Society of American Military Engineers, the American Cancer Society, Kitsap county Home Builders Association, and is the past President of the Bremerton Chamber of Commerce.



Annalee Todd, President of EHT










Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council
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Planning Ahead

	Wed	Feb 4	Board of Director's meeting - 5:30 pm Reid Real Estate, Silverdale
	Tuesday	Feb 10	Monthly Luncheon Meeting - 11:30 am Bangor Plaza Program – Saturday
	Saturday	Feb 14	Happy Valentine's Day
	Thursday	Feb 26	1000th Trident Celebration, Bangor See details in this Newsletter
	Wed	Mar 4	Board of Director's meeting - 5:30 pm Reid Real Estate, Silverdale
	Tuesday	Mar 10	Monthly Luncheon Meeting - 11:30 am Keyport Museum
	Coming Events in May		- USS Alabama Return To Service - Armed Forces Day Gala - Lone Sailor Dedication Ceremony - Memorial Day Ceremony

This Date in History

February 17, 1864 – Confederate submarine *H.L. Hunley* sinks *USS Housatonic*

 **Now Hear This!** is the official newsletter of the Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council of the Navy League of the United States. It is published monthly and provided to all members.

Editor Norma Parker
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 Raytheon
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We welcome your comments and story ideas. Items for publication, changes of address, and inquires should be sent to:

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or email: nparker@reidrealestate.com