



SW@Home

South Whidbey at Home
PO Box 557, Langley WA 98260

January 2016 Newsletter

Do you run a business that could be useful to SW@Home members? SW@Home is compiling a list of trusted businesses to which we can confidently refer our members. In late December the members of the Trusted Businesses Committee—Marcia Wiley, Chris Spencer, Peter Morton and Walt Blackford--contacted 100+ businesses with an application form and cover letter that explains this aspect of SW@Home.

Once we receive an application we check the information and references supplied and add the names of vetted businesses to our list. We will make special mention of any businesses that can offer a discount, special service, or other preferential treatment to our members.

We believe this program will be a win-win for businesses and SW@Home members alike--increased exposure for the businesses, and reliable, quality service for our members.

We encourage any interested business to get its completed applications back to us soon. Business owners who were not contacted during this initial outreach who would like to be considered can get an application form by contacting Marcia at swathbusinesses@whidbey.com.



Why SW@Home? Someone recently asked, “Why do we need yet another nonprofit on South Whidbey?” It’s a good question. Our purpose---helping older residents continue to live in their own homes and be active in our community as long as possible—is shared by other organizations in one way or another. But with the Baby Boomers rapidly becoming seniors, we’re going to need all the help we can get.

There will not be enough senior housing, nursing homes, assisted-living facilities, or licensed in-home caregivers to meet the demand. Existing organizations are going to find it hard to meet every need. SW@Home is designed to fill gaps in existing programs and provide additional services for aging in place. To us it just makes sense to join together to take care of one another. The generation that popularized food co-ops, child-care centers, communes, people’s clinics and other grassroots solutions to social problems is fully capable of taking on aging together too.



When can I apply? We plan to be up and running by June 1, with perhaps a soft opening starting in May. It’s looking like we can start taking member and volunteer applications online as soon as our website is up (hopefully by March 1), and on paper beginning at our **next public meeting April 2** at 2:00 at the Parish hall of St. Augustine Episcopal Church at 5217 Honeymoon Bay Road in Freeland. Volunteers will be vetted through the Washington State Patrol and be asked to attend a short training session in the Spring. Full members eligible for volunteer service will receive a first visit from a SW@Home orientation volunteer to get the additional information needed to give you the best service.

Who can answer my questions about SW@Home? Once the website is launched, you’ll be able to find lots of information online. In the meantime you can email us at southwhidbeyathome@whidbey.com or call us at (360) 610-7127. We are also happy to come speak to any group you put together—your church group, neighbors, book club, garden club, whatever.



SW@Home

South Whidbey at Home
PO Box 557, Langley WA 98260

Photos: Sharon Lundahl
Design: Cynthia Campbell