

40

HOMEWOOD

Community Newsletter

March, 🍀 2013



Happy St. Patrick's Day

March 17th, 2013 🍀



**EASTER
GREETINGS**

March 🍀 31st, 2013



They're baaaaack... 🍀 🍀 🍀 these pesky leprechauns that always infiltrate the March newsletter. Can't get rid of them. They are after the pot of gold.

Pet of the Month



Jade



Jade lives with his mother Jennifer Smith. Jennifer writes this about him.

"Meet Jade, my live-wire budgie. He is jade colored and his previous owner was a gemologist, hence his name.

He is about 4 years old, talks like me, and certainly livens up my apartment. As I live alone, he is, to me, an invaluable companion. I would be lost without him.

He also loves company, making lots of noise and riding around on my walker.

Long may he live."



Don's Movies For March

**All movies at 7:30pm in
Recreation Room**

Friday, March 1

ZORRO, THE GAY BLADE (1981)

George Hamilton, Lauren Hutton

Thursday, March 7

MIRANDA (1948)

Glynis Johns, Margaret Rutherford

Friday, March 8

SPLASH (1984)

Tom Hanks, Daryl Hannah, John Candy

Thursday, March 14

THE MARK OF ZORRO (1940)

Tyrone Power, Linda Darnell

Friday, March 15

THE LONG GRAY LINE (1955)

Tyrone Power, Maureen O'Hara

Thursday, March 21

ARIZONA (1940)

William Holden, Jean Arthur

Friday, March 22

TEXAS (1941)

William Holden, Glenn Ford, Claire Trevor

Thursday, March 28

THE MAN WHO CAME TO DINNER (1941)

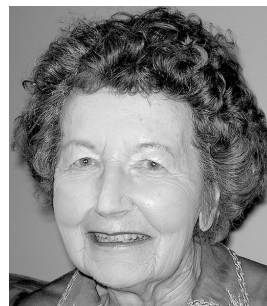
Bette Davis, Ann Sheridan, Monty Wooley,
Jimmy Durante, Billie Burke

Friday, March 29

DINNER AT EIGHT (1933)

Marie Dressler, Wallace Beery, Jean Harlow,
John Barrymore, Lionel Barrymore

IN MEMORIAM



Olga Crossley was a long-time resident of 40 Homewood who moved to a retirement home in 2010. She died on January 31, 2013.

Rest in Peace, Olga



E. J. Gregory, usually called "Gregory," passed away February 14, 2013.

Rest in Peace, Gregory



When Irish eyes
are smiling...
They are usually
"Up" to something !!



Salar de Uyuni

This is Part III of a five-part journal of travels in Peru and Bolivia by resident Kirby Go. The next

two parts will follow in the next Newsletter

Ever wondered what it's like to walk the bottom of a sea, to stand inside the crater of an active volcano or to swim in a natural hot-spring pool almost 5,000 metres high? All of these and more are part of a three-day circuit called Salar de Uyuni, the salt flats of Uyuni, that is the top tourist draw of Bolivia.

After an overnight bus ride from La Paz, I reached the town of Uyuni, located in the southwest of the country. It serves as the gateway to the salt flats bearing its name and farther afield to the Eduardo Avaroa national park that stretches all the way to the Chilean border. The usual three-day, two-night tour consists of six passengers in a 4x4 Jeep, accommodation, food, driver, gas, all in for just a little over a hundred dollars. I was very excited and anxious to meet my fellow travellers as they can make or break the trip!

Our driver is called Agapito, an Aymara with a ready smile and always asking us if we're "todo bien"? He has his job cut out for him, an excellent driver, from navigating through large expanses of nothingness in the salt flats to driving through mountains, streams and rocky roads. His job also includes cooking us picnic style lunches and sit-down dinners! A pretty amazing fella, hard working and jovial.

We experienced some pretty amazing things in the three day tour: first and foremost the highlight is the salt flat. It used to be a sea until the Andes mountain range pushed up the sea trapping it into an alpine lake with no outlet to the sea. After all the water dried up, what's left is this huge expanse of incredible salt flat of more than 12,000 sq km. It's one of the world's most unusual natural wonders, an eerie and out of this world huge expanse of white nothingness as far as your eyes can see. Just the blue sky, flat white salt ground and you. We had so much fun taking pictures and playing with depth perceptions.

Another surreal experience is driving through hours and hours of it. It truly feels like flying and then all of a sudden, in the middle of nothing but whiteness, we saw a hill (which would have been an island eons ago) called Inca Huasi, studded with giant cacti, an island in a sea of salt, it's incredible to even survive this harsh environment.

The first night we actually stayed in a hotel made entirely out of blocks of salt — the beds, tables, chairs — everything is made of salt. Even the chandelier! After a day of driving, we were offered hot beverages and cookies for snack; for dinner, we had the most amazing vegetable soup (I had three servings), quinoa and chicken barbeque. At more than 4,000 metres elevation, it was so cold. I remember hanging outside with the smokers in the group (as I was really enjoying their company) and freezing my ass off looking at a blanket of stars in the southern sky.

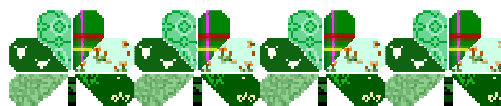
Day two, we drove past the salt flats and into Eduardo Avaroa national park. We drove through multi-coloured lakes, my favorite being one called Lago Colorada which is coloured red from the thick red algae in it, which in turn gives the flamingoes their pink feathers from feeding on the red algae.

We also saw herds of llamas, alpacas and their slick and wild cousin called vicuña. One of the rare fauna we saw was viscacha, a cousin of chinchilla. There were three of these wild rabbit-like animals sitting by the cracks of boulders. Agapito spotted them with his keen eyes, and the cute furry viscacha, paused for pictures for the tourists.

Day three, we drove right into the crater of an active volcano and walked around hellish sulfur fumes and muddy lavas. At some point I did wonder if this is all safe but being in a third world country, part of the experience is the lack of safety standards and it offers thrills one can't get anywhere else. At the last site we swam in a natural, hot (30 degrees Celsius) mineral pool, in freezing cold air at almost 4,000 metres altitude. It's one of the most exhilarating experiences ever.

On our second and last night on the road trip, we stayed close to Lago Colorada with accommodations the direct opposite of the fancy salt hotel of the first night: very run down shack in the middle of nowhere, with cracks in the windows and newspaper inadequately covering the holes, it looked like a setting in a teenage horror film. You walk into the tiny living room with three tables, three rooms (with six beds packed very close to each other), a bathroom with no running water and busted electric bulb. But incredibly there is a souvenir shop that sells beer and Stolichnaya.

It was freezing cold, but thank God there was a wood burning oven in the shack, thick blankets, and alcohol. It did not take long before the two different groups of travellers got together for some drinking games.



"Good Eats, Cheap Eats, Sweet Spots"

by Cammy Lee-Bostwick 🍀

Cammy has offered to pass on to us, places that she has eaten with good food and reasonable prices. Here are two of them.

Where: *Richtree at College Park*, on the SW corner of College and Yonge. Take the 3rd entrance south of Yonge

What You Get: A medium cup of freshly ground and brewed coffee with a muffin for \$2.40 incl. tax. 🍀

When: Monday-Friday from 7am, Saturday from 8am, and closed on Sundays.

Why I Like It: For \$2.40, you can sit at the cute bistro style tables just outside Richtree for hours. Arrive early and get the muffins warm. They have the usual varieties: mixed berry, carrot, berry bran, raspberry chocolate, coconut (my personal fave). The ceilings are very high and there is a calming effect of space. If you don't like to be bothered and sometimes want to just blend in, this is the place for you. College Park is a beautiful spot in our area and truly worth checking out if you haven't already. And if you do happen to stay for hours, like me, you'll be lucky enough to be there right when the warm muffins come out. It really doesn't get much better than that!



Where: *Balzac's Café in the Distillery District*, 55 Mill Street, ☎416-207-1709

What You Get: 🍀 A large coffee for \$2.31. Usually 4 different kinds, but Farmer's Blend is an aromatic medium roast.

When: Monday - Saturday 7am-8pm.
Sundays 8am-7pm

Why I Like It: Sometimes when we go for coffee, we want to blend in, other times we go to socialize, Balzac's in the Distillery can give you both. It is a huge two-level space with ample seating where you'll find French bistro style tables and chairs. Upstairs is a balcony with two tables overlooking the main floor, not far from the stunning massive chandelier, which is definitely a conversation piece. And this is what makes Balzac's stand out—the huge vaulted ceilings, exposed brick and duct work, and wide open spaces create an airy feeling, sense of history and anonymity, if that's what you're after. Grab a coffee and stay for hours. Staff are pleasant and leave you alone. Pastries are mediocre. Do what I do, and grab a buttery croissant (\$2.00) at the Brick Street Bakery which you must pass en route to the cafe. The second floor boasts an ever-changing collection of art for sale, mostly paintings. The easy listening music is loud enough to hear but far from obtrusive. This is a great place to go and journal, read the paper, or people watch. And because of its charming environment, it's also a great place to bring a date.



**March 10th, 2013
2:00 am**

Condominium Act Review

The provincial government is conducting a review of the current Condominium Act to assess the need for updates to the law. The current act was passed in 1998 and became law in 2001. The previous condo act dated from 1990. 🌸

Stage One of the review is now completed with findings in a comprehensive report. (See below for links to the reports.)

Stage Two will begin in March: groups of experts (including owners) will develop options from the findings in Stage One.

In Stage Three, in fall 2013, “the options will be reviewed and validated by condominium residents and other stakeholders, after which they will be presented to the government and the condominium sector.”

If any owner or resident wishes to comment on the findings of Stage One, that may be done by emailing oncondo@ontario.ca

Many issues, large and small, were brought out in the first stage and are reported in the summaries. Here are a couple of quotes from the report on two major issue areas (bold face added):

*“In particular, some owners were concerned about how condominium communities **manage and resolve disputes**. When boards, managers or other owners fail to comply with the Condominium Act, they said, there is no reliable and cost effective way to enforce the rules: the **Condominium Act lacks “teeth”**. However, others replied that most noncompliance issues, such as breaking a rule or by-law, will be more effectively managed through better information, communication, or mediation,*

rather than through more enforcement tools. They agreed that effective enforcement is necessary, but stressed that relying too much on this approach can erode trust and create new and even deeper tensions within the community.

*“A second key issue concerned the **rights and responsibilities of condominium owners**. When someone buys a condominium, they not only have legal rights and responsibilities, they also join a community. These community responsibilities go beyond paying monthly fees for upkeep of the building. They extend to the well-being of the community as a whole. A consistent finding of both the Residents’ Panel and the Stakeholder Roundtables has been that owners need to more fully understand their responsibility to contribute to effective community governance, such as, by attending their condominium’s annual general meetings.”*

You may find three links on our own website to report summaries on Stage One. Go to <http://40homewood.org/administration/governing-documents>

It’s the Governing Documents page under the Administration area.



Two of the three links are to pdf files. One is to a part of the government website:

http://www.sse.gov.on.ca/mcs/en/Pages/condo_rev.aspx

HAPPY SPRING



Q & A

Questions to the Board or Management 🍀

Question: Is the Reserve Fund Study now available for owners to look at?

Answer: Yes, a printed copy of the 2012 Study is in a small binder in the library. It is with the binders with board minutes on top of a short bookcase just to the right of the door where you enter.

All owners were sent a form in the budget package reporting on the financing for the Reserve Fund. What you will find in the 2012 Study in the binder are recommended repairs and replacements over the next number of years along with cost estimates.

The minutes of the meetings of the board of directors are in the larger binders on that shelf. Usually the minutes of one board meeting are approved at the next meeting and then a copy ("redacted") is placed in the library binder. We will reinstitute the practice of also inserting the one-page Treasurer's Report presented at each board meeting.

Interested owners may email the office to get on the list for receiving approved minutes by email.

Question: What is the schedule for the Annual General Meeting?

Answer. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is scheduled for Wednesday, June 12, at 7.00 pm at the Primrose Hotel. In the week or two prior to that, there will be two meetings (or one if it's possible and more efficient) in the recreation room, one on finances and one to meet the board director candidates.

In early May, owners will be sent a preliminary notice of the AGM which will solicit nominations for the board positions. Three seats will be up for election.

Question: Why do the tables in the Multi-Purpose room now have glass tops on them?

Answer:. Originally it was thought the black glass made everything look too dark, but now the glass has been placed on all three tables to prevent further scratches.



Yellow Dog Project

According to the Yellow Dog Project website, "If you see a dog with a Yellow Ribbon or something yellow on the leash, this is a dog who needs some space. Please do not approach this dog with your dog. Please maintain distance or give this dog and his/her person time to move out of your way."

Naturally, having a yellow ribbon on one's pet's tail does not absolve the owner of the animal from responsibility for attacks or bites, but it does add an additional signal for prevention.

Get more information at
www.theyellowdogproject.com

SPRING IS ON THE WAY!

Postpone The Pee! 🌱Scoop The Poop!

Believe it or not, Spring is coming! Most of us will be glad.

One of the disheartening things each spring, however, is to see the amount of revealed dog poop in the backyard of the building. Less responsible and less considerate owners must feel they will be undetected in the winter if they not only let their pets poop there but also fail to pick up after them.

Pee doesn't get "revealed" in the same way, but dogs can frequently be observed peeing on the property in all seasons of the year. Peeing on the bricks right in front of the front door!



There are those dogs who are very old and/or ill, but one can note that some responsible owners manage to take those dogs off the property to do their business. Is there a reason why other owners are unable to do this?

Concerns are the bad appearance, the dangers of walking in poop, the costs for repairing or replacing the grass, etc. Aside from neighbours getting poop on their shoes, those with wheelchairs, scooters and walkers may end up with poop on their wheels!

The Board has heard numerous complaints from residents lately on this subject and has instructed Management and staff including Security to be more vigilant about policing these activities. Owners or residents who are violating rules will be asked to refrain from this behaviour. Dogs who continue to be off leash or doing their business on the property can be declared a nuisance by the Board and this could result in the dog being removed from the property.

All pet owners should remember that one of the Rules is:

"A pet may be declared a nuisance by the Board in its discretion, including but not limited to where initial complaints regarding barking, aggressive behaviour, damage to gardens or other property, or urinating or defecating anywhere on the property are not resolved by the Resident."



The Complaints Department 🌱

Some residents don't report a problem they see because they don't want to be lumped in with the "chronic complainers."

It is, however, often useful that people report a problem they see. It may well be that no one else has reported it, and management and staff need our help as additional eyes and ears on the building.

If you have a problem with a common element (e.g., windows, entry door) in your unit, do report it. At least that way, the matter can be looked into to see if something can be done and, if so, what can be done.

Since it sometimes seems that there may be people who "live to complain," and since no one wants to be considered one of them, please avoid complaining about things that are not against the rules. A good example is that renovations and repairs ARE permitted during certain hours. Complain when those noises happen outside the proper hours but not when they happen within the permissible hours. 🌱

Front Door Latch

The inside front door, the one operated by your fob, becomes unlocked when you hear a “click” sound and when there is a green light. If these have not occurred and you try to open the door, you will be putting your force against the lock, and the latch may need to be replaced. Similarly, if you approach the door from inside to go out, there may be a glitch in the sensor noticing you. Try to listen for the “click” and watch for the green. The delay in the functioning will be investigated further by management.


Replacement of the latch, which has already occurred, is not cheap, so the exercise of patience will help us all avoid that expense.



Wi-Fi Service

The building now has wi-fi available in several common areas. Internet Service Provider, eSuite, has installed and connected this service at no cost to the condo, and we are grateful for their generosity.

Wi-fi can be found in the Multi-Purpose Room, the Library and the TV Room adjoining the Laundry Room. In each case, the name of the account is very obvious: Library, Laundry Room, etc.

The initial password can be found on Channel 13. 

The office will track this and determine when the password needs to be changed, and a new password will be posted on Channel 13 or otherwise announced.

For those who are not “computer people,” wi-fi (wireless fidelity) is a connection to the Internet, or the ability to connect to the Internet, with wireless (no cords! no cables!) technology.

President's Report



Elevators

As most owners and residents know, modernization of the elevators is the big project for this and next year. Our elevators, of course, are over 40 years old, and the “modernization” will consist of the refurbishments of some parts and operational functions and the replacement of other parts. The cabs were done about 10 years ago and should not factor into this modernization to any great degree.

There are two major goals: with modernization, the call system and the traffic management will be smarter and more efficient; and with modernization, the elevators will work more reliably with fewer breakdowns.

The Board of Directors has reviewed four tendered bids for the initial piece of this project, that of serving as consultant and project manager for the work. The Board will be offering that contract to one of the four bidders. The consultant chosen will analyze the system needs and prepare the Request for Proposals for the actual work. The consulting company will then assist the Property Manager and the Board in selecting the best bidder for the project and will manage the project as the work is done.

Due to budgetary considerations, we will be looking to completing the work in two separate fiscal years. One option, for example, is that the work would be done in, say, spring/early summer 2013 (two elevators) and spring/early summer 2014 (the other two), and another option is that

the work would be done in the latter months of 2013 and the early months of 2014. These things are still to be determined. One “guesstimate” of the time needed for modernizing one elevator is five weeks and only one elevator will be done at a time. Managing this work around the need for a move-in and move-out elevator time will be the challenge and we know we’ll all work together to make this as inconvenient as possible for everyone once work begins.

Our overall cost, from the Reserve Fund, is expected to be approximately \$800,000. Once the consultant has begun work and tendered the project, we will have a better idea on timing and cost of the modernization. Stay tuned for details.

Financial note

Secondly, we are just wrapping up the audit of the 2012 finances and our preliminary look at these numbers shows we may have eliminated all of the debt we have been carrying on the building and most of the debt from the garage. Our hope is the auditors affirm this once they have seen the books and we can hopefully clear off the remaining garage debt in 2013.

Construction debris

Please remember that the bulk bin out back, as well as our indoor garbage bins are not to be used for any construction debris. If you are remodeling your home, the responsibility for removal of all construction debris belongs to you or your contractor. Management and Security will be monitoring this.

Brian Brenie, 🍀Board President



Earth Hour

Originally submitted to the old Newsletter
by Jean Walker



On Saturday,
March 23rd, 2013
for the hour of 8:30
-9:30 pm, cities
around the world
will turn off their
lights for one hour
to raise global
awareness for



climate change. The City of Toronto is planning to turn all lights off, except for necessary emergency lighting; shutting down computer monitors, minimizing fan use; as examples. 🍀

How about joining 400 world cities in 75 countries for “Earth Hour” by turning off light switches, T.V.’s, computers, etc for one hour. The Board of Directors hopes that all units will participate in this effort. The building will shut down as much as possible with due regard to the safety of our residents.

Make it fun! How about having a “Candlelight Hour” with friends and neighbours.

🍀We can each make a difference!





Silver Linings Playbook

By Jeffrey Amos

Honestly, I didn't know much about Silver Linings Playbook before the awards season began and it started being nominated for many awards, including 8 Academy Awards, of which it won one for Best Actress for Jennifer Lawrence. Recently, I decided to catch this film on a whim and I'm glad I did, since it is one of my favourite films of 2012. It is one of those rare films that can be described as a true comedy/drama, where the laughs are mixed in with the drama effortlessly. ✨

Silver Linings Playbook is a very unique and unusual film. At its core, it is essentially the story of two people and the events surrounding their meeting and the subsequent development of their relationship. It just so happens, however, that they both suffer from mental illness. The plot is surprisingly complicated although at no time is the movie confusing.

The first main character is Patrizio (Bradley Cooper), a former high school teacher with bipolar disorder. Pat was incarcerated in a mental health facility for eight months for having assaulted a fellow teacher (and co-worker) who was having an affair with his wife. His release is conditional upon his living with and being under the care of his 60-something parents, Pat Sr. (Robert DeNiro) and Dolores (Jacqui Weaver) – both of whom are excellent in Oscar-nominated supporting performances. Things are not well at home, however; despite the obvious, Pat does not believe that there is anything wrong with him – he is not taking his medication and is persistent in trying to get back with his wife (who understandably has a restraining order against him). This is exacerbated by Pat's father Pat Sr., who is an obsessive fan of

the Philadelphia Eagles and makes his living as a bookie for football games. It is clear from Pat Sr.'s behaviour that he has his own issues; he is obsessed with certain rituals and superstitions during Eagles games (such as holding a handkerchief and lining up his remote controls in a specific way) which he believes gives better odds for the Eagles to win. His obsessive and aggressive behaviour has also led to him being banned from the stadium. Living in such an environment does not bode well for Pat's recovery. Despite his optimism (and his desire to look for "silver linings" in everything), we are unsure that Pat will succeed.

Pat subsequently meets Tiffany (Jennifer Lawrence), the sister in law of one of his friends at a dinner party. Although her diagnosis is not clearly stated, it is apparent that she also has bipolar disorder. She is a widow who lost her policeman husband in a road accident, and her grief has triggered both depressive and manic behaviour, culminating in her losing her job for hypersexual behaviour at work. Through a series of meetings, they become friends and Tiffany subsequently invites Pat to enter with her into a ballroom dancing contest, and he agrees to this with the idea that he will invite his wife to the competition, she will see how much he has improved, and agree to reconcile with him. Of course the movie does not play out as Pat plans and I doubt that I'm giving anything away by spilling the beans that Pat and Tiffany become a couple by the end of the movie – of course you already knew that was going to happen! This is one of those stories where the conclusion is inevitable, but it's the journey there, and the twists and turns, that make it worthwhile.

Although all performances were good (especially Robert DeNiro), it is Jennifer Lawrence's performance that stands out and she truly deserved her Oscar win. Some people win an Oscar for playing a historical figure or playing over the top, but it's the delicate, subtle performances that are the most difficult to play. Lawrence plays Tiffany as calm and

collected but constantly on edge. There is a scene in a diner where she simply explodes in anger and frustration from a calm and collected state – I had no idea that was coming. I was honestly very surprised at the quality of her performance, since before I saw this film I only knew her as the protagonist in the Hunger Games.

✂ One last point I want to mention is how accurately and sensitively the issue of mental illness is treated in the film. I work in a field with people with disabilities, especially mental illness, so I am aware of many of the issues involved with bipolar disorder. Unfortunately, in many films, mental illness is often portrayed as something to be afraid of or something to be pitied. In this film, Pat and Tiffany are portrayed as real people who happen to have to deal with their mental illness. For this I take my hats off to the writer and director of this film.

In conclusion, Silver Linings Playbook is a surprising gem. Catch it in theatres while you can – it is a unique and pleasant surprise compared to many of the films currently out there. You'll be glad you did.



Silly Signs

Did I read that sign right:

TOILET OUT OF ORDER. PLEASE USE FLOOR BELOW

In a laundromat:

AUTOMATIC WASHING MACHINES:
PLEASE REMOVE ALL YOUR CLOTHES
WHEN THE LIGHT GOES OUT

In a London department store:

BARGAIN BASEMENT UPSTAIRS

In an office:

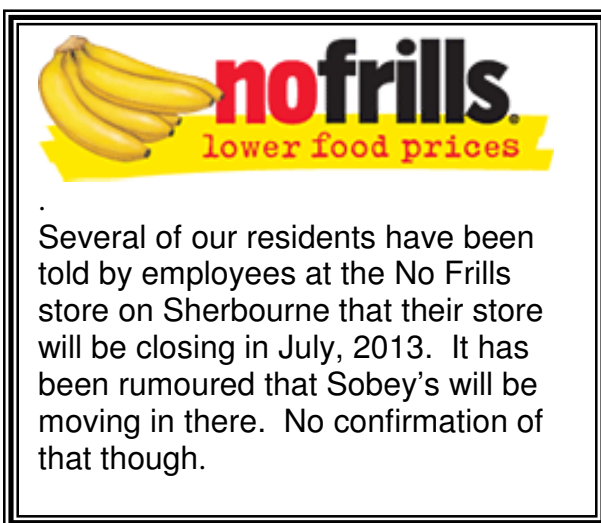
WOULD THE PERSON WHO TOOK THE STEP LADDER YESTERDAY PLEASE BRING IT BACK OR FURTHER STEPS WILL BE TAKEN

In an office:

AFTER TEA BREAK STAFF SHOULD EMPTY THE TEAPOT AND STAND UPSIDE DOWN ON THE DRAINING BOARD

Seen during a conference:

FOR ANYONE WHO HAS CHILDREN AND DOESN'T KNOW IT, THERE IS A DAY ✂ CARE ON THE 1ST FLOOR



Yippee, I finally got the pot of gold past those sly little leprechauns.



Newsletter Editorial Committee

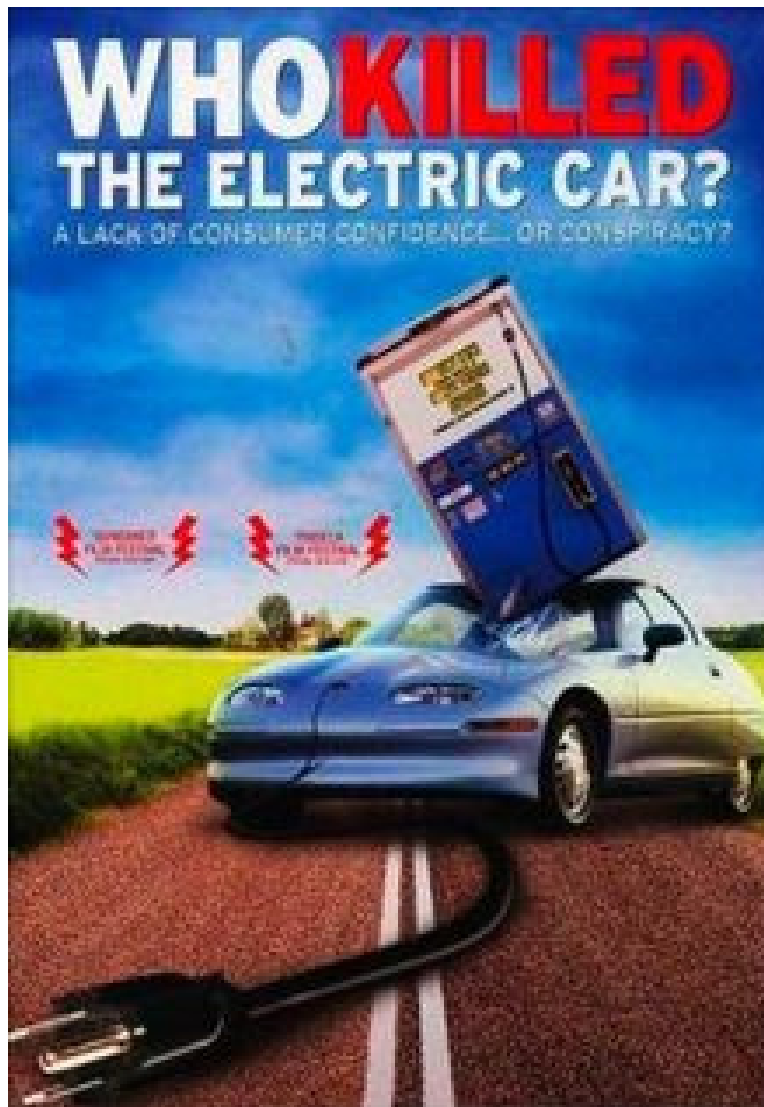
Jeffery Amos

Maureen Houlihan

Charles Marker

Martha McGrath

newsletter40homewood@gmail.com



Join the members of the Green Committee in viewing "**Who Killed the Electric Car**". It was made in 2006 and is 92 minutes long

Date: Tuesday, March 19th, 2013

Place: Recreation Room 1B

Time: 7:00 PM

Who Killed the Electric Car? is a 2006 documentary film that explores the creation, limited commercialization, and subsequent destruction of the battery electric vehicle in the United States, specifically the General Motors EV1 of the mid 1990s. The film explores the roles of automobile manufacturers, the oil industry, the US government, the California government, batteries, hydrogen vehicles, and consumers in limiting the development and adoption of this technology.

Hope to see you there