

Subject: RE: your Island County voting residence
From: "Connelly, Joel" <JoelConnelly@seattlepi.com>
Date: Fri, 24 Mar 2006 16:55:17 -0800
To: "Stefan Sharkansky"

Stefan:

If you are going to ratfuck me, you might as well get the full facts of the situation.

The place on Whidbey Island is far more than a "vacation cabin": It's been featured on the Travel Channel. It's where I've written two books. It's where I spend part of each week, a majority of the week when the days are long.

It is also -- the most important point -- the first house I have ever built or owned.

When my partner/spouse Michelle Pailthorp died in 2002, I purchased the Madrona home from her estate.

It is far better suited to a convalescence than the Whidbey place: Swedish Hospital is five minutes away. Whidbey General is a 40-minute drive from Wilkinson Road.

My research stuff could be delivered far more easily, allowing me to write columns from the kitchen alcove.

As well, the friendship network that walked dogs and helped with groceries -- and hiking buddies who made sure I did my exercises -- is strongest in Seattle.

Whidbey is, however, where Mickie and I intended to live out the rest of our lives.

Whoever your source is -- methinks he probably worked for the Statzi in East Germany -- should check additional records.

He'd find that I am a pledging parisoner at St. Augustine's-in-the-Woods Episcopal Church.

I'm on the worship committee, participate regularly in the mens' breakfasts, etc. The ashes of the lady I loved are in the columbarium.

As I recovered from surgery in Madrona, it was the rector from St. Augustine's who brought me communion.

The Statzi guy would find that my United Way contribution through the P-I has been channeled to its Island County division.

The Michelle Pailthorp Memorial Garden was, last year, featured in the Whidbey Island Garden Tour -- which raised a passel of money for charity.

If he were to talk with the former Island County Republican Chairman, your source would find that I'm a friend, fellow worshipper and donor to the organ fund.

If he were to talk with the South Whidbey League of Women Voters, he'd hear that I'm a frequent speaker. I've used their candidates' forums for P-I columns.

The Lawskys are currently living abroad -- he writes for a major news service, she teaches at an international school.

They are, however, former Seattleites who registered with the expressed intent of moving back to Washington when present assignments come to an end.

David has more than a bit of sweat equity in the place. He helped haul railroad ties used to buttress the trail system.

Ginny Snyder is the master landscaper who has kept up the garden since Mickie's death, and prepared it for the Garden Tour and Northwest Perennial Alliance tours.

Enough?

Oh yeah, we have a bracing political life with contested Congressional and legislative district elections.

I've twice had a greater-of-two goods choice for Congress, notably Rick Larsen v. Norma Smith in 2002.

The LWV candidates' forums draw up to 200 people.

A final note: Rain gets into the Wilkinson Road mailbox. I've directed that my bills and ballots be sent south.

'Nuff?

jc

-----Original Message-----

From: Stefan Sharkansky
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2006 4:23 PM
To: joelconnelly@seattlepi.com
Subject: your Island County voting residence

Joel,

A reader suggested that I look at your Island County voter registration <http://usefulwork.com/cgi-bin/wavoterdb.cgi?svid=WA003866377> which is interesting, given that it appears to be a vacation cabin, while your actual residence is in Seattle
a) the mailing address on the voter registration is c/o the P-I in Seattle
b) your recent column about your convalescence described your Madrona neighborhood in ways that suggested that was your home

c) the property tax records at your Island County house have a Seattle mailing address
Also registered at the Island County home are Ellen and David Lawskey, who you described in a May 2004 column as "a hiking buddy visiting from Washington, D.C."

I can't say I blame you for wanting to register somewhere else. I'd rather have someone other than Jim McDermott for a Congressman, too. But can you explain for the benefit of my curious readers how it is legal for you and the Lawskeys to register at your vacation cabin? And who is the fourth person registered there, Virginia Snyder?

thanks
Stefan