

WHISPERING
HEIGHTS

COLLINGWOOD

Whispers

WHISPERING HEIGHTS / COLLINGWOOD / SHALOCH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

JUNE 2009, VOLUME 18, ISSUE 2

WWW.WHCCA.ORG

4957 LAKEMONT BLVD SE, PMB 342, BELLEVUE WA 98006

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Block Captains & Neighbor Link Program

Your WHCCA is re-vitalizing the venerable the Block Captains program in a new, slimmed-down format intended to fit into our 21st century schedules. This effort coincides with Bellevue's new *Neighbor Link* program (see page 3) which is intended to "assist Bellevue residents needing a hand." Some of our objectives for the Block Captains project include:

- Provide WHCCA residents with contact information for neighbors in their block in case of emergency and for Block Watch purposes (knowing and watching out for our closest neighbors - police say that neighbors working together are the first and best line of defense against crime)
- Enable more residents to know their nearby neighbors.
- Reinforce block-focused community & charity efforts and awareness of neighbors potentially in need, so as to help WHCCA neighbors cope with the practical impacts of recession, old age, and adverse health issues.
- Help all WHCCA residents know their block (see map on page 3) and their Block Captain to gain the maximum benefit from this program.

The objective is to minimize the time and expertise required of Block Captains while maintaining an important role for those neighbors with the inclination and/or training to help with emergency preparedness and to play special roles during and after actual emergencies.

Current Block Captains should expect a call from a WHCCA Board member to discuss this pro-

(Continued on page 3, Block Captains)

The Hot Sheet! For more information, go to www.whcca.org

UPCOMING 2009 WHCCA EVENTS

We hope you can join us at one or all of the upcoming events put on by the WHCCA!

Independence Day Bike Parade and Picnic (July 4th, 10:30am)

Mark your calendar for this year's annual 4th of July Bike Parade and Picnic! Once again this year, this WHCCA event will start with bike decorating at 10:30AM. Decorations and tattoos (temporary of course) will be provided by WHCCA. The fire engine will arrive at 11:00AM to lead the parade. After the parade, sandwiches, chips, drinks and frozen desert will be provided in Collingwood Park. This is another great opportunity for neighbors to get to know one another. We'll see you there!

WHCCA Giving on July 4th - End Summer Hunger Challenge

This year on July 4th, WHCCA will participate in the "End Summer Hunger Challenge." The City of Bellevue has challenged neighborhoods to gather food for local needy families through this Hopelink-sponsored campaign. Some local facts from the City of Bellevue's web site:

- Requests for emergency assistance by Bellevue residents in the fourth quarter of 2008 increased by 49 percent.
- Requests for food during September 2008 - January 2009 increased by 31 percent in Bellevue.
- More than 11,000 children on the Eastside need YOU to help End Summer Hunger.

Hopefully you will celebrate the 4th of July with us this year at Collingwood Park for our annual Parade and Picnic. As you do, **please remember those in our community in need and bring canned food, pasta, juice, or other non-perishable food items to the park. The city will be providing food collection bins for this effort.** Thank you for your help!

Merrick Van Dongen

Play Bridge? Benefit Thursday, Sept 10th, 9:30am

Join the "Ladies of Somerset" at their annual fundraiser for breast cancer research. They support a UW lab that is developing a vaccine to prevent the reoccurrence of breast cancer.

On Thursday, September 10, from 9:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., they will be playing bridge and having lunch at St. Madeline Sophie church in south Bellevue.

If you would like to join them (no partner required) or just have a question, please contact Carole Ann Milton, WHCCA resident and former President, at 425-643-2120 or the-miltons@comcast.net. Thank you, and hope to see you there!

Neighborhood picnic

The WHCCA board has decided not to hold a summer picnic this year. See article page 3.

All-neighborhood Garage Sale (Saturday, Sept 26th)

Watch for the WHCCA "A-signs" in the street this Fall and then get more details on our website, whcca.org.

Future WHCCA events in 2009

- July 4th Parade (10:30am Sat. July 4th)
- Garage Sale (9am Sat. September 26th)
- Whispers Fall edition, late October
- Annual meeting, Nov 5th (Wed)

Rants & Raves! Selected compliments and complaints from the 'hood

By Howdy Neighbor

Speeders aren't nice!

I am a cranky Mom. That's right! I'm tired of drivers speeding down 46th Way, oblivious to kids crossing the street for the school bus.

One of the worst areas is at the top of the hill near the ravine. Even with careful drivers, that area is difficult to cross because it is the crest of a hill in both directions.

Please be more considerate and drive *slowly* in our neighborhood!

Cranky Mom against speeders

Submitting future Rants or Raves

If you see something in the neighborhood that warrants a Rant or a Rave, mail a **brief** note to our WHCCA mail box, Attn: Howdy Neighbor Rants and Raves, PMB 342, 4957 Lakemont Blvd SE, Bellevue, WA 98006.

Or email it to the Whispers editor. We will do our best to publish all comments (at least those which don't get censored!) in the next Whispers.

Yours truly, Howdy Neighbor

New this month! Kids Korner

This new column is for young guest authors (under-18) from WHCCA. The inaugural submission is from **Carly** (11) and **Sophie** (8) Van Dongen, who live in Whispering Heights. Submit your story to the editor for the next *Whispers*!

Sophie: I can't wait till the fourth of –

Carly: *July? Yeah, yeah, yeah, whatever.*

Hey! I was talking first!

But I was talking second. So HA!

Okay, back to the point. The 4th of July is going to be so cool this year! Well, at least I think so. It always has been so far.

But you don't know that. Who's told you about the 4th of July this year? No one!

Hey, good point! No one ever tells me anything!

That's because you're irresponsible!

No I'm not!

Yes, you are!

Okay, cool it! Just stop arguing. Hey, did you know that arguing is the number one cause of global warming?

No, it's not, you weirdo!

Fine. But let's stop it anyway.

Okay then. You get on with your 4th of July thinga-ma-haha.



Sophie & Carly Van Dongen

My favorite part of the 4th of July celebration is when we have popsicles and ice cream, and go on the big fire truck.

My favorite part is the food. Enough said.

The parade is really fun! It's one of the best parts! And I love decorating bicycles, too!

Hey, Sophie, remember last year, when the fire truck had to drive away because of a real fire, so Dad had to lead the parade in his big Uncle Sam hat?

Yeah, that was funny!

But it wasn't actually him leading the parade, it was ME! I was ahead of everybody on my bike!

Well, I'm sure this year's 4th of July will be bigger and better, and maybe even with a fire truck this time!

Treasurer's report and WHCCA dues status... Thank you!

We especially appreciate your contribution this year given the tough economic times we are experiencing. The WHCCA board uses voluntary dues contributions and volunteer labor to carry out approximately six neighborhood events every year, plus occasional bigger neighborhood enhancement projects. The activities and projects initiated and managed by the WHCCA help maintain and even increase our property values.

We encourage you to pay your WHCCA dues for 2009 and help keep our neighborhood the best it can be! You'll find a dues payment form on the back page of every *Whispers* issue. If you have any questions, feel free to contact one of our treasurers, Jeremy & Keri Kiefer (their contact information is on the back page, along with a dues submission form). Thank you for paying your dues!

List is as of 6/8/09. *Denotes donations in excess of the suggested amount.

Abler, Larry & Pat
Ahrens, Douglas
*Akamine, Jack & Helen
*Ankarberg, C.
Bell, Dave & Lisa
Bennett, Lowry & Dorothy
Blaisdell, Robert & Charlene
Brickman, Larry & Donna
Brodie, Dana & Gregory Lindstadt
Bryan, Patrick & Gayle
Butterworth, Stephen & Angela
Cash, Rob & Michelle
Chien, Yau-Ming & Diane
Chin, Kevin & Linda
Christ, Steve
Davenport, Frank & Yvonne
Davis, Paul & Phyllis
Dolkiewicz, Christina & George Kotsenas
Durenberger, Don & Ingrid
Eason, Frederick & Michelle
Fook, Tin & Daphne Ong

Freeman, Doug & Julie
*Graham, Rick & Therese
*Graham, Duff & Daina
Griswold, Patricia
Gujarati, Shailendra & Sonali
Halling, John & Caroline
Hargreaves, Will & Karen
Hart, Bill & Carol
*Henn, Gary
Henn, Kris & John
Hsie, Tadd
Huang, Xucheng & Jing You
Iwamura, Nobuko & Hiroo
Johnson, Wayne & Carol
*Johnston, JJ & Patt Sellen
Kawaoka, Milton & Susan
Kiefer, Jeremy & Keri
Koshiyama, Paul & Martha
Lambro, Marc & Lina
Lance, Stanley & Nora
Larson, Wally & Bobbie
Lee, Steve & Janet
Lee, Young Hana
Liao, Michael
Lindsey, Kyle & Gretchan
Liu, Hua & Yiping Xia

Louisell, David & Judith
*McCauley, Richard & Anne
*McEachran, James & Nancy
McLean, Kathy
Meyers, Rick & Linda
Mezs, Paul & Julie
Milton, Larry & Carole Ann
Mix, Carole
*Monwai, Peter & Marian
Morgenstern, Robert & Angela
Nieman, Stella
Nordsieck, Arnold & Hisako
*O'Connor, James & Viki
Osborn, Howard & Carolyn
*Pfau, Patricia
*Polland, Terry & Desiree
Ralph, David & Margaret
Rands, Gary & Marilyn
Reeves, Richard & Setsuko Shigeno
Rhinehart, Bill & Beth
Rittenhouse, William & Suzanne
Saiki, Terry & Wendy
Sanford, Steve & Lin
Scheidegger, Ralph & Grace
*Schreer, Andrew & Kelly
*Schwarz, Brett & Maria Acosta

Schwisow, Jack & Rhonda
Shertz, Bill
Smith, Jon & Michelle
Smith, Matt & Lisa
Stuckey, Carol & Patrick Burke
*Swaisgood, Richard & Janet
Tellefson, Corinna
*Tjoelker, Rod & Tenda
Turner, Bill & Liece
Tuskas, Kenneth
Viafore, Ken & Cara
Van Dongen, Merrick & Shauna
Vlasuk, Susan
Vossler, David & Michele
*Wang, Yeong-Ching & Shu-Chu
Wang, Haiying & Oliver Zhong
Wantabe, Kaz & Mary
Waters, Bill & Carol
Wheat, Max & Yvonne
Whiteley, John & Jane
*Winter, Scott & Danielle
Woltz, Diane
Wood, David & Laura
Yamane, Jeff & Susie
Youmans, Dan & Sherri

(Continued from page 1, Block Captains)

ject effort and to ask if they are willing and able to be active participants. We will also be looking for volunteers to fill open positions where former Block Captains have moved away or choose not to continue in the new program. *If you are interested in becoming a Block Captain for your block, please contact any Board member (see back page)*

The main duties of a Block Captain should take little effort to accomplish:

- *Maintain basic neighbor contact information in the form of an enlarged map distributed to all neighbors of that block and updated yearly*
- *After completing annual update, provide master map to the WHCCA board which will produce new distribution copies of 'Block Maps' for the Block Captain.*
- *Maintain contact with the WHCCA Board via e-mail*

Optional Block Captain duties for those so inclined include:

- *With neighbors, arrange and hold occasional block meetings/parties (City will help sponsor, if desired)*
- *Contribute to creating and maintaining neighborhood emergency plan*
- *In the event of a disaster, participate as planned in disaster response*

From my personal experience in another neighborhood where my family lived, having a Block Map made it easier to get to know my neighbors, which is a major objective of this initiative. The map was also something we hung on the refrigerator and was regularly referenced by realtors when we went to sell our home as proof of the cohesive 'neighborhood feel' – something that was attractive to potential buyers.

Please send any comments about this initiative to me or any Board member, as we are striving to be inclusive while we try to strengthen our WHCCA 'neighborhood feel'.

*Merrick Van Dongen
President, WHCCA*

New "Neighbor Link" program

Editor's note: The following article is adapted from a letter sent by Bellevue's Community Outreach coordinator to the WHCCA Board and other community/homeowner associations in Bellevue. The WHCCA board feels it is an important initiative of which WHCCA residents should be aware.

On June 1, the City of Bellevue launched its new **Neighbor Link** program, with the objective of engaging neighborhoods in activities that strengthen them and which help local families cope with the impacts of the economic recession.



For more details, visit the city's **Neighbor Link** web page: <http://bellevuewa.gov/neighbor-link.htm>

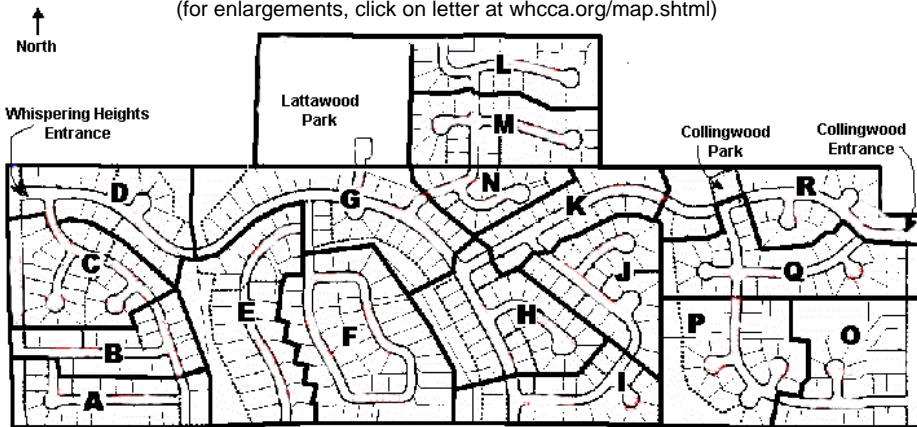
The first activity in which WHCCA will formally participate is a food drive associated with our July 4th parade and picnic at Collinwood Minipark (see page 1).

To celebrate your involvement, on July 23rd the city and Whole Foods will host a free picnic and concert on the lawn at City Hall.

All **Neighbor Link** participants are also eligible for **Neighbor Link** Awards which will be presented at the July 23 gala. It doesn't matter if your neighborhood is big or small, these awards are based on creativity and participation. Top prizes are up to five catered Whole Foods events right in your own neighborhood!

For more information or to request an award application, visit the neighborlink website or contact *Julie Ellenhorn*, Neighborhood Outreach, 425-452-5372, jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov.

WHCCA Map, showing designated blocks
(for enlargements, click on letter at whcca.org/map.shtml)



Odds & Ends (but important ones!)

Neighborhood projects wanted

The board is looking for your ideas for the next neighborhood upgrade project. Last year, for example, we took on the renovation and improvement of our three entrance areas for Whispering Heights & Collingwood.

Addresses on curbs

One suggestion has been to have the street address repainted on the curb at each house.

Mailbox shelters

Mailbox shelters continue to be a topic of interest. If you have a mailbox shelter that needs to be repaired, please contact any board member (see back page).

Spring Cleanup Re-cap

Thank you to all pitched in at our annual

neighborhood Spring Clean-up on April 18th. The weather was fabulous, especially compared to the cold and snow we had last year! We had a good turnout of folks working to spruce up various locations in the community, including the trail heading up the hill at SE 46th Way and 158th Ave SE, as well as Collingwood Park.

Thank you especially to Michelle Cash for organizing the event with the City as well as providing welcome liquid and donut refreshments to all!

Summer Picnic Takes a Hiatus

It is with mixed emotions that the WHCCA board decided to cancel the annual summer

picnic this year. This event has been held at Lattawood Park in mid-August for residents to mingle and let the kids go crazy with fun activities. However the past 2 or 3 years has seen a steep decline in participation.

We are pondering how to improve the picnic in hopes of attracting more residents, by making it an event nobody wants to miss. We have considered combining the picnic with the nearby Horizon Crest neighborhood. We are also looking into new games & activities that adults and children alike could enjoy.

We have also considered that summer is just a tough time to pry northwesterners away from their beloved water and mountain activities. So we're also considering moving it to early Fall.

As always, we encourage your input or ideas so that we can bring the annual summer picnic back in 2010 and make it better than ever!

2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers —

President: Merrick Van Dongen
vandongen@earthlink.net, 425-644-7676,
4660 159th Ave SE

Vice Presidents: Jon & Michelle Smith
Jonlsmith@gmail.com, 425-945-0524, 16200
SE 46th Way

Secretary: Gretchan Lindsey
GretchanL@hotmail.com, 425-644-4580
15422 SE 47th Street

Treasurers: Keri & Jeremy Kiefer
Keri.kiefer@comcast.net, Jeremy@
brightonjones.com, 425-747-2447, 16208 SE
46th Way

Board Members at large —

Bob Blaisdell, rgblaisdell@att.net, 425-746-
3346, 15911 SE 47th Court

Christina Dolkiewicz, gjkotsenas@comcast.
net, 425-502-7876, 4550 157th Ave SE

Will Hargreaves, willhargr@aol.com, 425-
643-0549, 15438 SE 47th Street

Hua Liu, hualiu2001@yahoo.com, 425-373-
9224, 4542 157th Ave SE

**Meet new board member
Christina (“Tina”)
Dolkiewicz**

As a native Pennsylvanian and resident of Washington for 8 years, I enjoy gardening, business research, music, traveling and cooking.

My husband of 20 years, teenage son and I moved to Bellevue almost 2 years ago to take advantage of the wonderful schools, active city life and beautiful scenery. We regularly enjoy the antics of our two mischievous beagles, walks on the trails and baseball.



Tina Dolkiewicz

WHCCA ADJUNCT FUNCTIONS

Communication: Al Patterson,
allenp@cryptosafe.com, 425-643-
1905

Emergency planning, blockwatch: currently unassigned (any volunteers?)

Landscape liason: Michelle Smith,
michelle.belle@comcast.net, 425-945-
0524

Residents database: Steve Sanford,
steve.sanford@comcast.net, 425-
649-9042

Web site: Gretchan Lindsey ,
GretchanL@hotmail.com, 425-644-
4580

Whispers distribution: Lin Sanford,
lin@linsanford.com, 425-649-9042, &
Judy Matthew, jpmatt1013@aol.com

Whispers editor: Will Hargreaves,
willhargr@aol.com, 425-643-0549

New Neighborhood Liaison

After several years of excellent support by Scott Vanderhyden, the WHCCA has a new neighborhood liaison: Patricia Knight. Patricia is our “contact with City Hall,” and is available to answer questions and assist with issues involving the city. She encourages residents to call or email any time.

Patricia has also encouraged the WHCCA to take part in **Neighbor Link**, the effort to assist Bellevue residents needing a hand (see article on page 3).

Patricia Knight can be reached by phone at 425-452-7917, and by email at pknight@bellevuewa.gov.

WHCCA EVENT COORDINATORS

Coffee social: Merrick Van Dongen

Spring cleanup: Michelle Smith

Easter egg hunt: Heather McCrone

July 4th Parade & picnic: Jon & Michelle Smith

Garage sale: WHCCA board

**New Whispers masthead with
“Whispers” this time!**

In March the editor goofed when finalizing the new masthead. The critical word “Whispers” was accidentally omitted. But “Whispers” is back and the new masthead is now complete!

Board members wanted!

It’s really fun and satisfying to interact with a small group of interesting people for two hours each month. We currently have four (4!) openings for new board members.

Please consider giving something back to your neighborhood and making some new friends at the same time!

Please send your dues today!

The suggested amount is \$30 per household...



Cover art by Heather McCrone

COMPLETE & MAIL this form with check payable to “WHCCA”. Send to:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS FOR OCCASIONAL WHCCA MAIL _____ (NOT SHARED OUTSIDE WHCCA)

Dues enclosed \$ _____ (\$30 suggested) I am also enclosing an additional donation of \$ _____

WHCCA Treasurer, PMB 342
4957 Lakemont Blvd. SE
Bellevue WA 98006

I’d like to help on these neighborhood activities: WHCCA Board of Directors __, Annual Picnic __, Egg Hunt __, Newsletter editing or distribution __, July 4th Bike Parade __, Emergency Planning __, City liaison __, Block Watch __, Garage Sale __, Spring Clean-Up __, Membership Drive __, Other interest/expertise (please describe) _____

So that we may realistically assess the role our website (www.whcca.org) can play in helping keep you informed, please tell us:

Do you have internet access at home? YES __, NO __. How often do you use the internet at home? DAILY __, WEEKLY __, OTHER __?