



**WHISPERING HEIGHTS / COLLINGWOOD / SHALOCH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

OCTOBER 2009, VOLUME 18, ISSUE 3

WWW.WHCCA.ORG

4957 LAKEMONT BLVD SE, PMB 342, BELLEVUE WA 98006

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***Annual Meeting, Wildlife Talk Nov. 9th, 7PM***

The WHCCA Annual Meeting will be held on Monday November 9th at 7pm at the Lewis Creek Visitor Center on Lakemont Boulevard. The WHCCA Board has arranged for Sergeant Kim Chandler from the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife to speak to residents about "Living with Wildlife".

Sergeant Chandler is a 34-year King County resident and veteran with the DFW. His talk will focus on what to do when you see or come upon wild animals in our neighborhood, and how to best stay safe and live with the wildlife all around us. We've had several cougar, bobcat, bear and coyote sightings in Whispering Heights and Collingwood in recent years, and a cougar sighting at Lewis Creek Park (at the foot of Cougar Mountain!) in just the past month,

Residents have voiced concerns in the past about what to do and/or how to report on these sightings. Sgt. Chandler will address these concerns, and answer your questions on other more-common wildlife matters like dealing with deer, moles, and raccoons.

We will also recap the year's WHCCA events and review plans for next year. Please join us!

***Progress with new block captains program***

We are happy to report good progress in our plan for WHCCA to reinvigorate the block captains program. So far 11 of the 18 blocks have volunteers committed to start or continue as Block Captains in the new program. On page 3 is a map showing the 7 remaining areas where we are looking for a few good men or women. If you live in one of these areas, please consider volun-

*(Continued on page 3)*

***The Hot Sheet! For more information, go to [www.whcca.org](http://www.whcca.org) New Whispers Distribution Chairpersons Sought***

**WHCCA Annual Meeting, Nov 9th (Mon), 7PM, Lewis Creek Visitor Center**

See details in article above. Please note date change from what was published in the previous Whispers.

**City of Bellevue Exteme Weather expo, Nov 18th (Sun), 4:30-7:00PM, Lewis Creek Park**

Blizzards, floods and destructive wind storms have hit Bellevue in recent years. Residents can limit the impacts of such events with simple preparations around their homes before an event and some common-sense actions during one.

Staff from the Utilities, Transportation, Fire and Police departments will be on hand at the workshops. It will cover wind and rain and also target ice and snow concerns of residents in south Bellevue, where steep roads and higher elevations present particular challenges.

**Board Members Urgently Needed**

You've heard it before, and we always mean it. But this time we **really** mean it! We need

more board members to help run the WHCCA!

In 2009 we have been operating with 8 board members out of the 12 that are authorized by the bylaws. That may seem like a lot of people, but everyone occasionally has other commitments, so more than 8 is definitely better. To make matters worse, two long-time board members are leaving the board.

We are looking for interested WHCCA residents who want to get involved with and plan future events and neighborhood improvement projects. You will be the first to know about issues and will have a voice in decisions affecting your neighborhood.

We welcome any resident, whether you are new to the neighborhood or whether you were an original owner.

Board meetings are once a month, two hours or less on a weekday night. If you want to meet current board members and learn more about board activities, come to the annual meeting November 9th.

***Merrick Van Dongen, President***

The WHCCA is looking for two dedicated volunteers to take over the shared job of Newsletter Distribution chair. After **many** years of service, Lin Sanford and Judy Matthew are planning to "retire" and are looking for their replacements.

Three to four times a year, this job requires about two hours of your time to staple rubberbands on each newsletter and deliver batches to the distributors.

The job also requires maintaining the email list of distributors and keeping in communication with them before each issue etc.

If you are interested in this community service opportunity, please call either Lin Sanford (425-260-0096) or Judy Matthew (425-562-0104).

**The Year in Review with Photos**

Who doesn't like photos of cute kids? WHCCA board member Hua Liu took some terrific pictures at the July 4th parade this year. Check them out on page 3 and 4.

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

### By Howdy Neighbor

#### Doggie pickup bags! Yippee?

I depend on the "doggy pickup bags" at Latta-wood Park, which are provided by the WHCCA in a dispenser by the parking lot. These bags help keep our park clean and enjoyable for everyone.

However, one recent day I noticed two young boys with razor scooters ripping handfuls of bags out of the dispenser and throwing them in the air, shouting in glee.

I imagine they wouldn't be so inconsiderate if they happened to step in "something" that wasn't picked up because of their silly and wasteful prank.

*Hoping for more thoughtful kids*

#### Bellevue's snow clearing efforts

The March Whispers had a rant about "Slowing down when the roads are icy!" The point was good, but I didn't like the negative comment

about Bellevue's snow removal efforts, "As usual our fine city had not managed to get a sand truck into our neighborhood".

The City's website and Fall "Ice & Snow" workshops explain the priority for snow removal. Due to the small amount of snowfall in most years, Bellevue doesn't have enough equipment to clear the entire city all at once. Crews focus on major arterials first (e.g. Lakemont Blvd), and when those are clear, they work on the arterials. By necessity, your actual street may be the last in line, and if it snows again or re-freezes, the City will have to start over

Thus it is obvious that after a heavy storm or back-to-back storms, there are going to be slick and snowy roads. People should not drive under those conditions if they don't have the appropriate experience or equipment.

*Safe in the snow*

#### Sweep your sidewalk, please!

According to city regulations, property owners are expected to keep sidewalks clean, including

clearing them of obstructions such as vehicles, overhanging branches and plants, leaves and other debris. For more information, call the City of Bellevue Transportation Department at 425-452-6856.

I have a real pet peeve/rant about the dirty sidewalks that homeowners/renters refuse to sweep. They are a safety hazard and real eye sore. I can't imagine these people refuse to sweep the floors inside their homes.

*Sweepless in Seattle*

#### 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 in the next Whispers. *Yours truly, Howdy Neighbor*

## 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 numerous neighborhood events every year, plus occasional bigger neighborhood enhancement projects. These activities and projects initiated help to maintain and even increase our property values. Thank you to those below who paid in 2009!(their contact information is on the back page, along with a dues submission form). Thank you for paying your dues!

(List as of 10/12/09)

Abler, Larry & Pat  
Aboirous, Sam & Camelia Solomon  
Ahrens, Douglas  
\*Akamine, Jack & Helen  
\*Ankarberg, C.  
Anthony, Kevin & Karen  
Barnett, Paul & Kathy  
Bell, Dave & Lisa  
Bellinger, Edward & Gale  
Bennett, Lowry & Dorothy  
Benson, Thomas & Katchy  
Berry, Rich & Sandy  
Bigley, Ray & Nancy Gigante  
Blaisdell, Robert & Charlene  
Bradshaw, Kirk & Cari  
Brickman, Larry & Donna  
Brodie, Dana & Gregory Lindstadt  
Brunette, Andrew & Sally  
Bryan, Patrick & Gayle  
Butterworth, Stephen & Angela  
\*Carling, Bruce  
Cash, Rob & Michelle  
\*Cavness, Barbara  
Chace, Tony & Katherine  
Chao, Richard & Bernice  
Chien, Yau-Ming & Diane  
Chin, Kevin & Linda  
Christ, Steve  
Claeys, Paul  
Claypool, Jim & Frances  
\*Cozart, Steven & Elaine  
Curling, Bruce & Marilene  
Davenport, Frank & Yvonne  
Davis, Paul & Phyllis  
\*Dawson, J.C.  
Densmore, Kevin & Mary Love Mattox  
Dolkiewicz, Christina & George Kotsenas  
Dupuy, Paul  
Durenberger, Don & Ingrid  
Eason, Frederick & Michelle  
Egaas, Dave & Lorrie  
Fleck, Dennis & Jan

Fook, Tin & Daphne Ong  
Forrest, Cameron and Carlyn  
Freeman, Doug & Julie  
Funcke, Craig & Donna  
\*Graham, Rick & Therese  
\*Graham, Duff & Daina  
Griswold, Patricia  
Gujarati, Shailendra & Sonali  
Halliday, Mike & Cathy  
Halling, John & Caroline  
Hargreaves, Will & Karen  
Harper, Rebelanne  
Hart, Bill & Carol  
Hauge, Patrick & Stephanie  
\*Henn, Gary  
Henn, Kris & John  
Hsie, Tadd  
Hua, Wei & Stella  
Huang, Xucheng & Jing You  
Iwamura, Nobuko & Hiroo  
Johnson, Wayne & Carol  
\*Johnson, Mark  
\*Johnston, JJ & Patt Sellen  
Kao, Hung-Yen & Shiu-Mei  
Kawaoka, Milton & Susan  
Kiefer, Jeremy & Kerri  
Koshiyama, Paul & Martha  
Lambro, Marc & Lina  
Lance, Stanley & Nora  
Larson, Wally & Bobbie  
Lee, Steve & Janet  
Lee, Young Hana  
Lee, John & Liz  
Lee, Jin  
\*Lee, Dick & Dianne  
Lew, Greg  
Liao, Michael  
Lindsey, Kyle & Gretchan  
Liu, Hua & Yiping Xia  
Louisell, David & Judith  
Mainella, Frank  
Marten, Ann  
Mason, Richard & Karen  
Mathews, Lafayette  
\*McCauley, Richard & Anne  
McCrone, Lawrence & Heather  
McDonald, Doug & Judy  
\*McEachran, James & Nancy  
McLean, Kathy  
Meyers, Rick & Linda  
Mezs, Paul & Julie  
Migliore, Mark  
Milton, Larry & Carole Ann  
Mix, Carole  
\*Monwai, Peter & Marian  
Morgenstern, Robert & Angela  
\*Mullen, Charlie & Carol Wilson  
Nieman, Stella  
Nordsieck, Arnold & Hisako  
\*O'Connor, James & Viki  
Ono, Louise  
Osborn, Howard & Carolyn  
Parazynski, Ed & Lisa  
Parker, Rod & Heather  
\*Peery, Allen & Suzanne  
\*Pfau, Patricia  
Phillips, Jim & Frances  
Plewa, Ken & Lynne Boeger  
\*Pollard, Terry & Desiree  
Ralph, David & Margaret  
Rands, Gary & Marilyn  
Rees, Mary Noel  
Reeves, Richard & Setsuko Shigeno  
Rhinehart, Bill & Beth  
\*Richards, Byron  
\*Rittenhouse, William & Suzanne  
Rosen, Stuart & Ruth  
Rosenthal, Al & Wafa  
Saiki, Terry & Wendy  
Salmon, Jim & Cathy  
Sanford, Steve & Lin  
\*Schaff, Duane & Marty  
Scheidegger, Ralph & Grace  
\*Schreer, Andrew & Kelly  
\*Schwarz, Brett & Maria Acosta  
Schwisow, Jack & Rhonda

\*Sekijima, John & Celia  
Shertz, Bill  
Shonyo, Harold & Marge  
\*Shoshifairshole, Igor  
\*Shroff, Sharat & Paramita  
Skordal, Virginia  
Smith, Jon & Michelle  
Smith, Matt & Lisa  
Sorenson, Rob & Linda  
Stuckey, Carol & Patrick Burke  
\*Swaigood, Richard & Janet  
Tellefson, Corinna  
\*Tjoelker, Rod & Tenda  
\*Townsend, Nate & Rebecca  
Tran, Hiep  
\*Tsang, Michael & Lisa  
Turner, Bill & Liee  
Tuskes, Kenneth  
Van Dongen, Merrick & Shauna  
Viafore, Ken & Cara  
Vlasuk, Susan  
Vossler, David & Michele  
\*Wang, Yeong-Ching & Shu-Chu  
Wang, Haiying & Oliver Zhong  
Wang, Yeong  
Wantabe, Kaz & Mary  
Waters, Bill & Carol  
Wheat, Max & Yvonne  
Whiteley, John & Jane  
\*Winter, Scott & Danielle  
Woltz, Diane  
Wood, David & Laura  
Wuestefeld, Don & Susie  
Wunderlich  
Yamane, Jeff & Susie  
Youmans, Dan & Sherri  
Zhao, Richard & Ping Meng  
Zornow, Bruce  
  
\* Paid more than the minimum requested. Thank you!

*(Continued from page 1, Block Captains)*

teering to be a block captain by contacting any Board member (their contact information is on page 4).

The job takes minimal time and effort but it is important. When you know who your neighbors are, you are likely to feel a greater sense of community. From that will come the benefits of neighbors knowing, helping, and looking out for each other.

Early next year we and the block captains will begin to prepare updated resident lists. When those are complete, they will be distributed to the homes in each block.

Merrick Van Dongen

President, WHCCA

**New Bellevue abandoned homes ordinance**

The Board has received some complaints in the past about homes in our neighborhood in disrepair or landscaping which is not maintained and overgrown. The majority of these

complaints pertain to owner-occupied homes, and homeowners are still urged and encouraged to maintain their properties as specified in the CC&R requirements that came (by law) with each WHCCA homeowner's title documents when they purchased their home.

Enforcement of these provisions is normally done through Architectural Committees made up of neighboring residents of a particular WHCCA block. The Board encourages neighbors to discuss and resolve these issues amicably.

However, there seem to be a few properties in our neighborhood that are either abandoned by their owners or are at least not lived in on a regular basis. These homes could be considered abandoned under a new city ordinance which has just taken effect.

A vacant residence is defined as a dwelling unit which remains unoccupied or unused for 90 or more consecutive days). Instead of relying on CC&R requirements, Neighbors negatively affected by nearby abandoned houses can now request the help of the City of Bellevue.

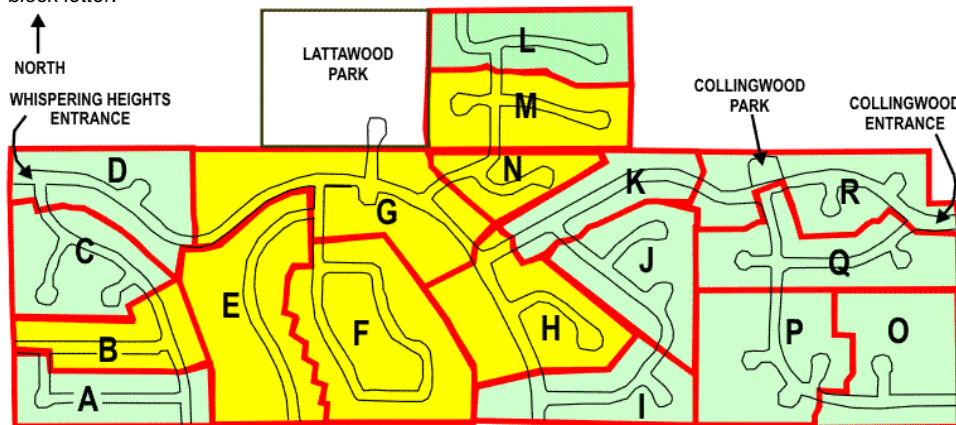
The abandoned houses ordinance was passed by the Bellevue City Council in August and became effective in September 2009. With this measure, the city holds the owners of vacated homes to an even higher standard of maintenance than the owners of occupied homes (e.g. limits on height of grass, etc.).

The purpose of the ordinance is "to preserve the neighborhood character, property values, enjoyment of property, and safety in single-family residential land use districts". "More information is available on the City of Bellevue web site at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/Ordinances/Ord-5897.pdf>"

**Blocks & Captains**

- A Suzanne Peery
- B TBD
- C Stan Lance
- D Frank Mainella
- E TBD
- F TBD
- G TBD
- H TBD
- I Rod Hollenbeck
- J Merrick Van Dongen
- K Janice Griner
- L Joseph Dawson
- M TBD
- N TBD
- O Larry & Donna Brickman
- P Joan Muth
- Q Julie Brown
- R Barbara Unger

*BLOCK CAPTIONS SHOWN ON WHCCA Map. Areas with captains in place are green, those still seeking a captain are in yellow. For enlarged view, go to [whcca.org/map.shtml](http://whcca.org/map.shtml) and click on the block letter.*



**Odds & Ends (but important ones!)**

(best) all-wheel drive. Even so equipped, going down hill you should proceed very slowly in low gear to minimize the need for brakes.

**Crime Stoppers-R-U's**

In June, a concerned neighbor noticed suspicious behavior in Lattawood Park. A quick phone call to the Bellevue Police Department led to two arrests: a convicted felon and a person with an outstanding arrest warrant.

The Bellevue police Department asked us to remind our neighbors how important it is to call in anything you might think is unusual or suspicious. We are the extra eyes and ears that can make a big difference in protecting our neighborhood.

**Winter driving in our hilly neighborhood**

If there is snow or ice on the road and you must drive on our hills (especially the ravine hill on 46th way), you owe it to yourself and others to install chains, or use studded tires or

Bellevue has good online tips such as [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/word/Transportation/ice\\_and\\_snow\\_driving\\_tips.doc](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/word/Transportation/ice_and_snow_driving_tips.doc). Also plan to attend the "Severe Weather Preparedness" workshop Nov 18th, 430-7PM at Lewis Creek Park.

**Thanks Whispers Delivery Team!**

Welcome to the newest member, Toma Ota, a high school student who wants to volunteer in the neighborhood. Thank you, Toma!

Thanks also to the continuing deliverers:

Bonnie Bennett, Bob Blaisdell, Jennifer Carey, Cathy Cooney, Phyllis Davis, Dennis Fleck, Donna Funcke, Guilia Johnson, Frank Mainella, Julie Mezs, Joan Muth, Suzanne Peery,

Sally Raferty, Wendy Saiki, Cathy Salmon, Vickie Shimada, Andy Taylor, and Barbara Unger.

**July 4th, 2009. What parade? This is a race!**



**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

Photos by Hua Liu from July 4th parade, 2009



**WHCCA ADJUNCT FUNCTIONS**

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

**Emergency planning, blockwatch:**  
currently unassigned (any volun-  
teers?)

**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

**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

**Our Neighborhood Liaison  
with the city of Bellevue**

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

*Please send your dues today! If you have already done so, thanks!*

*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 \_\_?