

WHISPERING
HEIGHTS

COLLINGWOOD

Whispers

WHISPERING HEIGHTS / COLLINGWOOD / SHALOCH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

JUNE 2010, VOLUME 19, ISSUE 2

WWW.WHCCA.ORG

4957 LAKEMONT BLVD SE, PMB 342, BELLEVUE WA 98006

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Block Captain Program – Expect to be contacted soon

As we revitalize the WHCCA Block Captain Program, the newly-committed Block Captains will be reaching out to residents of their block in order to establish Block Resident lists. Please see the flyer accompanying this newsletter for more information. By maintaining Block Resident lists and distributing them to all homes in their blocks, Block Captains facilitate communication between neighbors and help foster a better sense of “neighborhood.” Plus the WHCCA board will be able to spread word quickly via the block captains when there are matters of common interest such as increased local burglaries or wild animal alerts.

Your Block Captain (see list on page 3) is volunteering his or her time to help make your block safer and more enjoyable. Please be open to sharing with your Block Captain whatever information you

(Continued on page 3)

WHCCA Giving on July 4th

Once again this year on July 4th, WHCCA will be collecting non-perishable food items for local needy families to be provided to HopeLink for further distribution. 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 nonperishable food items to the park. Food collection bins will be provided at Collingwood Park for this effort. Thank you for your help!

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

Independence Day Bike Parade & Picnic, Collingwood Minipark, Sunday, July 4th, 10:30am

Mark your calendar for this year's annual 4th of July Bike Parade and Picnic! Past board members Jon & Michelle Smith will be managing the event, with help from WHCCA President Merrick Van Dongen. Bike decorating begins at 10:30 AM. 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 dessert will be provided in Collingwood Park.

This is another great opportunity for neighbors to get to know one another. See you there!

All-neighborhood Garage Sale, Saturday, September 25th, 9am to 3pm

We've had the outside Spring clean-up of our community. In the Fall it will be time to clean out inside. We all know that one person's trash is another's treasure. This is your opportunity to purge your house, garage, basement, and attic of all that “stuff” that you have accumulated but no longer use.

Take advantage of free advertising and the increased visibility due to a large neighborhood sale. The WHCCA will advertise the garage sale through a variety of channels such as newspapers and Craigslist.

Our WHCCA A-boards will identify the entrances with colorful balloons. This year we are not planning to mark individual garage sale homes on hand-out maps, but we will leave copies of neighborhood maps at the main entrances.

If you want to donate unsold goods, here are several websites describing locations or organizations that may accept them, and may even schedule a pickup:

(1) <http://www.pickupplease.org> (schedule a pick-up online)

(2) <http://www.salvationarmyusa.org> (call 800-728-7825 to schedule a pick-up)

(3) <http://www.nwcenter.org>

(4) <http://www.babycorner.org>

If you are new to garage sales, here are two web sites that provide some helpful pointers:

(1) <http://tipnut.com/garage-sale-tips-for-success-how-to-guide/>

(2) http://www.ifg-inc.com/Consumer_Reports/GarageSale.shtml

If you have questions about the garage sale, please contact WHCCA board member Hua Liu by e-mail at hualiu2001@yahoo.com or phone 425-373-9224.

Annual Board Meeting, Wednesday, November 10, 7pm

Each November we have an all-residents wrap-up meeting at the Lewis Creek Park visitor's center with a multimedia presentation of general interest plus refreshments. This is your chance to learn more about the WHCCA, and to influence future activities and projects. All residents are encouraged to attend.

This year we may supercharge the meeting agenda with wine tasting, highlighting selected Northwest wineries. Watch for more news about the annual meeting in our Fall *Whispers* and online at whcca.org.

Future WHCCA events in 2010

- July 4th Bike Parade
- Garage Sale, September 25th
- Whispers Fall edition, late October
- Annual meeting, November 10th

Cover art by Heather McCrone

Rants & Raves! Selected compliments and complaints from the 'hood... By Howdy Neighbor

Post Office Rave

You may be like me. Until recently, I didn't know that the mailbox which previously sat near the bank in the Albertsons parking lot was not just removed by the Postal Service. It was actually moved nearby, and is now located between Dominos and Baskin Robbins in the same plaza

Happy Mailer...

Trash in Parking Lot at Lattawood Park

It appears that some people routinely sit in their cars to eat in the parking lot at Lattawood Park and throw their trash out the window when they are done. That is just rude! Perhaps the attraction is having the porta-potty close at hand. In any case, it shouldn't really be inconvenient to put trash in one of the two garbage cans nearby!

Tired of OPG (other people's garbage)

Barking Dogs!

With the change in weather more dog owners are leaving their furry friends outside to enjoy

the sunshine and fresh air when they leave the house. What they don't realize is that their dogs miss them and often get scared or bored. The resultant incessant howling can make the most friendly and warm-hearted neighbors miserable and cranky!

It isn't that we don't like your dog. We just don't want to listen to him! It detracts from our ability to enjoy our deck, to work from home, and to sleep at night. There have been many nights where barking continues past midnight.

We know that you likely don't know that your dog spends his "alone time" barking and howling, but please assume that it does and leave the animals inside. Your neighbors will thank you.

Super Annoyed

Tree Branches Over Sidewalk

This may have been "ranted" before but I walk throughout the neighborhood and it really irritates me when I have to step into the street to avoid tree branches or shrubs blocking the side-

walk. If you have any of these, please be considerate and prune them!

Don't want to carry clippers

Lawn Mowing is Not Optional

I find it very offensive that one of my neighbors has not mowed their lawn in over a year. Our subdivision covenants (CC&Rs) say "No ... underbrush, or other unsightly growths... shall be ...allowed to accumulate on any lot or building site or public street." The property owner is damaging the value of their investment as well as yours and mine!

Willing to Loan Mower

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

Neighbors who've paid their 2010 dues

Thanks for paying your dues! So far this year (through June 5th, 2010), 120 neighbors (out of 500+ homes) have contributed \$3982 in voluntary dues to support WHCCA activities and neighborhood enhancements.

If you have paid, thank you for your support. If you haven't paid yet, please consider using the form on the back of the newsletter to contribute today!

Abler, Larry & Pat
Akamine, Jack & Helen*
Ankarberg, C.D.*
Anthony, Kevin & Karen
Bell, David & Lisa
Bellinger, Ned & Gale
Bennett, Douglas & Bonnie
Bennett, Lowry & Dorothy
Bigley, Ray & Gigante, Nancy A*
Blaisdell, Robert & Charlene
Brickman, Larry & Donna
Brudie, Dana Brudie & Gregory Lindstadt*
Bryan, Patrick & Gayle
Butterworth, Stephen & Angela
Carr, Alan R*
Cavness, Barbara*
Chin, Kevin & Linda
Christ, Steve
Claypool, Jim & Frances
Czarney, Ron & Wendy Romanchuk

Davenport, Frank & Yvonne
Davis, Paul & Phyllis
Dawson, Joseph C. & Beverly J.*
Day, Tracy R. & Michele L.
Durenberger, Don & Ingrid
Eason, Frederick & Michele
Eng, Peter & Margaret Li*
Fleck, Dennis & Jan
Forrest, Cameron & Carlyn
Freeman, Julie & Doug
Frisch, Richard & Gayle Brown*
Graham, Duff & Daina*
Graham, Rick & Therese*
Griswold, Patricia
Groesbeck, David & Lauren
Hang, HH & HX Doan
Hargreaves, Will & Karen
Hauge, Patrick & Stephanie*
Havok, Reek
Henn, Gary D*
Heric, Todd M.*
Hollenbeck, Rod & Margo*
Holmen, Reidar & Polly Wu
Hsie, Tadd & Elena
Huang, Xucheng & Jing You
Iwamura, Nobuko
Johnson, Mark*
Johnson, Wayne & Carol
Johnston, JJ & Patt Sellen*
Kacholia, Prافل & Kalpana
Kawaoka, Milton & Susan
Kelley, John
Lambro, Marc & Lina
Lee, Steve & Janet

Lew, Greg
Liao, Michael
Louisell, David & Judith
Mattox, Marylove & Densmore, Kevin
McCauley, Richard & Anne*
McCrone, Lawrence & Heather
McDonald, Doug & Judy
McEachran, James & Nancy
McLean, Kathy
Michelman, Irwin & Iryna
Milton, Larry & Carole Ann
Mix, Carole
Molenda, James Patrick & Carrie Jane
Monwai, Peter & Marian*
Mullen, Charlie & Carol Wilson*
Nieman, Stella
Niiyama, Craig & Chisaki
O'Connor, James & Viki*
Ohno, Hiroshi & Mie
Olson, Howard & Carolyn
Ong, Tin-fook & Huang, Daphne
Osborn, Howard & Carolyn
Parazynski, Ed & Linda
Peery, Allen & Suzanne*
Pfau, Patricia L*
Phillips, Jim & Laurie
Plewa, Ken & Lynne Boeger
Polland, Terry & Desiree
Ralph, David & Margaret
Rands, Gary & Marilyn
Rhinehart, Bill & Beth
Richards, Byron & Diane*
Rittenhouse, Bill & Suzanne
Rosen, Stuart & Ruth

Saiki, Terry & Wendy
Sanford, Steve & Lin
Schaff, Duane & Marty*
Scheidegger, Ralph & Grace
Schreer, Andrew & Kelly*
Schwisow, Jack & Rhonda
Sekijima, John & Celia*
Shertz, Bill & Pat*
Shimada, Jon & Vickie
Skordal, Richard & Virginia
Smith, Lisa & Matt
Swaisgood, Richard & Janet*
Thompson, John & Diane
Tinney, Ed & Sugihara, Cara
Tjoelker, Rod & Tenda*
Tram, Hiep & Yen T
Turner, George & Lieberta
Van Dongen, Merrick & Shauna
Viafore, Ken & Cara
Vlasuk, Susan
Vossler, David & Michele
Wang, Haiying & Oliver Zhong
Wang, Yeong-Ching & Shu-Chu Peng
Watanabe, Kaz & Mary*
Waters, Bill & Carol
Wheat, Max & Yvonne
Wood, David & Laura
Xia, Yiping & Liu, Hua
Yamamura, Ted & Lilly
Yasuno, Yoshiakiachiko
Youmans, Dan & Sherri

*Paid more than suggested amount

(Continued from page 1, Block Captain Program)

would like your neighbors to know in the event of an emergency and just to help other neighbors get to know you. The objective is to promote a sense of community and increase positive neighbor-to-neighbor interactions within the WHCCA.

For three blocks (see below), we are still looking for Block Captain volunteers. If you are interested in helping the community and your block in particular by becoming a Block Captain, please contact any board member.

Merrick Van Dongen, WHCCA President

Thefts in the Neighborhood

This Spring, board members have received numerous communications from WHCCA residents and others about burglaries and thefts in the area. Reports have included a grey Volkswagen driving slowly through a cul-de-sac, picking up packages that had been delivered to neighbors earlier, and evidence of suspicious activity at the back of a residence caused by someone entering the backyard. In another case, thieves gained access to two residences through garage doors and stole some things.

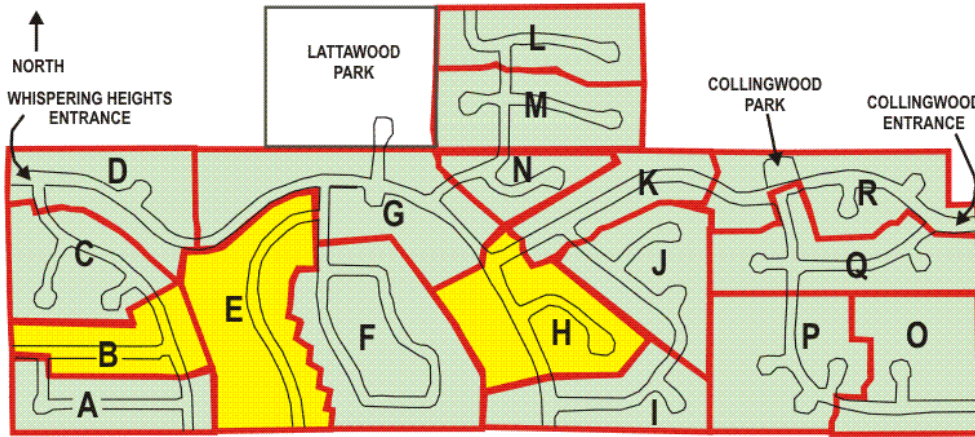
Detective Chinn from the Bellevue Police Department says that while they've seen height-

ened theft activity this Spring in our area, recent arrests should help reduce the problem, but there may be another group still working the area.

He advised residents to be vigilant, communicate with neighbors about suspicious behavior, record license plate numbers of suspicious cars, identify your valuables by writing down serial numbers and take photos, and put alarm signs in front and back of your property.

The Block Captain program can help WHCCA residents to know who is living near them and to more easily recognize and act when something out-of-the-ordinary happens.

Neighborhood map showing designated blocks (yellow blocks need captain)



Block Captains

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

Odds & Ends (but important ones!)

Coffee Social

Although we had a low turnout for our Coffee Social on March 17th (perhaps due to St. Patrick's Day events), those who attended were treated to a fascinating presentation. Heather Trescases is the charming and articulate Executive Director for the Eastside Heritage Center. She presented a historical perspective on transportation entitled "Getting Around the Eastside." However, the slide show was also a broader historical journey into our region's past, which is not well known by most of us even after living here for 20 to 30 years.

Stay tuned as we explore changing the WHCCA kick-off event for next year to a "Spring Social" featuring **Wine Tasting**, focusing on selected Washington State wineries!

April's Egg Hunt

This year's egg hunt was amazing! Not only did the skies not rain upon us on April 3rd, but the youngsters were awesome! Planned and managed by Heather McCrone with assistance from board member Janet Fleck and many other volunteers, it took the crew over an hour to set up, remove potentially risky thorny branches and 'hide' a bazillion candy-filled plastic eggs. The hunt was over in about five minutes. Our neighborhood has some fast children (see photo)! Thank you to all the volunteers and to our well mannered children! Heather McCrone, awesome job!

Fast kids, Egg Hunt 2010



Neighborhood Cleanup Leaves Entrances and Trailhead Looking Good!

This year's cleanup April 17th was planned once again by Michelle Cash and the WHCCA board thanks her for many contributions this year and in many previous years. However, due to growing family commitments, Michelle has now relinquished this role to board member Janet Fleck.

This year budget cuts limited the city's contribution to WHCCA's event, but they provided a huge yard waste container for debris from our work areas. We focused on Collingwood Park, the three WHCCA entrances and the trailhead at 46th Way and 158th Avenue.

Mark Doherty (Bellevue Parks Dept) helped organize the workers at Collingwood Park, while Suzanne and Allen Peery helped manage the group at Collingwood II entrance. Lin

Sanford and Merrick Van Dongen worked the Collingwood I entrance, while Dennis Fleck took on the Whispering Heights entrance. Multiple workers at the trailhead scattered to the entrances when their initial jobs were done.

Chris Krueger presented the group with a certificate from the city for a job well done. Of course, no cleanup is without its perks. Coffee, hot chocolate and donuts provided by WHCCA ruled the day! Janet's coffee wagon made stops at all the work party stations as a way to thank our workers!

WHCCA Marketplace on the Web

The WHCCA board is considering a web page for "neighborhood services." It would only be open to people who live in the neighborhood and who provide a service or product that would be of general interest to residents for use in the neighborhood. It could include yard work, baby sitting, pet walking, and insurance, for example. If you are interested in advertizing your small business to your neighbors, email the *Whispers* editor.

Creative Youth in the 'Hood.

If you or someone you know is young (under 18), creatively inclined, and might like to test the water for publishing by having their work appear in a neighborhood newsletter, please contact the *Whispers* editor. Submissions of creative writing, poetry, photography, or photographs of other creations are welcome.

Neighborhood Babysitting Co-op

Yes, our neighborhood still has a babysitting co-op! Interested families can contact elaine_cozart@hotmail.com.

2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers —

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

Vice President: Dave Ralph, david.a.ralph@comcast.net, 425-891-1269, 15930 SE 46th Place

Secretary: Janet Fleck, janet.fleck@gmail.com, 425-891-7878 (cell), 15922 SE 46th Place

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

Board Members at large —

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

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

Suzanne Peery, peeryclan@earthlink.net, 425-641-7456, 15133 SE 47th Place

This spot could be you! Come to a board meeting to see what you are missing. Contact any board member for more info.

Suzanne Peery joins the board...

Hello, I am Suzanne Peery, the newest member of the board. You may have seen me in the neighborhood with a group of very chatty women early on weekday mornings.

We are a noisy bunch. In fact, my decision to join the group was mostly out of self-defense, since they woke me every morning.

Not only do we get our exercise, but we pick up trash, mostly on Tuesdays when trash cans are available. I am happy to report we are bending over less these days. **THERE IS LESS TRASH! KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!** If you would like to join us, email me at Peeryclan@earthlink.net.

Meet new WHCCA board member and Board Secretary Janet Fleck

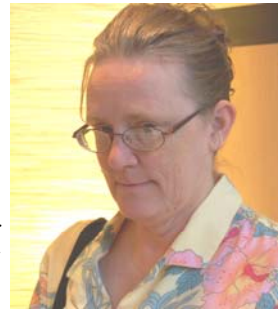
My family has lived in Whispering Heights since July of 1981. We chose this neighborhood as everyone was so friendly along with the multiples of children running around outside playing. We were impressed with the lush green and how the neighborhood had kept many of the existing large trees.

Our two children, David and Michele, have been out of the house for quite a few years so it's just Dennis and me now. I was born in Iowa as the second of seven children. We moved when I was young to Rochester, NY, then eventually to Albany, NY where I met and married Dennis.

We moved to Arizona long enough to have children, eventually landing in Bellevue to raise them. We adopted our beloved Dog "Bear" shortly thereafter. Many neighbors knew her better than Dennis and I. Bear would go on paper routes with David and Michele, and on walks throughout the neighborhood greeting everyone she could (on leash of course!).

Currently, I'm working at the Bellevue Aquatic Center but past jobs have included bookkeeping & aerobic dance instructor. My degree is in Anthropology which finds me volunteering as an advocate for Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Team Survivor Northwest (a women's cancer survivor group), Olive Crest, Eastside Domestic Violence Program, Family Services, and Solid Ground.

For personal enjoyment, I walk 5K's and participated in my first Triathlon last summer. I love



WHCCA ADJUNCT FUNCTIONS

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

Emergency planning: currently unassigned (any volunteers?)

Landscape: Suzanne Peery

Web site: Will Hargreaves, willhargr@aol.com, 425-643-0549

Whispers distribution: New Captains!

Mary Love Mattox, marylovemattox@johnscott.com, 206-372-6409

Carol Stuckey, castuckey@comcast.net, 425-562-2634

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

WHCCA EVENT COORDINATORS

(and board liaisons)

Spring social: Merrick Van Dongen

Spring cleanup: Janet Fleck

Egg hunt: Heather McCrone (Janet Fleck)

July 4th Parade & picnic: Jon & Michelle Smith (Merrick Van Dongen)

Garage sale: Hua Liu

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

biking, walking, and reading. If you have walked near my house you can see I also love working in the yard. Or, telling my husband what we need to do in the yard. ;-)

Janet

Visit whcca.org for archived old issues of Whispers, meeting minutes, financial reports and lots more...

Please send your dues today! The suggested amount is \$30



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 \$ _____

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 __?

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