

WHISPERING
HEIGHTS

COLLINGWOOD

Whispers

WHISPERING HEIGHTS / COLLINGWOOD / SHALOCH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

MARCH 2010, VOLUME 19, ISSUE 1

WWW.WHCCA.ORG

4957 LAKEMONT BLVD SE, PMB 342, BELLEVUE WA 98006

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Volunteering in the neighborhood

Occasionally, the Board receives offers from high school students and other groups to provide volunteer help for any appropriate projects or needs within the WHCCA community. We normally recommend those individuals and groups to help out during some of our planned events each year such as the Egg Hunt and Spring Clean-up. We'd also like to expand that recommendation to other appropriate projects and to those WHCCA residents who are disabled or sick and in need of such volunteer services.

Whether it is in fulfillment of volunteer hour credits or just wishing to pitch in around the neighborhood, please let any Board member know that you are interested in volunteering. Likewise, if any of our WHCCA neighbors are disabled, sick, or otherwise unable to maintain their yard or have small, neighborhood-based projects that need doing, please let us know as well. We'd like to facilitate good deeds getting done for both the neighborhood and for residents in need.

Merrick Van Dongen

President, WHCCA

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!

We want to welcome two new board members who are also long-time neighbors: Dave Ralph and Janet Fleck. However, in 2010 we are still understaffed after losing four board members recently. The continuing board members want to thank those departing volunteers for their terrific service: Gretchen Lindsay, Keri Kiefer, and Jon & Michelle Smith. Christina Dolkiewicz joined last midway through last year but is unable to continue and we thank her as well.

Please consider visiting the next board meeting to see how rewarding it is to spend a little time each month as a neighborhood volunteer. Our meetings are currently the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Contact any board member (back page) for the next meeting location.

Merrick Van Dongen, President

Whispers Distribution team

In the last *Whispers* we noted that "since-forever" distribution co-captains Lin Sanford and Judy Matthew were retiring from this task. We thank them for many years of outstanding service, and for finding their own replacements!

We are pleased to introduce our new co-captains, Mary Love Mattox and Carol Stuckey. Both are long-time residents of the neighborhood and we know they will do an excellent job. Welcome to the team!

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

Coffee Social, March 17th, 7pm, Lewis Creek Visitor Center

Please join us for an evening of entertainment & socializing with your neighbors at our annual Coffee Social on March 17th at the Lewis Creek Visitor Center. Our speaker will be the Director of the Eastside Heritage Center, Heather Trescases. Her slide show is titled "Getting Around The Eastside." People have been living and traveling on the eastside of Lake Washington for thousands of years.

This presentation will explore how they travelled, where they went, and what they were doing here. Heather's power point presentation takes the viewer along the path of history using the various means of transportation that were used in this area.

The event will be sponsored by Starbucks, with refreshments and goodies served. We hope to see you there!

Future WHCCA events in 2010

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

Egg hunt, April 3rd, 11am, Lattawood Park

Rain or shine, this event is always popular with neighborhood kids of all ages. Thousands of treat-loaded plastic eggs will be hidden in Lattawood Park prior to controlled mayhem. Janet Fleck is the WHCCA board liaison and the Egg Master Heather McCrone will manage the event again this year.

Spring Cleanup, April 17th, 830am to 11am

Every year the WHCCA hosts (with major support from the city) an all-hands-on-deck Spring Cleanup of the parks and selected common areas. This year new board member Janet Fleck will be the liaison with returning "expert Spring cleanup manager" Michelle Cash.

If you know of areas that need some plants, weed pulling, or bark, please contact Janet (last page) with suggestions that can be proposed to the city. Please mark your calendars and check whcca.org for more information as we get closer to the date.

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

By Howdy Neighbor

Garbage/recycling shelters

Does it bother you, too, that some residents leave their garbage and recycling cans on the street for days, and fully visible in front of their garage in between collection days? You may not realize that our covenants that regulate each subdivision require these be kept out of sight from the street. This isn't always easy, but how much nicer the neighborhood would look if everyone made a greater effort to comply? Think about building or growing something that would screen the cans from passersby!

*Tired of looking At OPG
(other peoples garbage)*

Blackberries aren't the only Invasive plant!

In case you hadn't noticed, English ivy is overgrowing everything in our ravine and in many greenbelts. All the native plants and even trees in its path are being suffocated. Pull some ivy today (or at Spring Cleanup)!

Native plants for natural places!

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

Our neighborhood liaison, Patricia Knight

Bellevue's Neighborhood Liaisons are the "inside connection" to city information and resources. Designed as a way to build stronger neighborhood/city relationships, the Neighborhood Liaison Program operates through a 12-member team of city staff assigned to specific Bellevue neighborhoods.

Liaisons are responsible for seeing that citizens in "their" neighborhoods receive the best possible customer service from the City of Bellevue.

Residents can contact their Neighborhood Liaison for any of the following needs:

- Information and don't know where to find it.
- A connection to city staff or resources.
- To get more involved with their city and neighborhood.
- Advice on influencing city decisions.
- Help resolving a neighborhood issue or concern.

Our liaison in the WHCCA neighborhood is Patricia Knight. You can reach her by phone (425) 452-7917 or email (pknight@bellevuewa.gov) with your questions or suggestions about Bellevue services, policies and programs for neighborhoods.

Early birds who've paid their 2010 dues

The voluntary dues you contribute to the WHCCA are essential to supporting our annual neighborhood activities and services.

The year is early still, but some of you have already submitted your dues.

As of 2/13/2010, thank you to:

Bell, David & Lisa

Bellinger, Ned & Gale

**Burdie, Dana & Gregory Lindstadt*

**Frisch, Richard & Gayle Brown*

**Heric, Todd M.*

Hsie, Tadd & Elena

Molenda, James Patrick & Carrie Jane

Rittenhouse, Bill & Suzanne

Skordal, Richard & Virginia

Xia, Yiping & Liu, Hua

** Denotes donations in excess of the suggested amount.*

What do you get for your dues?

Every year the WHCCA Board of Directors schedules and manages (with additional volunteers from the community) events which bring neighbors together. These activities contribute to a sense of community, helping families and individuals get to know each other. Events are fun and educational. The activities of the WHCCA help create an attractive and pleasant place for all residents, and also help to maintain property values for homeowners.

Special projects, sometimes with partial funding by the City of Bellevue, make significant improvements to our neighborhood. In recent years such projects have included a major overhaul of mailbox shelters and complete landscaping and addition of permanent stone signs for the neighborhood entrances.

WHCCA Activities and services

Events for kids:

Egg hunt

Independence day bike parade

Events for adults

Coffee social

Garage sale

Events for everyone

Spring clean up

Organization, communication, property values

Neighborhood website (whcca.org)

Whispers newsletter at least 3 times a year

Block captains program

Mail box shelter maintenance

Entrance islands maintenance

Improvements and maintenance of selected common areas

City programs liaison

Liaison to architectural control committees (your deeded covenants)

Mailbox shelter maintenance

Late this past fall, the Board was notified that one of the mailbox enclosures in Whispering Heights had blown over in a wind storm. In this case, the wooden stanchion holding the enclosure in place had rotted and failed.

The Board took the opportunity to have three mailbox enclosures in the neighborhood fixed. One of these had failed, another that had been braced to prevent it from falling, and another that was in danger of falling as well.

Please let us know if you think your mailbox enclosure is in similar disrepair. Contact a board member with its exact location and the potential repair work you think is necessary. Depending on the need, our neighborhood may qualify for another matching grant from the City to have mailbox enclosures repaired or maintained.

Tips on some of the many benefits provided by the city of Bellevue

The following is excerpted from the Bellevue city website:

PROTECT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD FROM CODE VIOLATIONS

The Code Compliance department (425-452-4570) can help protect the neighborhood from junk vehicles on private property, building violations, illegal storage of garbage, appliances

or debris on private property, and other nuisances

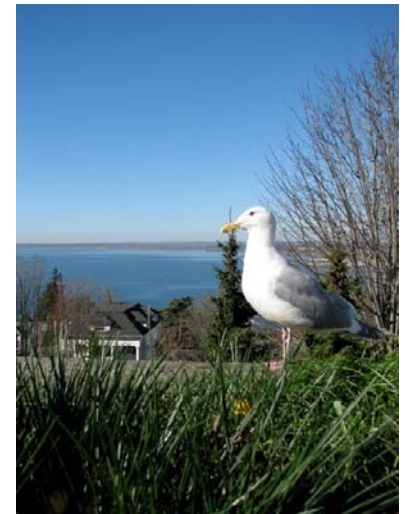
To improving neighborhood appearance, clean up and remove from public view items which may constitute a nuisance, such as garbage, trash, tires, car parts, automotive additives, appliances, furniture, cardboard boxes, plastic buckets, scrap lumber, toilets, sinks, and miscellaneous items.

Remember that tent-pole carports and storage structures may not be visible from the street. Recreational vehicles (boats, campers, trailers, RVs) must be stored in the side or rear yard or in an off-premise storage facility. Vehicles must not be parked on lawns or on sidewalks. Vehicles parked on the street must be moved every 24 hours.

Young adult in Kids' Korner

While certainly not a "kid," WHCCA resident Justin Paul Dolkiewicz Kotsenas has allowed the *Whispers* to publish a few of his photographs of our beautiful Pacific Northwest in our new "Kids' Korner" column.

Justin is currently 17 years old and a junior at Newport High School. He is interested in studying media at Western Washington University after he pursues a gap year upon graduation. In addition to photography, he enjoys snow boarding, baseball, and spending time with his friends.



Odds & Ends (but important ones!)

Did you know Whispering Heights/Collingwood has a Babysitting Co-Op?

The Whispering Heights/Collingwood Babysitting Co-Op has been operating for a number of years. It works using essentially "time bartering," so no money changes hands.

Your children are supervised by an experienced parent in either your home or theirs. You earn hours by accepting sittings for other co-op members at your convenience, and by serving as Secretary when your turn comes up. You don't have to call around to find a sitter, sittings are arranged through the co-op secretary. It's an easy, safe form of childcare and a great way to meet your neighbors and make new playmates.

The co-op serves families with children of all ages, including infants or twins. You are not "charged" extra hours if you have more than one child. You can use the co-op as little or as

often as you need; although members are asked to use the co-op at least once every three months. Each member serves as Secretary for a month at a time, on a rotating basis, and is paid a half hour by each member for doing so. A criminal background check is required for all co-op members, and there is a one time \$5 joining fee.

For more information or an application to join, please contact the current Babysitting Co-op President, Cathy Falanga at 425-373-9458 or Falangaca@yahoo.com.

November 2009 Annual Meeting

For those who didn't attend our Annual Meeting in November, you missed a highly informative presentation from the Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife on "Living with Wildlife" in our area.

Sergeant Kim Chandler gave a beautiful

uly crafted pictorial and musical presentation about the wildlife one can encounter right here in our neighborhood, and then answered residents' questions about what to do when encountering everything from bobcats and cougars to raccoons and moles.

Sgt. Chandler is famous for being the wildlife enforcement officer who caught the coyote which was nipping kids on the Eastgate Elementary School playground a few years back. He had a wealth of experience in dealing with a variety of enforcement issues, ranging from the expected bear and cougar relocations, but also including things like illegal shellfish harvesting and illegal use of leg-hold traps.

Refreshments were also served and, following Sgt Chandler's presentation, board members provided an update regarding the activities and financial status of the WHCCA.

Please join us for the next Annual Meeting in November 2010!

2009 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

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

Meet new WHCCA board member and Vice President David Ralph

My wife Margaret and I moved to Whispering Heights as newlyweds 22+ years ago, in 1987. The character of the neighborhood attracted us — the nicely landscaped homes and curvy roads. Our daughter Meghan is now a junior at Oregon State University studying Animal Sciences. Our son Brendan is a freshman at the U. of Portland, majoring in Biology.

I grew up near Pasadena in Southern California and like many in my generation got excited about the Space Program and aviation in general. After years of building model airplanes and rockets as a kid, it seemed only natural to become an Aerospace Engineer.

I joined the Boeing 757/767 programs, expecting it to only last a couple years before I might want to return to California or move on to another Aerospace company. Instead, I've spent a rewarding 30 years at Boeing specialized in Structural Dynamics, doing analysis and test work for several airplane programs.

My other passions as a kid were skiing and backpacking and the Northwest looked like a good place to pursue new adventure opportunities. This was my BK Era (before kids) when I expanded my sporting activities to include mountain climbing, scuba diving and hang gliding.

Fast forward past the years my wife and I raised our kids into the present and here I am with a little more time on my hands looking for some new activities to pursue. My first priority was to get back in shape. That's tough after spending years and years on the sidelines watching your kids with their soccer, softball, track etc. But I was pleased to get in good enough shape last year to run my first marathon.

After living here all these years, watching the efforts of neighbors to maintain & improve this community, I wanted to give something back and I recently joined the WHCCA Board.

Dave Ralph joins the board...



WHCCA ADJUNCT FUNCTIONS

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

Emergency planning: currently unassigned (any volunteers?)

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

Whispers distribution: New Co-captains!

Mary Love Mattox, marylovemattox@johnlscott.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)

Coffee social: Merrick Van Dongen

Spring cleanup: Michelle Cash (Janet Fleck)

Egg hunt: Heather McCrone (Janet Fleck)

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

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

Neighbor Link 2010 Project Planning Open Houses

Wednesday, March 17, 11am-3pm
Thursday, March 18, 5pm-8pm.
City Hall, 1st fl, Neighborhood Resource Center. Contact Julie Ellenhorn, Bellevue's Neighborhood Outreach program, 425-452-5372.

Cover art by Heather McCrone

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