



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

October 2011, VOLUME 20, ISSUE 3

WWW.WHCCA.ORG

4957 LAKEMONT BLVD SE, PMB 342, BELLEVUE WA 98006

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**Emergency Preparedness: Yes, you have the skills we need!**

*By Jason Cook*

What do CHAINSAWS, TENTS and TECH Savvy Teens have in common in the event of a natural disaster? ALL can help in the response to such an emergency! Neighbors are the best resource we have during a disaster. Major events like earthquakes, windstorms, volcanic eruptions, and snow storms can overwhelm traditional 9-1-1 responders—fire, police, medics, emergency rooms, and utility personnel. Neighbors organizing into small response teams can meet critical needs in the neighborhood in a timely and effective manner.

*(Continued on page 3)*

**On Being a Better Neighbor** *By Will Hargreaves*

If you have been reading your Whispers, you know the WHCCA board of directors over the past few years has worked to develop a better sense of community in our extended neighborhood. We have tried to encourage more engagement by WHCCA residents at the block level. We want more of you to be neighbors to those who live near you, not merely "co-residents" of Whispering Heights, Collingwood or Shaloch. We believe this will improve the quality of life in the neighborhood.

You may have been contacted by your new block captain to provide information about yourself, your family, and even your pets and vehicles. Hopefully you have provided the information you want your

*(Continued on page 3)*

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

**2011 UPCOMING EVENTS**

**WHCCA 2011 Annual Meeting**

Lewis Creek Visitors Center 7-9pm  
Guest Speaker Julie Ellenhorn -  
"Neighborhood Outreach: Your City Connection".

Our annual meeting has several objectives. We try to provide a speaker on a compelling topic of interest to many residents. The meeting also provides an opportunity to meet other residents of the neighborhood, including the WHCCA Board of Directors, and discuss topics of common interest. Finally, the board recruits and elects new members for the upcoming year.

This year our annual meeting will feature a guest speaker Julie Ellenhorn—the City of Bellevue's Community Relations Coordinator, will talk about the resources Bellevue has to help improve neighborhoods.

We will also discuss the status of our newly re-launched Block Program, intended to improve the sense of community within each subdivision in the WHCCA.

We will also have a brief introduction by Jason Cook of our Emergency Preparedness program. Jason is an ex-fire fighter and current WHCCA board member who has taken charge of this

program. His strategy is to mesh with and supplement the Block Program.

Of course we will also provide plenty of time to mix and socialize with free refreshments before soliciting and electing new board members.

Hope to see you there!

**OTHER WHCCA NEWS**

**Report on 4th of July Parade & Picnic, Vandalism of Food Drive items**

About 75 neighbors and kids gathered to celebrate the July 4th holiday at Collingwood Park. Traditional bike decorations and tattoos were used to decorate bikes and children. A fire truck from the nearby Bellevue Fire Station led the parade of bikes around the block as usual. At the city's request, 46th Way was closed briefly in the vicinity of the park and parade for safety reasons.

Lunch provided by the WHCCA consisted of sandwiches, drinks, and a cake donated by Whole Foods. The Balloon Man was back this year to the delight of many of the kids. Many thanks to Jon and Michelle Smith for again organizing a very enjoyable event.

During the celebration the WHCCA held a Food & Diaper Drive in coordination with the City of Bellevue. Bins were left in the park for few hours so that those who attended the event but

forgot to bring items for the Food Drive could come back and still contribute. Unfortunately, shortly after the event ended a person or persons vandalized and destroyed many of the donated items, even destroying the plastic bins and burning some things.

Hopefully this sad epilogue to an otherwise wonderful event is not a harbinger of things to come. It is hard to imagine why someone would be motivated to destroy items donated to help those less fortunate. The WHCCA board replaced both the bins and the destroyed donations. Total replacement costs for all items were around \$100.

**New Board Members Needed for 2012**

**Please consider joining** the WHCCA board of directors. We meet once a month and would love to have your help! For more information, call or email any board member.

**WHCCA EVENT CALENDAR**

- Annual Meeting, November 9, 2011
- Spring Social, March, 2012
- Annual Spring cleanup, March/April 2012
- Egg Hunt, April 7, 2012
- Independence Day Parade & Picnic, July 4, 2012
- Garage Sale, September 2012
- Annual Meeting, November 2012

*Cover art by Heather McCrone*

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

By Howdy Neighbor

### Silver Speed racer, STOP!

To the Silver 4 door Lexus who drives on 46th way at 8:35 a.m. . . Don't try to pass the school bus with its flashers on...it is illegal, unsafe, and our kids are trying to load the bus! And while I am mentioning it...you must stop at the stop sign at the 3 way stop!!

-a parent armed with a video camera

### Garbage Cans on the sidewalks

Please put your garbage cans on the street not on the sidewalks.

Tuesday walker

### Sidewalks are for walking

Please neighbor! Cleanup the yard waste on the sidewalks in front of abutting your yard! Its dangerous for walkers and its your responsibility to keep it clean.

Neighborhood walker

### Winter is coming

To my neighbors who like to use blowers on fall

leaves. Blowing them into the street and off your lawn is not an option. Please bag and put them out with your yard waste. The City does not come by and pick them up for you and all they do is blow into your neighbors yards!

Let's keep it friendly

### Too few board members

We are a neighborhood of over 500 houses. It frustrating that we can't seat a board of twelve people!

- frustrated volunteer

### Its Our Neighborhood, let's keep it nice!

Its time for us to take back our neighborhood. It used to be one of the nicest in Bellevue. Unfortunately, there are an increasing number of homes and yards that are not being taken care of. All the homes have covenants attached stating we would take care of the homes and yards. We need to take action! That means each of us need to contact neighbors who are not keeping up their homes or offer to help if they are ill or

suffering financial difficulties. If the home is unoccupied, contact the owner and remind them of the covenants. As a last resort, contact a board member. They know who to contact in the city code compliance office. Lets get this neighborhood back to where it was!

Frustrated neighbor

### Submitting future Rants or Raves

Let me know if you see something in the neighborhood that warrants a Rant or a Rave. We relish your input! We will do our best to publish all comments in the next Whispers. Send submissions in care of the Whispers editor at [jmfleckuw@gmail.com](mailto:jmfleckuw@gmail.com)

Yours truly, Howdy Neighbor

Our new sign, compliments City of Bellevue ( J Fleck)



### The CC&R Corner by your Crusty Covenant Compliance Curmudgeon

In our June 2011 newsletter I promised (threatened?) to talk about chickens in this issue. Some months ago a WHCCA resident inquired with the board about the legality of raising a few chickens in his backyard. The board did a little research and discovered that this is legal in terms of city ordinance but explicitly prohibited by some or all of the CC&Rs, which were written in an era which neighborhood chickens meant noisy roosters and smelly chicken coops.

Your Crusty Covenant Compliance Curmudgeon (CCCC) believes that if you want to raise a few chickens and are willing to be thoughtful of your neighbors sensibilities (and senses auditory and olfactory), this might be possible. You should first research what is involved in raising suburban chickens and then **talk** to your neighbors. Here are two good local resources on the internet: Seattle Tilth (<http://seattletilth.org> - search for

4th of July Parade on 46th Way  
Photo by Janet Fleck



chickens) and The Urban Chicken Network ([http://wiki.urbanchickens.net/Bellevue,\\_WA](http://wiki.urbanchickens.net/Bellevue,_WA) ). Also check with our neighborhood liaison to the city of Bellevue, Patricia Knight (contact Information on the back page of this newsletter).

The CC&Rs exist to maintain property values, pleasant appearances, and the quality of day-to-day life in our neighborhoods. If your little chicken operation has no roosters, isn't visible from the street, objectionably messy or smelly to your neighbors, and doesn't attract rats or raccoons with left over chicken feed, then there shouldn't be a problem. If your neighbors all agree your fowl activities are okay (plying them occasionally with fresh eggs helps), then there won't be a problem. Just keep in mind that your CC&Rs still probably forbid chickens unless you can organize a successful campaign to have them amended. If someone decided to file a lawsuit against you for having chickens, you are likely to lose.

Sincerely Yours, Crusty

News, gave some of the best advice for protecting your home from burglars:

- Start a Block Watch Program.
- Make the house look occupied.
- Answer the door during the day.
- Keep a list of electronics ID numbers. Engrave your electronics.
- Remove all valuables from your car. (phones, GPS...).
- Hide jewelry and passports (but NOT in the master bedroom).
- Deny access by adding lighting, keep the garage door down, lock all doors and windows, and install tougher locks and locking mailboxes.
- Use a timer to turn lights and music on during the day and night.
- Keep a car parked in the driveway.
- When on vacation keep up routines: ask a trusted neighbor to pick up your mail, put out a trash can, and mow the yard.
- Lock both the garage door and the connecting door to the house.

### Protecting your home from crime

While we generally feel (and are) fairly free of crime, there was a burglary recently near the entrance to Whispering Heights. The crime occurred on an evening this past September when the residents living in the 4500 block of 152 Lane SE. were out. Upon returning home, they noticed numerous items had been taken, including electronics, laptops, and jewelry.

A presentation by Bellevue's Detective Richard Chinn earlier this year, as reported by KOMO



Fall leaves-- photo by Janet Fleck

*(Continued from page 1)* **Emergency Preparedness**

I know this because I was a traditional 9-1-1 responder (firefighter) for nearly twenty years. I am certified in a large number of technical rescue categories, and have participated in major events ranging from the first Gulf War, aircraft disasters, mass casualty incidents, 9-1-1 in NYC, hurricane relief efforts, ice/wind storms, earthquakes and other disasters. I'm giving you this background on myself only so you will believe me when I say: **"People who make a difference in an emergency are not only the ones with the credentials, but the ones with concern!"**

Help me help US! Over the next few months I will be organizing meetings with your Block Captains, City of Bellevue's Office of Emergency Mangement, and any resident that thinks a disaster will somehow affect them someday!

We need to identify the neighborhood resources available to us BEFORE a natural disaster. A few examples of the things you could help with is letting us know if you have a chainsaw, a tent, a winch or a generator. If these items are identified before disaster strikes, we can use them to help those trapped or to get 9-1-1 access to us. Right now, get in touch with your block captain, link to our Facebook page. Do one thing a month to help prepare!

Jason Cook  
 WHCCA board member  
 Emergency Preparedness Liaison

*(Continued from page 1)* **Good Neighbors**

neighbors to have. Over the upcoming months, the WHCCA board will be helping the block captains distribute printouts so each of you with a block captain has this important information. These data sheets will be updated once a year and redistributed to residents of each participating block. Of course, if you are in a block without a block captain (and there currently is one, see the insert in this newsletter), you won't be getting this information.

Traditionally "block watch" programs have been all about crime fighting, and they can be effect deterrents to crime. While we do have the occasional burglary or mail box theft within the WHCCA and in nearby neighborhoods, ours is low-crime compared to others in the region. Our Block Program can help to keep it that way. But we have focused this program not on crime prevention, but on building familiarity with your neighbors.

Our rationale is that by helping you get to know your neighbors better, you contribute to a safer, more rewarding neighborhood in which to live. Crime-watch is necessary but not sufficient to provide all the benefits of greater neighborliness at the block level. We are trying to facilitate the breaking down of cultural and social barriers to interacting with your neighbors.

So what can you do to increase your "neighborliness quotient?" Each individual and family is going to have its own level of comfort and interest in socializing at the block level, but

we expect that to be increased a little bit for everyone. You might have an occasional gathering at someone's home. Or lend or borrow tools (such as ladders and wheel barrows) for yard work or home repair. You might learn that a neighbor has special needs and would benefit from a little help mowing the lawn. Offer your yard waste container and help fill it in an annual weedfest with your elderly or infirm neighbor next door. A ride to the market in your AWD SUV might be appreciated during the next winter storm.

You'll know who to call when your neighbor forgets to close their garage door or the dog across the street is howling for hours after the owners have left it outdoors while they are at work or out for the evening.

You could even help start a "timebank" where members get free services in exchange for contributing their own services. We already have a baby-sitting coop that operates on that principle, but perhaps it could be extended for other activities within our community.

In many ways, getting to know others in our immediate community is its own reward. I've enjoyed tremendously getting to know many neighbors in my years of involvement with the WHCCA board. We are programmed to want to be part of an extended family, a kind of tribe sharing some common values and experiences. Let's work towards finding more common ground right here and become better neighbors.

Will Hargreaves, WHCCA President

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

**Neighborhood Garage Sale**

This annual Saturday event was held September 17th from 9am to 3pm. Unlike last year, when we enjoyed sunny and warm weather, the 17th was not so nice. Despite the weather (and the absence of free Mexican food which was a highlight of last year's event!), scores of enthusiastic residents opened their garages and brought out all kinds of articles that were seeking new owners and homes. The turnout was fairly strong and included visitors from surrounding neighborhoods as well as some shoppers from Seattle and other more distant locales looking for bargains. The efforts that the WHCCA put into creating awareness for this event and the neighborhood maps seem to have helped.

Special thanks to WHCCA director Lauren Groesbeck who organized the garage sale event. Let's hope for nicer weather for next year's event!

**Bellevue City Enforcement Program for Unkempt & Vacant Homes**

Recently Bellevue has begun enforcing nuisance code enforcement against abandoned, fore-closed homes and those that look like they have been abandoned. Gerry Miyazaki is a Code Compliance Officer for the city who has been

working on this in our area. In corresponding with Janet Fleck (WHCCA board member, Whispers editor) and her husband Dennis (a WHCCA co-founder), he has asked to learn about residences with tall vegetation, litter, and nuisance items on the site which are violating Bellevue nuisance ordinances. If you know of such a vacant and/or grossly unkempt house, please email or call a WHCCA board member with the address and what you know about the property.

The board will attempt to determine the cause of the lack of maintenance. If it is confirmed to be vacant or a case where an owner willfully neglects maintenance and doesn't respond to friendly suggestion, the board will provide this information to Gerry.

Please realize that the WHCCA and its board are not inclined or legally able to enforce covenants (CC&Rs) or city ordinances. We only wish to help facilitate the process of maintaining the safety and attractive appearance of our neighborhood.

**City prepares for a cold La Niña winter**

Just what we need, a prediction for another "La Niña" winter, which means a wetter and colder winter than usual. City of Bellevue crews are prepared for heavy rain, wind and snow storms. Additionally, the city will open shelters at several



October changing tree color (Photo by Janet Fleck)

facilities in Bellevue should residents lose power.

We can stay informed by going to: [www.bellevuewa.gov/extreme\\_weather\\_response.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/extreme_weather_response.htm), which includes driving conditions and road closures, a snow priorities map, emergency tips and phone numbers. The street conditions are available on a real time traffic map at <http://trafficmap.cityofbellevue.net>.

As we all know, power outages occur on the coldest days and most miserable weather. Make sure to have flashlights, batteries, food supplies, blankets etc. ready before hand. Please no BBQ's in the garage or cook stoves inside where lethal, undetectable carbon monoxide can quickly accumulate! And get those emergency kits inspected and restocked NOW!

Be ready, be prepared!

**2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Officers —**

**President:** Will Hargreaves, will-hargr@aol.com, 425-643-0549, 15438 SE 47th Street

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

**Secretary:** Open position

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

**Board Members at large —**

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

Jason Cook, JasonSara@comcast.com, 4626 159th Ave SE

Janet Fleck, jmfleckuw@gmail.com, 425-643-7878, 15922 SE 46th Place

Lauren Groesbeck, 4725 163rd Ct SE laurengroesbeck@gmail.com

Shailendra Gujarati, sgujrati@hotmail.com, 16311 SE 48th St.

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

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

**Our Bellevue Neighborhood Liaison**

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

**Neighborhood Babysitting Co-op**

Interested families can contact the President, Gretchan Lindsey at 425-644-4580 or 425-644-4580, or email GretchanL@hotmail.com

**Dues payers**

Visit our website at www.WHCCA.org for more information and a list of our current dues payers!

**New Board Members needed**

Neighbors — Check out the list on your left. There are currently ten names listed. Of those, four will have fulfilled or surpassed their term limit as of January 1, 2012. Three will be in their third year in 2012 (we have 3 year term limits). You can all do the math, but let's say it 'out loud' — it leaves only 6 board members in 2012 and only 3 board members remaining come 2013.

The WHCCA is your association. If you want to see the 4th of July picnic, the bike parade, the egg hunt, mailbox repair, entrance islands cared for, the annual garage sale and neighborhood cleanup continue—and the list of potential activities and projects is limited only by your imagination - we need more than your financial support. We need YOU to volunteer!

Serving as a WHCCA board member requires a commitment of only 2 hours per month on a weekday evening. Most certainly you don't want just 3 or 6 households making decisions for over 500 homes! Contact any current board member prior to the November annual meeting and we will welcome you with open arms!

*Will Hargreaves,  
WHCCA President*

**Annual Meeting—Wed. November 9th  
Lewis Creek Visitor Center  
5808 Lakemont Blvd.  
Social and speakers 7-8pm  
Business meeting 8-9 pm**

**"Like" us on Facebook!**  
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Whispering-Heights-Collingwood-Community-Association>

**"Thank You!" to our dedicated, hard-working  
WHCCA newsletter distribution team!**

*Please send your dues today!*

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

**WHCCA ADJUNCT FUNCTIONS**

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

**Emergency planning:** Liaison to City of Bellevue, Jason Cook

**Neighborhood Block Program:** Merrick Von Dongen 425-644-7676

**Landscape:** Suzanne Peery

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

**Whispers distribution:** Co-captains Mary Love Mattox, marylovemattox@johnlscott.com, 206-372-6409

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

**Whispers editor:** Janet Fleck, jmfleckuw@gmail.com, 425-643-7878

**WHCCA EVENT COORDINATORS**

**(and board liaisons)**

**Spring social:** Merrick Van Dongen

**Spring cleanup:** Janet Fleck

**Egg hunt:** Heather McCrone (Shailendra Gujarati)

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

**Garage sale:** Lauren Groesbeck

**City of Bellevue Emergency Management Coordinator**

Carol Dunn can be reached at 425-452-7923, or cdunn@bellevuewa.gov. Upload comments, photos, videos on Facebook at facebook.com/BellevueOEM.

Other numbers:  
Bellevue City Utilities 24 hr Emergency: 425-452-7840, and  
Puget Sound Energy: 1.888.225.5773.

Please copy any correspondence to our WHCCA Emergency Planning liaison Jason Cook at jasoncook@johnlscott.com.



COMPLETE & MAIL this form with check payable to "WHCCA" and mail to this address:

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