

WHISPERS

WHISPERING HEIGHTS & COLLINGWOOD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 5

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In view of the momentous and dastardly attack that took place on 11 September, it is appropriate that our small community look outside our immediate boundaries.

We need to recognize that although we may be relatively immune from direct terrorist attack, our community cannot escape some impact. Our community interfaces directly with other neighborhoods, the city of Bellevue, Metropolitan Seattle, the State of Washington and beyond as an integral part of the World. It appears that there is finally real inter-national recognition that we, and a good part of the rest of the World, will join in an effort to defeat terrorism wherever it chooses to operate.

Our immediate role is to proceed with our lives as in the past, but with additional caution, concern for security, and tolerance with some attendant inconveniences. On a personal basis, our sympathy goes out to those who lost their lives and to their survivors. As a Community, may we stay united and support any of our neighbors or countrymen that are currently, or will be, most directly involved in the coming World strife. May you and yours remain safe, secure, productive, and resolute. And may our march at last bring us to a more peaceful world.

Now, we need to proceed with our current activities in WHCCA.

Our immediate need is to make arrangements for the Year 2002 Board of Directors. As of the end of November, there are four of the current members (Larson, Mezs, Sanford, and Su) whose term of office expires. We need four community volunteers to replace them. The commitment to serve is not overbearing; simply attend 11 monthly meetings (none in December), serve on a standing committee of your choosing, and work on neighborhood concerns occasionally brought to the attention of the Board. Our August 2001 newsletter gave a complete rundown of committees, WHCCA Board of Directors sponsored events, and current concerns. These are summarized as follows:

Committees: Traffic, Community Involvement, Block Captains, Emergency Planning, Web Page, Landscaping.

Community Events: Spring Cleanup, Garage Sale, Egg Hunt, Bike Parade Annual Picnic, Annual Meeting.

Resident Concerns: Covenants, Mail Boxes, Mediation, Police and Fire.

The current Board would like to urge neighbors to come forward and volunteer to fill the upcoming Board vacancies beginning in November. If you would like to explore what Board membership entails, please feel free to call me or any other Board member.

And by all means, attend the Annual Meeting to be held on 13 November!

— Wally Larson, Board President

WHCCA ANNUAL MEETING

Hear Yea! Hear Yea! Come One! Come All!

The Whispering Heights/Collingwood Community Association Annual Meeting for 2001 will be held on 13 November. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm at Eastgate Elementary School. Please come and participate in discussions of the events of the past year, meet the current Board of Directors, and help welcome new Board members.

We will have a guest speaker from the Bellevue Transportation Department (either Goran Sparrman, Director, or Kris Liljebblad, Assistant Director.) Of course transportation in and around Bellevue has been – and unfortunately will continue to be — a hot topic of interest to all. Please attend the meeting and participate by voicing your thoughts and concerns for consideration by your neighbors and the board members. If there is a subject of special concern you would like to be addressed at the meeting, you may phone it in beforehand to any board members. Attend!

HALLOWEEN SAFETY REMINDER

With Halloween just around the corner, the streets will be filled with little ghosts and goblins in search of candy. Here are a few safety reminders for trick or treaters, parents and drivers.

1. Trick-Or-Treat early. With Daylight Savings already in effect, it gets dark early. And in Washington Halloween is notoriously wet. Start early and get back early.
2. Stay on sidewalks, carry flashlights and wear reflective strips. Be seen!
3. Go to houses that are well lit.
4. When driving your car Halloween night, drive slowly and look for children darting between parked cars.
5. Take advantage of special events sponsored by local churches and other community organizations that provide opportunities for safe exchanges of treats with a minimum “tricks”.

One example? “Trunk Or Treats” sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (located east of the just demolished Fire Station on 148th at 15205 SE 28th Avenue) is an informal event where you back your car into a parking space and staff it with a parent or older youth tending a basket of treats. Cars are much easier to decorate than a home. Kids simply walk from parking space to space and there are no moving cars to endanger them! Get there by 6:15.

HELP PROTECT YOUR NEIGHBORS...

Walking through our neighborhood, many of us often notice one or more newspapers piled up on a neighbor's driveway and comment that someone must be out of town.

If it's that obvious to us, it is also obvious to a burglar.

You can help save your neighbors' homes (perhaps yours, as well!) from potential thievery by placing their unread newspapers on the doorstep, out of sight from the street. Practice the Golden Rule.

— Greg Wagner

...AND YOUR CHILDREN!

Block Alert Watch: Recently a pair of grade school girls were playing in a Collingwood cul-de-sac when a stranger in a car approached them. When he began talking to the girls, they became frightened and ran home. A member of our board reported a similar situation—inappropriate at best, and quite possibly life-threatening— had occurred to his daughter several years ago. In this situation it is important to call 911 and contact your block captain so we can alert the neighborhood.

STRENGTHENING PREPAREDNESS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

Recently, the education coordinator of Bellevue Emergency Preparedness, JoAnn Jordan, sent us the following the New York and Washington, D.C. catastrophes and urged us to “keep up the good work.” Let's Do It !

“In light of the recent terrorist attacks, we in the Emergency Preparedness Division of the Bellevue Fire Department are even more convinced of the need for our neighborhoods to be organized and prepared to take care of each other should any kind of disaster strike our area.

Although we don't foresee any viable threat of attack in Bellevue, it has become very clear that any disaster, especially earthquake, will overwhelm the City's emergency response. By getting prepared to take care of yourself, your family and your neighbors, we will better survive and recover from any event that challenges us. Please take the time to review your neighborhood plan.

If you are not familiar with your neighborhood plan, or want more information about the plan, contact Wally Larson or one of the Neighborhood Captains in your Association. If you would like more basic information on preparing for disasters, including starting a disaster supplies kit and creating a family disaster plan, call 425-452-7923 and information can be mailed to you. If you have access to the Internet, the American Red Cross has created an excellent web page entitled "Terrorism, Preparing for the Unexpected". That web address is:
<http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/keepsafe/unexpected.html> *"Preparedness is Empowering. Take action now."*

— JoAnn Jordan Emergency Preparedness Education Coordinator

LAST CALL FOR 2001 DUES

I am just finishing up my term as the WH&CCA Treasurer. In 1999 I took over the job as a new Board member. As I looked through the historical information regarding dues payments I discovered that there was an odd consistency in lack of dues payment on a fairly large segment of our neighborhood population.

This is a community association so participation and contribution is on a voluntary basis; there is no absolute requirement. However, one would think that with the earning level of our neighbors and the small contribution request that we would have 100% participation.

We have 492 households in our community association and so far this year we have the normal 260 households that have contributed. I have written articles over the past few years asking for better participation but to no avail. There are many of our neighbors who after numerous requests in The Whispers and mail out requests at the end of each year still do not want to participate by contributing a meager \$10 to offset some of the things that we accomplish. There are even some who have never paid dues. On the other hand, there are several neighbors who graciously contribute more than the \$10. I would like to send a special thank you to you folks.

So it's that time of year again. I will be sending out requests to those families that have forgotten to send in their dues payments. For those of you who have not paid, please consider contributing.

Thank you. — Steve Sanford, WH&CCA Treasurer

ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SQUEEK

Many of us have access to high-speed internet connections provided through the telephone or cable company; many do not. The problem is that there are not the requisite signal amplifiers or repeaters that would keep the flow of data sufficiently intact to serve homes that are further away from the distribution points within these systems.

In Collingwood/Whispering Heights, many of us work from offices in our homes and are highly dependent on our computers for exchanging data files and maintaining communications with clients, colleagues and suppliers. Lack of high-speed Internet connections can literally make or break these businesses.

AT&T has not fulfilled its promises to aggressively wire our city. The only way service will be extended is if you demand it. Here's how to do that online:

[1] Go to <http://www.att.com>

[2] Select "Broadband" from 4 interest areas

[3] Select "Check Availability"

[4] At prompt, confirm your full address including the 4-digit extension to zipcode

[5] If search results in "Service Unavailable" check "Notify me when available" and provide complete data when prompted.

AN AUTUMN VOICE RECITAL

Kim Cooney, lyric tenor, and Ji-Yeon Kim, pianist, both residents of SE 47th Street in Whispering Heights, will join featured soprano Mary McAvoy Rumsey, and soprano others in a free recital.

The recital will be held Friday, November 2, at the Congregational Church of Mercer Island, at 4545 Island Crest Way. It will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Cooney, who recently sang in a national Subaru of Japan commercial, will perform *Una furtive lagrima* from the opera *L'elisir d'amore* by Gaetano Donizetti and *At The Cry of the First Bird* by Texas composer David W. Guion.

Call 425-643-2330 for information.

LOST & FOUND

A knife was found at Collingwood Park on Thursday, October 11. If you lost your knife please telephone Dan Bankson at 746-3688 to identify and claim your possession. — Dan Bankson