

APPEARANCES COUNT

The value of an attractive yard is certainly indisputable from several points view. One benefit is the delight and pride felt both by the immediate neighbors and by the residents of an attractive neighborhood. Another important benefit is property value. We all know "location" is important to your home's value, in addition to its curb appeal, and an important element of "location" is the general appearance of the neighborhood.

Every property owner is interested in maintaining and increasing the value of his or her investment. As was discussed in the previous issue of *Whispers*, the original planning of the Whispering Heights/Collingwood neighborhoods included Covenants, Conditions, Restrictions, and Easements (CC&Rs) which were a legal part of each property, intended to protect the aesthetic and financial value of the neighborhood and of each homesite. While each subdivision has its own CC&Rs, they are very similar to each other.

If you can't find your CC&Rs attached to your original house-closing documents, you can read an example on our website (www.whcca.org/ccr.shtml). These CC&Rs initially run for a term of 30 years, but they are self-perpetuating, since they automatically renew every ten years after the initial term. The only way to change or remove them is by a vote of a supermajority of owners, followed by re-filing with the county. For reasons of enjoyment, pride, and investment, every homeowner should be motivated to abide by these covenants.

Wally Larson, WHCCA Vice-President

Common problems

Several common problems have been pointed out to the WHCCA Board of Directors:

- Boat, trailers, campers parked in driveway long term
- Piles of brush, firewood, or bark along sidewalks or driveways long term
- Lawns or sidewalk borders gone to weed or over grown, and bushes or trees blocking the sidewalk
- Garbage, yard waste and recycle bins stored in sight of the street

The first three problems can be easily rectified once the owner realizes the potential negative impact and decides to improve things. However, the problem of garbage and recycling bins visible from the street is almost universal and is tough to solve, in part because of the trend towards more and larger containers for trash, yard waste, and recycling.

Perhaps a neighborhood campaign similar to the highly-successful mailbox refurbishment program should be undertaken to help design and facilitate the building of small wooden fences to shield containers from view? Let us know what you think.

Positive notes

In future issues of *Whispers*, we hope to feature homes that, due to the owner's hard work and aesthetic talents, merit special recognition. Any WHCCA resident may recommend a neighbor's home for such attention by contacting a board member (listed on the *Whispers* masthead and at www.WHCCA.org).



WHY WHCCA?

As the year winds to a close, and especially as a new editor takes over the helm of this periodical, it seems worthwhile to explore the purpose and benefits of this organization.

Do you want to get to know and interact with your neighbors? Do you want property values to grow and the neighborhood to be attractive and safe? Do you want our two neighborhood parks to be clean, fun, safe places for family members to visit and enjoy? Do you want an information resource and accessible forum to ask questions, air concerns, and get answers about neighborhood issues that matter to you? Then support WHCCA!

Since 1991, the Whispering Heights/Collingwood Community Association has promoted community spirit, worked to improve neighborhood safety and emergency preparedness, and has been a watchdog for property values. Here are some of the things the all-volunteer WHCCA board does for you.

We are asking for your participation in several ways in this issue. Please come to the annual meeting, consider volunteering as a board member or event helper, and send in your annual dues for 2005 if you haven't yet done so.

Jon Smith, WHCCA President

ANNUAL MEETING NOV 8 (7PM)

Every year at this time we try to lure fellow neighbors from their favorite reality TV shows to the WHCCA annual meeting. This year you will have an opportunity to influence the programs of the WHCCA and experience the natural splendor of Lewis Creek Park after dark, in the new visitor center.

For a map of the location, go to www.whcca.org.

WHCCA SPONSORED ACTIVITIES:

- Sponsors annual neighborhood events (Spring cleanup Easter egg hunt, 4th of July bike parade, all-neighborhood garage sale, neighborhood picnic)
- Maintains the WHCCA.org website. Now hosted outside the region to provide a potential resource during a local emergency.
- Provides professional landscape maintenance of the neighborhood entrances and the ravine area on 46th Way
- Sponsors special projects such as mailbox shelter upgrade and refurbishment, bringing doggie pickup bags in our neighborhood parks, bridges over the creek in Lattawood forest trail
- Whispers newsletter, 4-5 issues hand-delivered to every home
- Coordination and maintenance of blockwatch programs
- Continued emergency planning, including testing and distribution of walkie-talkie network linked to local short-wave hub.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED!

Every year board members who have served for three consecutive years are required by our bylaws to step down, in order to keep the organization fresh and vibrant. Up to 12 board members are authorized, but the past year we have been limping along with only 8.

Now we need 6 new board members for 2006. If you can spare two hours a month for an evening board meeting and a few extra hours during the year to help with an event, please step forward! Come to the Annual Meeting (November 8th, see article on front page) to learn more and to sign up. If you can't make it to the meeting, you can still be a board member. Just contact any board member (see contact information elsewhere in this newsletter).

LAST CHANCE TO PAY DUES FOR 2005— PLEASE SEND IN YOUR CONTRIBUTION TODAY!

COMPLETE & MAIL this form with check payable to "WHCCA". Send to: Treasurer, PMB 342, 4957 Lakemont Blvd. SE, Bellevue WA 98006

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Dues enclosed \$ _____ (\$20 suggested) I am also enclosing an additional donation of \$ _____

I'd like to help on these neighborhood activities: ___ board of directors
___ Annual Picnic ___ Easter Egg Hunt ___ Newsletter editing or distribution
___ July 4th Bike Parade ___ Emergency Planning ___ City liaison
___ Block Watch ___ Garage Sale ___ Spring Clean-Up
___ Membership Drive ___ Other _____

So that we may realistically assess the role our website www.whcca.org can play in helping keep you informed, tell us: Do you have internet access at home? YES NO How often do you use the internet at home? DAILY WEEKLY OTHER

WHCCA BOARD 2005

Officers —

President: Jon Smith (and Michelle)
jonsmith@gmail.com
Tel. 425.945.0524
16200 SE 46th Way (Collingwood)
Years Service: 1 (Bike Parade)

Vice President: Wally Larson
bobstewlar@aol.com
Tel. 425.746.1757
4632 154th Pl. SE (Whispering Hts)
Years Service: 2+ (Garage Sale)

Secretaries: Mike & Cathy Halliday
halliday.m@comcast.net
cathy.myers@wwireless.com
Tel. 425.614.3520
4708 155th Pl. SE (Whispering Hts)
Years Service: 1

Treasurer: Will Hargreaves
willhargr@aol.com
Tel. 425.643.0549
15438 SE 47th St. (Whispering Hts)
Years Service: 3

Board Members —

Donald & Ingrid Durenberger
kingrid@earthlink.net
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15832 SE 47th Pl. (Whispering Hts)
Years Service: 1 (Egg Hunt)

Stephanie Hauge
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4629 164th Ave SE (Collingwood)
Years Service: 3 (Landscape Liaison)

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15812 SE 47th St. (Whispering Hts)
Years Service: 2

Laura Warren (& Bruce)
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Years Service: 1

Adjunct Functions —

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EXPANDED PICNIC IS A BIG SUCCESS

This year's neighborhood picnic at Lattwood Park broke new ground for the WHCCA. We brought in a complete picnic lunch (sandwiches, cake, ice cream, chips, sodas) and "bounce machine" for the kids. Of course there were the ever-popular 3-legged and sack races, with prizes for all participants.

Beautiful weather combined with a big crowd to produce a memorable afternoon. If you missed it, you will definitely want to come next year!



NEWSLETTER EDITOR CHANGE

After four years as the creative and professional editor of our Whispers neighborhood newsletter, Kim Cooney has decided to hang them up, pass the baton, turn over a new leaf... Whatever you want to call it, Kim, we appreciate your many contributions to building a sense of community through the medium of print! The Board thanks Kim Cooney for his work on 18 newsletters beginning in late 2001, building on the strong, consistent record of previous editor Lin Sanford.



Kim Cooney reports that he is resigning in order to focus his volunteer activities as media affairs specialist for his Eastside church. He also hopes to have more time for performances as a lyric tenor, doing solo work for worship services and memorials, as well as patriotic and Irish observances.

You can also help maintain and improve our quality of life and property values by participating in WHCCA-sponsored events, and by serving on our board of directors.

As the new editor, I will try to live up to the professional standards set by Kim and his predecessors. Of course you readers can help me by suggesting or actually providing articles for future newsletters.

Will Hargreaves, Editor
willhargr@aol.com

DUES STATUS--LAST CHANCE FOR 2005

Each year we ask that every household donates \$20 to support WHCCA activities. Many of you have already contributed (see below), but for those of you who have not, please send a check today. You can cut off the form at the bottom of the back page, or print the form on the web site (<http://www.whcca.org./dues.shtml>).

THANK YOU FOR PAYING YOUR 2005 DUES!

A Abler, Larry & Pat Abolrous, Sam & Camelia Solomon Acosta, Maria & Brett Schwarz Ahrens, Doug & Linda Akahisa, Andy & Eishin Akamine, Jack & Helen Anderson, Lorraine & Arthur B Barth, Web & Tina Becker, Jane & Irv Beierlorzer, Ed & Ona Bellinger, Ned & Gale Ben-David, Ilan & Nourith Bennett, Lowry & Dorothy Benson, Tom & Kathy Berry, Richard & Sandra Blaisdell, Robert & Charlene Blatt, Zanetta Bonnema/Daley, Nancy & Michael Boyd, Steve & Sheila Bradshaw, Kirk & Cari Brewer, Don & Judy Brickman, Larry & D Brown, Gale Brown, Julian & Julie Brunette, Sally & Andrew Bryan, Patrick & Gayle Burke/Stuckey, Pat & Carol *Burns, Emma & Mike Butterworth, Stephen & Angela C Campbell, Neil & Loree *Carr, Alan Cash, Rob & Michelle Chace, William & Katherine Chappell, William Chin, Kevin & Linda Chong, Jessie Christ, Steve Claeys, Paul & Janice Claypool, James & Frances Coats, Bill & Carol Cooney, Kim Czarney/Romanchuk, Ron & Wendy D Daem, Donna Davenport, Frank & Yvonne *Davis, Paul & Phyllis *Dawson Joe & Bev Durenberger, Donald & Ingrid E Economus, John *Epstein, Robert & Karen Eriksen, Peter Eskenzi, Martin & Madeleine F *Fetsch, Larry & Alice Fleck, Dennis & Jan Forrest, Cameron & Carlyn Freeman, Julie & Doug Funcke, Craig & Donna	G Gallant, Roger & Helen *Garrett, Durward & Anne Gianni, Monica *Graham, Daina & Malcolm Graham, Rick & Therese Arends *Grantham, Al & Pearle Griner, Janice & Dan Griswold, Patricia H Haas, Brian & Amy Hall, Merle Halliday, Mike & Cathy Halling, John & Caroline Hanks, John *Harbaugh, Jeff & Angie Harding, Brent & Cindy Hargreaves, Will & Karen Harper, Rebelanne Hart, Bill & Carol *Hauge, Patrick & Stephanie Havens, Walter & Kathleen *Henn, Gary Henn, Kris & John Henson, Walter Holding, Boyd & Cheryl Hollenbeck, Rod & Margo Holmen, Reidar & Polly Houglund, Randy & Bernadette McLain Huang, Jenn-Ming & Shu-Ing I Ishida, Yoichi & Saachiko Iwamura, Hiroo & Nobuko J Jacobs, Cynthia Jacroux, Brenda & Richard *Joelker Rod & Tenda Johnson, Jeff & Lorie Johnson, Wayne & Carol Johnson, Mark *Johnston/Sellen, JJ & Patt K Kallenberg, Ruth Kao, Hung-Yen & Shiu-Mei Kessler, Randy & Jennifer Kestyus, Mary Ann *Kircher, Cathy Koo, Ja-Il & Wha Rim Kuhlmann, Andreas & Edda L Larson, Wally & Bobbie *Lee, Janet & Steven Lee, John & Liz *Lee, Young Hana *Lee, Dick & Dianne Liao, Mike & Nanyan Jiang Lin, Yun & Difei Yang Lindstadt, Greg & Dana Brudie Liou, Yong & Esther Liukkonen, Ray & Janis Louisell, David & Judy *Lowenson, Minna & Jeffrey Luo, Charlie & Mei-June	M Ma, Qinglin Mainella, Frank & Pat *Margineantu, Drago, Daciana & Maria Marten, Ann Maruchek, Michael & Wendy Mathews, Lafayette Mattox, Mary & Kevin Densmore McBeth, James & Patricia *McCauley, Richard & Anne McCrone, Heather & Lawrence McDonald, Doug & Judy McEachran, James & Nancy Mezs, Paul & Julianne Michelman, Irwin & Iryna *Migliore, Mark & Tamzin Anderson Milton, Larry & Carol Ann Minch, Peter & Leslie Mix, Carole Molenda, Jim & Carrie Jane *Monwai, Peter & Marian *Mullen, Charles & Carol Wilson Myers, Eric & Linda N Nieman, Stella Niiyama, Craig & Chisaki O *O'Conner, Jim & Viki Olsen, Erik & Amy O'Neill, Dan & Joanne *O'Neill, Dennis Ong, Tin-Fook & Daphne Ono, Louise Osborn, Carolyn & Howard Ota, Shinji & Miyuki P Parazyński, Ed & Linda *Patterson, Allen *Peery, Allen & Suzanne Peterson, Annie *Pfau, Patricia Phillips, Jim & Laurie *Plewa, Ken & Lynne Boeger Poleschuk, Marilyn Ilya Pollard, Desiree & Terrence R Radtke, Kenneth Ralph, David & Margaret Rands, Gary & Marilyn Rausch, Tim & Trish *Reeves, Richard & Setsuko Rehrl, Friedrich & Joan Reines, Steve & Susan Rhinehart, Bill & Beth *Richards, Byron & Diane Rodan, Brian & Cheryl Zakrzewski Rosas, Maria & Pablo Setuain Rosenthal, Al & Wafa	S *Sanford, Steve & Lin *Schaff, Duane & Marty Scheidegger, Grace & Ralph Schwisow, Jack & Rhonda *Sekijima, John & Celia Senio, Paul *Shertz, Bill & Pat Shimada, Vickie & Jon Shonyo, Harold & Margaret Shoshitaishvili, Igor & Irina Margulis Skordal, Dick & Gigi *Smaaladen, Landis & Pat Smart, Bette *Smith, Jon & Michelle Smith, Lisa & Matt Sorensen, Robert & Linda Su, Tsu-Yi & Tsean-shu *Swaisgood, Dick & Jan Swindler, Fred & Shirley T Taherzadeh, Jim & Trang Tellefson Corinna L Templeman, Sharon Thompson, John & Diane Thompson, John & Diane Tien, Liang Tinney, Edward & Cara Sugihara Tobin, Jim & Vicky *Townsend, Rebecca & Nate *Tsang, Michael & Lisa Turner, George & Lieberta Tuskes, Kenneth U, V Underwood, Powell & Joane Viafore, Ken & Cara *Vlasuk, Susan W Wada, Yahuhiro & Harumi Warren, Bruce & Laura Watanabe, Kaz & Mary Waters, William & Carol Wheat, Yvonne & Max Whiteley, John & Jane *Woltz, Diane Wood, Laura & David Wynne, Roger & Molly X, Y Xia, Yiping & Hua Liu *Yamamura, Lilly & Ted Yamane, Susie & Jeff Yasuno, Joe & Sachiko Yee, Sam & Dorina Yip, Doug & Carli Yu, Jason & Soon Hwa Yu Yurkanin, John & Julie
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* indicates those who contributed more than the requested amount of \$20. Thanks!