



Whispers

WHISPERING HEIGHTS /

COLLINGWOOD

APRIL, 2006 VOLUME 15, ISSUE 1

WWW.WHCCA.ORG

4957 LAKEMONT BLVD SE, PMB 342, BELLEVUE WA 98006

Inside this issue:

<i>Upcoming events</i>	1
<i>Emergency preparedness</i>	2
<i>Locking mailboxes</i>	2
<i>Appearances count!</i>	3
<i>Kudos for job well done</i>	3
<i>Board of directors news</i>	4
<i>Membership & dues</i>	4

Another year, a new look...

In changing editors, software, and printing methods, we have taken the opportunity to change the look and organization of the *Whispers* Newsletter. If you like it, terrific. If not, please let us know your suggestions for improving it! And as always, your suggested topics or submitted articles are always welcome.

Why 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 protecting your property values.

(Continued on page 2)

Upcoming Events!

Easter Egg Hunt, April 15 (Sat, 11am)

Our annual Easter egg hunt for kids will take place at Lattawood Park. This ever-popular event is managed again in 2006 by board member Ingrid Durenberger.

A huge number of plastic eggs, painstakingly loaded with candy by Ingrid and other WHCCA volunteers, will be hidden by volunteers earlier on Saturday morning.

Last year was a little drizzly but everyone still had lots of fun. So come to the park rain or shine!

Note: Photos from the 2005 "hunt" are online at http://www.whcca.org/easter_egg_hunt_2005.shtm).

Spring Clean-up, April 22nd (Sat, 9am-Noon)

This year's all-neighborhood Spring Clean-up event is again managed by Michelle and Rob Cash, recently-retired WHCCA board members. All residents big enough to pull a weed are called upon to help "spiff-up" the neighborhood. It is a great way to meet your neighbors and have some fun!

The traveling 'Goody Wagon' will provide hot and cold beverages and Krispy Kreme doughnuts to all the dedicated workers at each of the sites. Thanks to Starbucks for their continuing support.

The Clean-up will be held rain or shine, so weather is not an excuse! Wear your best work clothes, bring your yard tools, wheelbarrows and pray for sunshine.

Contact Rob or Michelle Cash at (425) 401-8517 to volunteer or for a complete list of clean-up locations. If leaving a message, please be sure to leave your name and phone number.

Arbor Day/Earth Day Celebration, April 22nd (Sat, 10am-2pm)

After Spring Clean-up, please join volunteers from around the city for an Arbor Day/Earth Day Community Celebration at the beautiful new Lewis Creek Park on Lakemont Blvd, across from the fire station.

This event is sponsored by the City of Bellevue to recognize all Spring Clean-Up volunteers throughout the community.

- Free nature art and craft activities, 10:00am-3:00pm
- Musical entertainment, 11:00am
- Environmental displays and information, 10:00am-3:00pm
- Volunteer and Poster Art Contest recognition ceremony, 12:30pm-1:00pm
- Refreshments provided by

Emergency preparedness: electrical emergencies

Periodically we provide information to promote preparedness for a natural or man-caused disaster. Your WHCCA board co-ordinates a blockwatch program and participates in developing emergency communication and response systems which will be valuable in the event of an earthquake, volcanic eruption, or terrorist attack.

The **Eastside Amateur Radio Support (EARS)** recently hosted a presentation from Puget Sound Energy on electricity and natural gas emergencies. The following information comes from that presentation, and from the PSE web site (<http://www.pse.com>).

Electricity safety backgrounder

In electrical injuries, both "amps" (volume of electrical current flowing through the body) or voltage (the "pressure" trying to making the current flow) can cause injury, depending on the situation. Electricity will always follow the path of least resistance, and since water is very conductive, and since our bodies are made up of

75% water, bodies are inherently very conductive. Our bodies can handle small amounts of electricity since our heart and brain functions normally use very low-current, low-voltage electrical impulses.

However, when our bodies receive too much electricity, it causes harm. While a typical circuit breaker in your house can handle up to 15 Amps before it shuts off to prevent fire or melted wires, it only takes 20 milliamps (0.020 amp) to cause muscle contractions, 30-50 milliamps to cause respiratory arrest and 80-100 milliamps to cause cardiac arrest. In addition, high voltage shocks can cause serious burns.

Downed Power Lines and Car Accidents Involving Power Poles

If you come across a downed line, assume it is energized and keep as far away from it as you can. If a power line falls on your car while you are driving, slowly continue on to move completely clear of it (but do not drive over it). If

your car is immobilized, stay in it until help arrives.

If the downed line causes a car fire, escape the vehicle by jumping clear of the car with both feet together. Be sure not to touch metal and the ground at the same time. Keep your arms crossed over your chest while you jump. Once you land on the ground with both feet together, quickly shuffle/hop away from the car. Do not walk or separate your feet as you move away from the vehicle.

If you find someone in contact with a live power line, stay clear and call 911 for medical treatment immediately. Do not touch the victim or try to move the wire until the power is disconnected, then apply appropriate first aid. (e.g. mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

Next issue: natural gas emergencies

Locking mailboxes

As you are all probably aware, the WHCCA has spent the past several years upgrading and standardizing with green traditional mail boxes and wooden, gray-stained shelters in the neighborhood. However, mail theft continues to be an occasional problem in our neighborhood and several residents have installed, or have inquired about installing locking mailboxes.

In a previous *Whispers* we described an "approved" locking mailbox which can be fitted four-wide on our standard mailbox shelters and which can be purchased at a discount arranged for by the WHCCA. This is the "Pinnacle" black locking mailbox, \$115 including freight when ordered direct from the manufacturer, Davis Tool in Hillsboro OR. To order, call 877-968-4827. Ask for Julia at ext 550 and specify

order code D15 for the discounted WHCCA price.

Last year the board received a grant (\$3000) from the city which will reimburse half the costs incurred in completing our "mail box shelter refurbishment" program. It was not originally intended to cover the cost of the replacement mailboxes themselves. While most of the mailbox shelter refurbishment program has been completed already, using volunteer labor with minimal material costs, it was envisioned that the grant would be used primarily to hire a handyman to finish the few remaining mailbox shelters. To date the grant has not been used.

At a recent meeting the board discussed whether the grant could be used for partial reimbursement of the cost of buying locking mailboxes. This idea was rejected, at least for now, because it was felt the grant would be rapidly used up and was not originally intended for this purpose. However, this will be a continuing topic of discussion at future board meetings. If you have an opinion on this matter, let us know!

What WHCCA does for you (continued from page 1)

Here are some of the things the all-volunteer WHCCA board has done for you:

- Easter egg hunt at Lattawood Park,
- Spring cleanup of neighborhood commons
- 4th of July bike parade and picnic
- Neighborhood garage sale
- Neighborhood picnic at Lattawood Park
- WHCCA.org website
- Landscape maintenance of neighborhood entrances and the ravine area on 46th Way
- Mailbox shelter upgrade and refurbishment program
- 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
- Emergency planning & creation of a walkie-talkie/shortwave radio network

Appearances count!

Let's spruce up the neighborhood!

Spring is here and it is time to recover from the damp and dark days of Winter. This note is just a friendly reminder that it benefits all residents to have the neighborhood in an orderly, neat, and sparkling condition!!

In addition to common sense, the City of Bellevue Codes and our WHCCA Covenants, Conditions, & Restrictions both state that...

All garbage, recycle and yard waste containers should be put out the night before, or early on, your scheduled collec-

tion day. At other times containers should be placed in your garage or behind your fence and should not be visible from the street. It is not OK to leave containers at the curbside or in your driveway days on end.

Automobiles may not be parked in the street for more that 24 hours. No trailers, boats, house trailers, campers, or other vehicles shall be stored or permitted to remain on a lot unless it is stored or place in a garage or other screened area. No derelict vehicles, vehicles on blocks, nor piles of debris shall be left

upon driveways or yards.

And of course all the neighbors will welcome neatly trimmed lawns, trees, and flower beds. There is no limit to the number of attractive seasonal flowers one might plant...bulbs in the spring, roses for summer, dahlias and chrysanthemums for later.

And finally a note to renters: You are an important part of the neighborhood, so please help keep it a place to be proud of!

— Wally Larson, WHCCA President

Kudos for a job well done

Some homes just stand out when you walk or drive through the neighborhood. Recently we asked block watch captains to solicit recommendations for homes that were especially well cared for and nicely landscaped. After editorial review, we have posted a few here. However, there are many others equally deserving, and we plan to highlight many more in the future.

If you would like to recommend a home to be highlighted in this way, please contact the editor (see back page).



15338 SE 46th Way



4663 161st Avenue SE



15429 SE 47th Street

2006 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers —

President: Wally Larson
bobstewlar@aol.com, 425-746-1757,
4632 154th Place SE

Vice President: Jon & Michelle Smith-
Jonlsmith@gmail.com, 425-945-0524,
16200 SE 46th Way

Secretaries: Mike & Cathy Halliday, halli-
day.m@comcast.net, cphalli-
day@comcast.net, 425-614-3520, 4708
155th Place SE.

Treasurer: Bob Blaisdell, rgblais-
dell@att.net, 425-746-3346, 15911 SE
47th Court.

Board Members at large —

Donald & Ingrid Durenberger, kin-
grid@earthlink.net, 425-603-1802, 15832
SE 47th Place.

Richard Reeves,
ole_bull41@hotmail.com, 425-747-0318,
15812 SE 47th Street.

Laura & Bruce Warren, gypsy-
girl6@hotmail.com, 206-388-3191, 4631
161st Avenue SE .

Scott & Danielle Winter, Dswin-
ter66@msn.com, 425-746-3346, 15723
SE 46th Way

Mark and Sharon Dafforde, Mdaf-
forde@yahoo.com, 425-641-3478, 4685
150th Place SE

New board members

Several board changes have occurred in 2006 including the addition of three new board members. More information about your new board members will be in the next issue of Whispers.

Bob Blaisdell, long-time community member and volunteer, joined the board in January and agreed to take over the Treasurer's duties from Will Hargreaves, who recently added Newsletter editor to his previous WHCCA webmaster duties.

Scott and Danielle Winter joined the board in March and will be helping with newsletter editing among other things.

Mark and Sharon Dafforde also joined the board in March and will initially help with the web site.

Retiring board members: Stephanie Hauge's valued and cheery presence will be missed as she retires from the board to spend more time with family, job, running triathlons...(whew!). Thank you for all you did for the board and the neighborhood!

While Will Hargreaves is officially retiring after 3 years of active board duty, he is staying involved as webmaster and newsletter editor (and as trainer of future web and newsletter editors!).

WHCCA ADJUNCT FUNCTIONS

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

Emergency planning, blockwatch:
Wally Larson, bobstewlar@aol.com,
425-746-1857

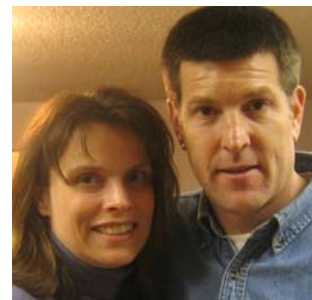
Resident list: Steve Sanford,
steve.sanford@comcast.net, 425-
649-9042

Spring cleanup: Rob & Michelle
Cash, m.cash@comcast.net, 425-
401-8517

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

Whispers distribution: Lin San-
dord, lins@johnlscott.com, 425-
649-9042

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



New board members Danielle & Scott Winter

Newsletter production

In past years the board has purchased the 500+ copies of each newsletter issue at a cost of ~\$200 per issue. This year your newsletter copies, including occasional color pages, are being donated by the editor's Bothell company, Kinesis Corporation (www.kinesis.com).



Please send your dues 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 ADDRESS FOR OCCASIONAL WHCCA MAIL _____ (NOT SHARED OUTSIDE WHCCA)

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

I'd like to help on these neighborhood activities: WHCCA 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 interest/expertise (please describe) _____

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