



Whispers

WHISPERING HEIGHTS / COLLINGWOOD

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

JUNE, 2006 VOLUME 15, ISSUE 2

WWW.WHCCA.ORG

4957 LAKEMONT BLVD SE, PMB 342, BELLEVUE WA 98006

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The year of the Coyote...

Most of you are probably already aware from local news stories that there have been several unusual coyote encounters and problems in South Bellevue this year. However, you may not be aware that "our" ravine on 46th Way meanders down the hill past Eastgate ele-

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New feature: Rants and Raves!

On page 2 this month is the first edition of a new column entitled "Rants and Raves: compliments and complaints from the hood." Written anonymously by "one of our own," this new column should provide a little light entertainment, insights into the fabric of life in the neighborhood, and gentle reminders of things that might need a little improvement.

Will Hargreaves, editor

Upcoming Events!

For more information, go to www.whcca.org

"Coyote workshop," June 14th, 7-8pm.

This workshop is actually entitled "Living with Wildlife." The second to be hosted by the city, it will be held at the Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station, 15416 SE 16th Street.

It is a great opportunity to learn more about dealing with coyotes, bears, raccoons, and even the occasional cougar that may venture into our neighborhood (see article on page 3).

Garage Sale, June 17 (Saturday, 9am-3pm)

The entire Whispering Heights/Collingwood neighborhood can take advantage of ads placed in the daily papers a few days in advance. This

is your chance to turn that garage-stuffing junk into someone else's jewel.

Garage sale aficionados city-wide look for this event each year. If you would like the visibility of having your address on printed maps of participants which will be available at the entrances (and a free balloon tied to your driveway coffee table), register by June 15th with Wally Larson (phone: 425-746-1757 or e-mail bobstewlar@aol. will also

(P.S. Anyone interested in helping with balloon delivery, contact Wally now !!)

Fourth of July Kids' Parade and picnic, July 4th (Tuesday, 11am-1pm)

This popular event will again feature last year's innovation: a picnic lunch, complete with sandwiches, beverages and dessert following the

"parade of bikes."

As usual, the City of Bellevue will provide the fire truck and your job is to provide the kids of all ages, plus bikes, scooters (non-motorized, please), tricycles, and baby strollers for a brief parade around the neighborhood. Contact Jon & Michelle Smith 425-945-0524 to volunteer to help with setup.

All-neighborhood Picnic, August 19th (Saturday, 11am-3pm)

Last year was our first with free food, beverages and kids' entertainment at the annual neighborhood picnic. It was a great success. Plan on joining us again this year at Lattawood Park on August 19th.

Rants and raves! Selected compliments and complaints from the 'hood

By Howdy Neighbor

I just love the work the clean up crew did back in April! thanks for planting all those lovely ferns.

R.J., Whispering Heights

Although manure is great for gardens, I don't think the dog stuff counts. I wish my neighbor would pick up after his four-legged friend!

S.P., Collingwood

Thanks for a great Easter Egg hunt! What a great way to meet neighbors. It was excellent!

New Mom and neighbor

I am new to the neighborhood and want to thank the kind neighbor who helped me take my garbage cans

around back. I was struggling getting them up the driveway and this nice young man stopped, got out of his car, and helped me place them to the side of the house – what a great neighborhood.

New resident

Thank you for the Easter candy! It was fun finding the eggs and my mom says "Thanks for cleaning up the dog poop!" before we started the egg hunt.

Jimmy G, age 4

Editor's comment: Hopefully leading up to next year's egg hunt, dog owners will watch their little canine buddies more carefully while they play in

the park, so other neighbors won't have to undertake this unpleasant task!

I love the flowers and plants in the entrance way into our homes, I just wish someone would not decorate using Budweiser cans.

Neighborhood flower lover

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 (at least those which don't get censored!) in the next Whispers.*

Emergency preparedness: Natural gas emergencies

Periodically we provide information to promote preparedness for a natural or man-caused disaster. Your WHCCA board coordinates 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.

You can find more detailed information for gas and electrical safety and emergencies at Puget Sound Energy's (PSE) web site, <http://www.pse.com>.

Natural gas backgrounder

Natural gas (methane, CH₄) is odorless, colorless, non-toxic and has no taste in its natural state. To make it easy to detect even the smallest leak, a chemical which is harmless but easily detected at very low concentrations (mercaptan, which smells like rotten eggs) is added. Natural gas is 40% lighter than air so if it isn't contained, it rises and dissipates. Methane can

burn with only 40,000 parts per million (4%) concentration in air. However, the mercaptan additive is detectable at only 1 part per million of air, long before a gas leak reaches a combustible concentration.

Natural gas is delivered to our houses by way of polyethylene or steel pipes in the ground, buried at least 18 inches. For safety's sake when you dig, even if you only plan to go 12 inches deep, you are asked to call PSE first to check the location of gas pipes. (PSE is at 800-424-5555).

Natural gas emergencies

In case of an earthquake or digging accident, everyone in your family should know where your gas meter is and how to turn off the gas. Most meters are at the front or side of the house. After an earthquake, check all

gas appliances and the meter— if you don't smell or hear gas escaping from appliances or from the meter, you probably don't need to shut off gas service.

If an appliance is leaking, there should be a shut-off valve within easy reach. If you smell or hear gas at the meter, locate the meter shut-off valve and use a long-handled wrench to give the valve one-quarter turn in either direction so that the lever is crosswise to the pipe. Wise homeowners keep a simple meter wrench hanging near the shutoff so they don't have to look for it in an emergency.

Once the gas is off, leave it off. Contact Puget Sound Energy to relight appliances.

Appearances count

This isn't the first (or last!) *Whispers* article about the upkeep of yards and homes. A messy or run down appearance affects not only the value of that property, but can significantly reduce the value of neighboring homes as well. Of course most everyone would agree that a suburban yard looks nicer with flowers and a trimmed, green lawn than with peeling paint and tall weeds. On the other hand, people differ in their tastes and standards for maintenance.

The minimum standard of care is defined in both Bellevue city codes, and

in your "Declaration of Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions and Easements" (CC&R's). The latter was included in your closing paperwork when you bought your house. The former was recently highlighted in "*It's Your City*" which is distributed to all Bellevue households. This issue contains phone numbers and addresses for telephone, fax, and e-mail contacts regarding City Code issues, and additional copies may be obtained at the Service First desk at the entrance of the new City Hall.

While each the many subdivisions in Whispering Heights and Collingwood has its own specific CC&Rs, they are

all similar to each other. One example is posted on the whcca.org website.

BOD members have received comments regarding apparent violations of one or both of City Code or WHCC CC&R's, Probably the most common is garbage, recycle, and yard waste bins visible from street. We also hear about vehicles or boats parked on lawns or side yards. Unkempt lawns, and overgrown weeds are also high on the list.

Please work together with your neighbors to maintain our property values and keep the neighborhood pleasant and attractive

Living with wildlife (or please don't feed the critters!)



(Continued from page 1)

mentary school, where a child was bitten recently. Then the ravine continues down to I-90, near where the first coyote was shot.

In the uphill direction, our ravine eventually connects with the wild areas of nearby Cougar Mountain. This "freeway" connects our neighborhood with wild areas and makes it attractive to wild critters looking for food.

Coyote encounters in our neighborhood

This Spring, numerous encounters between coyotes and people or dogs have been documented in our neighborhood. For example, three (probably young) coyotes surrounded two medium-sized dogs in Lattawood Park while the dogs' owners stood nearby. On a different day, another dog walking off-leash with its owner through the park's wooded trail was chased home by a coyote. Again on a different day and several blocks

away, a man felt a tug on his pants leg as he stood on his deck late one evening. Looking down, he found a coyote at his feet, perhaps begging for food.

Workshop June 14

Because of the recent problems, a workshop on the topic of "living with wildlife" has been scheduled by the city (see page 1). Wildlife officials say coyotes are intelligent and highly adaptable animals, but the animals are typically timid and will run away if challenged by a human.

Nevertheless, if a coyote approaches closely, people should immediately pick up small children and act aggressively toward the animal by waving their arms, throwing stones and yelling. The idea is to convince the coyote that you are not prey, but a potential danger.

You may report wildlife problems to state wildlife officers at (425)775-1311. For emergencies, dial 911.

Easter egg hunt was 'eggcellent'

The 2006 WHCCA Egg hunt was a big success, thanks to lots of generous assistance from WHCCA board members and neighborhood volunteers.

1200 plastic eggs were filled and hidden at Lattawood park on the day before Easter (April 15). The weather cooperated and a large, eager group of egg hunters from tots through teens, gathered for the festivities. In several minutes the park was scoured clean of (almost) every hidden egg and fun was had by everyone.

To volunteer to help with next year's hunt, please contact board member Ingrid Durenberger.

Spring cleanup rocked (raked?)

Thanks to Michelle and Rob Cash, the organizers, and to all the volunteers who donated their Saturday morning on April 22 to help rake up, pick up, weed, plant, and get re-acquainted with those neighbors around the corner who they hadn't seen since the last Spring cleanup!

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
halliday.m@comcast.net,
cphalliday@comcast.net, 425-614-3520,
4708 155th Place SE.

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

Board Members at large —

Donald & Ingrid Durenberger
kingrid@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
gypsygirl6@hotmail.com, 206-388-3191,
4631 161st Avenue SE .

Scott & Danielle Winter
Dswinter66@msn.com, 425-746-3346,
15723 SE 46th Way

Mark and Sharon Afforde
Mdafforde@yahoo.com, 425-641-3478,
4685 150th Place SE

New board members

Bob Blaisdell joined the WHCCA board in January after learning more about the organization at the 2005 annual meeting. With his extensive experience as treasurer in other non-profit organizations, the board is pleased to have him serving as treasurer for the WHCCA.



Bob & Charlene Blaisdell

By way of introducing himself and his wife to *Whispers* readers, Bob reports, "We have lived here since 1976. We are retired but very active in our church and the community, city, and world about us."

Editor's note: Bob has also helped deliver your Whispers newsletter for many years!

Mark and Sharon Afforde joined the WHCCA board in March. They moved here from Chicago 9 years ago. Mark works at Boeing as a computer engineer while Sharon is an executive recruiter for the insurance industry.



Mark & Sharon Afforde

Mark is also a board member of the Bellevue Philharmonic Orchestra – great music close to home! They both enjoy incredibly spicy food and love living in Whispering Heights.

WHCCA ADJUNCT FUNCTIONS

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

Emergency planning, block-watch: 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,
willhargr@aol.com, 425-643-0549

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

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

Corrections

In the last *Whispers*, new board members Mark and Sharon Afforde were incorrectly listed as "Dafforde." Lin Sanford's email was mistyped. . The correct email is Lins@johnlscott.com.

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 2006 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