



Whispers

WHISPERING HEIGHTS / COLLINGWOOD

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

August, 2007 VOLUME 16, ISSUE 3

WWW.WHCCA.ORG

4957 LAKEMONT BLVD SE, PMB 342, BELLEVUE WA 98006

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Entrance Island Landscaping Project

Jon Smith, WHCCA President, met recently with Michael Hauer, the new Bellevue city contact for the WHCCA entrance upgrade project. (mhauer@bellevue.wa.gov, 425-864-1650). Scott Zeidick from the traffic department also attended. They both looked at the sites to verify that our plan will work from a right-of-way perspective.

(Continued on page 3, Entrance landscaping...)

Vote Now for Neighborhood Enhancement (NEP)!

Hopefully you will receive this newsletter in time to mail your ballot before the August 10th deadline. If you have not done so yet, please vote and mail in your NEP ballot! The projects which most directly affect our neighborhood are described on page 4. If you have any questions on any of these projects, contact the person listed with each project.

(Continued on page 4, NEP VOTE)

The Hot Sheet! *For more information, go to www.whcca.org*

Annual all-neighbors picnic (Saturday), Aug 18th, noon-3pm

The Annual Picnic will be held again at Lattawood Park on Saturday, Aug 18 from noon to 3pm with food and fun for the entire family!

WHCCA will provide sandwiches, soft drinks, chips and ice cream. We'll also have a "bounce house" for the kids and some good 'ole fashioned picnic games. Come visit with your neighbors and make new friends too.

Annual meeting for WHCCA Nov 13th (Tues), 7pm.

It is still a ways in the future, but it isn't too early to mark your calendar for this meeting. This is a great opportunity to learn about and influence the activities of the neighborhood association. As in recent years, it will be held at the community center in beautiful Lewis Creek Park.

Review of the July 4th bike parade and picnic.

This year's event was another big success! It started with dressing up the bikes, using decorations and hand stamps provided by WHCCA. The fire engine arrived at 11:00 to lead the parade through the neighborhood. Afterwards, sandwiches, chips, drinks and ice cream were provided in Collingwood Park.

This was another great opportunity for neighbors to get to know one another. Again this year, the fire fighters were able to stay for the duration of the picnic to answer questions.

Babysitting co-op

Are you interested in free babysitting by experienced moms in your neighborhood? Do you need occasional childcare during the day, evening, or on weekends by someone reliable and close by?

Then you should join the Eastside Babysitting Co-op, serving Whispering Heights, Collingwood, and neighbors from Sky Mountain to Somerset. No money changes hands. Your children are supervised by an experienced mom in either your home or hers. You pay back hours by accepting sittings for other co-op members at your convenience.

Sits are arranged through the co-op secretary so you don't have to call around to find a sitter. It's an easy, safe form of childcare, and a great way to meet neighbors and playmates.

The co-op serves families with children of all ages, including infants and twins, and has been in existence since the 1960's. A criminal background check is required for all co-op members, and there is a small one-time joining fee.

For more information, call Julie Brown, Co-op President, at 425-373-0271.

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

Girl Scout good deed

Thanks are due to neighborhood Girl Scouts Fiona and Belinda, who simply decided all by themselves to do an impromptu clean up of the SE 47th Street trail in the Heights a few weekends ago. The grass and gravel trail leads to a popular school bus stop.

The girls spent several hours and weeded a whole trash bag full of dandelions (which went into yard waste) for no reason other than it was a nice day and they wanted to do something nice for the neighborhood.

Surprised Mom...

Late night park users

This time of year seems to attract a special type of wildlife to our neighborhood park—the late night party animals. In addition to interrupting the sleep of neighbors who dare to go to bed by 10 or 11pm, these critters often fill the garbage can in the parking lot (the good news is they *do* try to use the garbage can!). Unfortunately, overflowing garbage leaves a big mess in the parking lot, especially on weekend mornings.

Happily, our responsive city parks department has started emptying the park garbage on Fridays to be sure there is plenty of

room for these revelers, as well as for other park users.

Tired of park garbage...

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.

Yours truly, Howdy Neighbor

Thanks for paying your dues... So far this year, 194 neighbors (out of 500+ homes) have contributed \$6367 in voluntary dues to support WHCCA activities and neighborhood enhancements. If you have paid, thank you for your support, and if you haven't, please consider using the form on the back of the newsletter to contribute today!

Abler, Larry & Pat

*Acosta, Maria & Brett Schwarz

*Afforde, Mark & Sharon

Ahrens, Doug & Linda

*Akamine, Dr. Jack & Helen

Anderson, Mark & Tamzin

Ankarberg, C.D.

Anthony, Kevin & Karen

Audycki, Katherine & William

Barnett, Paul & Kathleen Osler

Barth, Webs & Tina

Bennett, Lowry & Dorothy

Benson, Tom & Kathy

Berry, Richard & Sandra

*Bigley, Raymond & Nancy Gigante

*Blaisdell, Robert & Charlene

Boldo, Dan & Tal

Boyd, Steven, Sheila

Bradshaw, Kirk & Cari

Brickman, Larry & Donna

*Brown, Gayle

Brown, Julian & Julie

Brumley, Greg & Lisa

Brunette, Sally & Andrew

*Bryan, Patrick & Gayle

Burke/Stuckey, Pat & Carol

Butterworth, Stephen & Angela

Cacchione, Fred & Josephine

Campbell, Neil & Loree

Cash, Rob & Michelle

Chao, Richard HC & Ya-Hui

Yang

Chappell, William & Catherine

Falanga

*Chen, Bin & Lu Yi

Chien, Yau-Ming & Diane

Christ, Steve

Christiansen, Shannon

Claeys, Paul & Janice

Claypool, James & Frances

Cozart, Steve & Elaine

Cruz, Mernilo & Lorenza

Davenport, Frank & Yvonne

*Davis, Paul & Phyllis

Durenberger, Donald & Ingrid

Egaas, Dave & Lorrie

*Eng, Peter & Margaret Li

Epstein, Robert & Karen

*Eskenazi, Martin & Madeleine

Balgley

Fleck, Dennis & Jan

Forrest, Cameron & Carlyn

Fukuchi, Saeko & Kii

Funcke, Craig & Donna

Fusaro, Aldo & Karen

Garrett, Durward & Anne

Gianni, Monica

*Graham, Daina & Malcolm

Graham, Rick & Therese

Arends

Grantham, Capt A.D. & Pearle

Griswold, Patricia

Haas, Brian & Amy

Haberman, DDS, James &

Helen

Halliday, Mike & Cathy

Halling, John & Caroline

Hanks, John & Betty

Hargreaves, Will & Karen

Havok, Reek

Henn, Kristin & John

*Henn, Gary

Henson, Walter

Holding, Boyd & Cheryl

Hollenbeck, Rod & Margo

Holmen, Reidar & Polly

Huang, Jason & Xucheng

Huang, Jenn-Ming & Shu-Ing

Ishida, Yoichi & Saachiko

Iwamura, Hiroo & Nobuko

Jacobs, Cynthia

Johnson, Jeff & Lorie Dankers

Johnson, Wayne & Carol

*Johnson, Mark & Giulia

*Johnston, JJ, & Patt Sellen

Kacholia, Kalpana & Praful

*Kannapel, Tim & Jennifer

Kao, Hung-Yen & Shiu-Mei

Kawaoka, Susan & Milton

Kestyus, Mary Ann & Lyndon

Kiefer, Jeremy & Kerri

Knudsen, Peter & Laura

Knudtsen, Jack & Julia

Koshiyama, Paul & Martha

Kuhlmann, Andreas & Edda

Kwan, Steve & Jasmine

Larson, Wally & Bobbie

Leavitt, Alex & Esther

*Lee, Dick & Dianne

*Lee, Janet & Steven

Lee, John Jr. & Liz

Lee, Young & Hana

*Lew, Gregory

Lin, Yun & Difei Yang

Lindsey, Gretchan & Kyle

Lindstadt, Greg & Dana Brudie

Liou, Yong & Esther

*Louisell, David & Judy

*Lowenson, Minna & Jeffrey

Mainella, Frank & Pat

Marten, Ann

*Martin, Jeff & Donna

Mason, Richard & Karen

Mathews, Lafayette

Mattox, Mary & Kevin

Densmore

*McCauley, Richard & Anne

McClure, Rev Robert & Farel

McDonald, Doug & Judy

McEachran, Robb & Rebecca

*McEachran, James & Nancy

Michelman, Irwin & Iryna

Milton, Larry & Carol Ann

Minch, Peter & Leslie

Mix, Carole

Monwai, Peter & Marian

Morgenstern, Robert & Angela

Mueller, Bruno

*Mullen, Charles & Carol Wil-

son

Myers, Eric & Linda

Nieman, Stella

Niyama, Craig & Chisaki

Nordsieck, Arnold & Hisako

O'Connor, Jim & Viki

Ong, Tin-Fook & Daphne

Ono, Louise

Osborn, Carolyn & Howard

Ota, Shinji & Miyuki

Parazynski, Ed & Linda

*Parker, Rodney & Heather

Patterson, Mark & Charlotte

**Phillips, Jim & Laurie

Pollard, Desiree & Terrence

Prudente, Shane

Raferly, Christopher & Sally

Rands, Gary & Marilyn

Reeves, Richard & Setsuko

Rehl, Friedrich & Joan

Reines, Steve & Susan

Rhinehart, Bill & Beth

*Richards, Byron & Diane

Rittenhouse, William Jr. &

Suzanne

Rodan, Brian & Cheryl

Zakrzewski

Rosas, Maria & Pablo Setuain

Rosen, Ruth & Stuart

Rosenthal, Al & Wafa

Saiki, Terence & Wendy

*Schaff, Duane & Marty

Scheidegger, Grace & Ralph

*Schreer, Andy & Kelly

Schwisow, Jack & Rhonda

Senio, Paul & Mary

*Shertz, Bill & Pat

Shimada, Vickie & Jon

Shonyo, Harold & Margaret

Silverstone, Vladimir & Iraida

Simcoff, Lanny

*Smaaladen, Landis & Patricia

*Smith, Jon & Michelle

Smith, Lisa & Matt

Sunada, Marc & Karen

*Swaigood, Dick & Jan

Taherzadeh, Jim & Trang

Tellefson, Corinna

Thompson, John & Diane

Tinney, Edward & Cara Sugi-

hara

*Tjoelker, Rod & Tenda

Town, Kelly & Cassandra

Tran, Hiep

Turner, George & Lieberta

Tuskes, Kenneth

Van Dongen, Merrick & Shauna

Velton, Edward & Karen

Viafore, Ken & Cara Cella

*Vlasuk, Susan

Wang, CE & Grace Huang

Wang, Yeong & Shu Chu Peng

Watanabe, Kaz & Mary

Waters, William & Carol

Wheat, Yvonne & Max

Whiteley, John & Jane

*Woltz, Diane

Wood, Laura & David

Wood, Paul & Michelle

Xia, Yiping & Hua Liu

Yamane, Susie & Jeff

Yang, Hong & Xuezhai Ni

Yurkanin, John & Julie

Zornow, Bruce

*Donated more than the suggested \$30

**Paid prior to June *Whispers* but too late to be in previous list.

Appearances count!

Entrance Landscaping *(continued from P1)*

A major project objective is to replace the three current painted wood signs with large boulders engraved with the appropriate name (Whispering Heights or Collingwood).

The main entrance islands require placement of the rock "signs" at least five feet back from the front face of each island. The rocks also must be recessed two feet from the side face of each island, which still allows for a six foot width for the "sign rocks."

The fence around the drainage pond at the Collingwood 2 entrance will be replaced by the city with trees at no cost to WHCCA, even though WHCCA gets to approve the plan. Leyland Cyprus trees are proposed to replace the wooden fence, since the few existing evergreens on the uphill side of the sign are Leyland Cyprus. This new border will provide a nice evergreen backdrop to the entrance area.

One hurdle which must be overcome relates to a Master Plan being developed for Bellevue neighborhood entrances. This has the potential to impact our project, but Michael believes this to be unlikely.

Plans are firming up, so if anyone has suggestions or concerns about any aspects of this plan, please contact a board member soon!

Jon Smith, WHCCA President

Natural habitat disappearing in ravine and parks

Have you noticed that English holly trees and English ivy are overgrowing our ravine and Lattawood Park, as well as at least some greenbelts?

A search of the city website shows that these plants are identified as invasive, but finds no policy to discourage or control their invasion of natural habitat in established neighborhoods like ours.

Perhaps the WHCCA can help with education about the risks of planting these inva-

sive species, and can target their removal during future Spring Cleanup events?

The Weed-pulling habit

In our northwest climate, weeds grow like, well, weeds! Sometimes it seems overwhelming to keep them in check in front yards and adjacent parking strips. However, if you just pull two or three a day (especially when the ground is wet, or using a tool so you can get the roots), you will be amazed at how much better your yard will look.

Keeping weeds down is a good investment, too. Even though you may not be selling *your* house, a weed-free area around your house will help to maintain property values for everyone nearby.

Artistically-inclined neighbor creates landscape photo blog

Recently a long-time resident and frequent volunteer, Bob Cereli, has been exploring the neighborhood with his camera. In the process, he received many positive responses and met people for the first time. A link to his photos of many beautifully landscaped homes can be found online at <http://www.whcca.org/garden.shtml>.

Odds & Ends (but important ones!)

Dogs help neighbors meet

It seems that one of the most important ways neighbors get to know one another in our fast-paced suburban society (other than by WHCCA board membership!) is walking dogs at one of our neighborhood parks.

During such excursions, many dogs and dog owners really enjoy and benefit from off-leash playtime, but this is illegal in Bellevue unless specifically allowed at an off-leash dog park. Furthermore, some park visitors are uncomfortable with off-leash dogs and have a right to peaceful enjoyment of their park.

The only off-leash areas in our general area are the small, muddy fenced area at Robinswood Park, and the beautiful large dog park at Marymoor Park. Unfortunately, the latter is a 15 minute drive at best, on one of those rare days when traffic is light.

There are two opportunities to improve things dramatically in our neighborhood for both dog lovers, and for those who would prefer not to interact with dogs.

Lakemont Park. Nearby Lakemont Park has a terrific potential off-leash play area in the largely-fenced "bowl", which is usually dry

during the summer months. Unfortunately, this usage is officially illegal and the city has told me the reason is something to the effect that, "if dogs are allowed to play there, dog feces will contaminate Lewis Creek and ultimately Lake Sammamish."

Anyone who has frequented the heavily-used Marymoor Park off-leash area could tell the city planners that there would probably be less dog feces in a sanctioned off-leash dog area, where visitors act responsibly. In the current situation at Lakemont Park, visitors do bring dogs into the bowl, but in the absence of signs & education programs, official sanctioning, and convenient "doggy pickup bags," one must walk very carefully there!

In my view, the city is missing an opportunity to provide a valuable resource at almost no cost, due to a misguided policy.

Lattawood Park. I wonder why the city couldn't sanction and post "doggy playtimes" at Lattawood and other neighborhood parks, so that dogs could legally play there at certain times? Those who are uncomfortable with dogs would still have most of the day to enjoy the park without off-leash canines.

Mercer Island is enlightened enough to allow well-behaved off-leash dogs at Pioneer Park and presumably other places, and certainly the Marymoor Park off-leash area is very successful.

The off-leash corral at Robinswood Park is popular but is located in a high-density neighborhood and is probably over used (but validating the need for such facilities!).

In contrast, our Lattawood Park would probably not attract people traveling from outside the neighborhood to visit during narrow time windows. I'm thinking a morning sanctioned "off-leash playtime" from 7:00 to 8:00 am, or 7:30 to 8:30 am, might work well, plus perhaps a similar afternoon window.

This would probably take a long effort of lobbying given the apparent low level of enlightenment on this topic within the city government, but the potential benefits are tremendous. If you think this is a good (or bad!) idea, email me (see back page for my email address)!

Will Hargreaves

Whispers Editor

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Jeremy@brightonjones.com,
425-747-2447, 16208 SE 46th Way

Matching Funds for Mailbox Shelter Upgrades

In June the WHCCA received \$3,000 in matching funds promised by the City of Bellevue for this community-initiated and managed upgrade.

This project was first conceived in 2002 by Dennis Fleck and Dick Lee, and in recent years was managed by Dick Lee. Sincere thanks are due to Dick, Dennis, and the many volunteers who participated in this project, which clearly added value to every residence in the neighborhood.

NEP VOTE *(Continued from page 1)*

There are three proposed projects within our neighborhood:

EC-8 - Swings and year-round portable restroom with decorative structure in Lattawood Park. Estimated cost: \$90,000. Contact: Brian Krause, 425-452-6992.

EC-16 - Sidewalk on corner of 154th PL. SE and SE 47th Street. Estimated cost: \$40,000. Contact: Vangie Parico, 425-452-6103.

EC-17 - Streetlight on 157th Avenue SE, north of 45th Court. Estimated cost: \$7,000. Contact: Vangie Parico, 425-452-6103

Please consider casting your vote for projects that will enhance the enjoyment and value of our neighborhood!

WHCCA ADJUNCT FUNCTIONS

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

Emergency planning, block-watch: Mark & Sharon Afforde, Mark: Mdafforde@yahoo.com, Sharon: afforde@yahoo.com, 425-641-3478, 4685 150th PI SE

Residents database: Steve Sanford, steve.sanford@comcast.net, 425-649-9042

Landscape liason: Mike Halliday, halliday.m@comcast.net, 425-614-3520

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

Volunteers needed!

The WHCCA depends on YOUR participation! We need volunteers on the Board of Directors.

Please call or email any board member to today, or use the dues submission form below to indicate your willingness to help out.



Please send your dues today! For 2007 we are requesting \$30 per household...

COMPLETE & MAIL this form with check payable to "WHCCA". Send to: ; WHCCA Treasurer, PMB 342

NAME _____

4957 Lakemont Blvd. SE

ADDRESS _____

Bellevue WA 98006

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, tell us:

Do you have internet access at home? YES __, NO __. How often do you use the internet at home? DAILY __, WEEKLY __, OTHER __?