



Whispers

WHISPERING HEIGHTS / COLLINGWOOD

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

March, 2007 VOLUME 16, ISSUE 1

WWW.WHCCA.ORG

4957 LAKEMONT BLVD SE, PMB 342, BELLEVUE WA 98006

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Vote April 10th on "Entrance Islands Re-landscaping"

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WHCCA residents will be asked to vote at the April 10th board meeting on a proposed update of landscaping and signage for the Whispering Heights entrance and the two Collingwood entrances.

These updates include new drought-resistant plantings, and the current painted wooden signs would be replaced with granite boulders. "Whispering Heights" and "Collingwood" will be sandblasted and painted on the respective rock faces. Funding for the project would be provided partly by WHCCA, with matching funds from the City of Bellevue.

The April 10th board meeting will be 7 to 9pm at the residence of Bob Blaisdell, 15911 SE 47th Court. Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting. However, with 500+ residences in the neighborhood, we need to plan enough space if a crowd shows up. So try to email or call Bob (see back page) if you expect to attend, in case we need re-locate the meeting. If you can't be present to vote, at least email Bob your views on the project.

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

Egg Hunt, April 7 (Sat., 11am)

Our annual Egg Hunt for kids will take place at Lattawood Park. This ever-popular event is managed again in 2007 by board members Ingrid & Don Durenberger.

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

It is likely to be a little drizzly but everyone still has lots of fun. So come to the park rain or shine!

Note: Photos from a past "hunt" are online at www.whcca.org/easter_egg_hunt_2005.shtml.

Spring Clean-up, April 21st (Sat., 9am-Noon)

It's that time of year again! The Annual Spring Clean-Up is scheduled for

April 21 from 9:00 am to noon. All residents big enough to pull a weed are called upon to help "spiff-up" the neighborhood. It is always a good way to kick-off the spring, a great way to meet your neighbors and have some fun!

Not only will you be making your community look better, you may be able to get to know and work with neighbors you might not ordinarily meet.

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

The Clean-Up will be held rain or shine so bad weather is no excuse! Wear your best work clothes, bring your yard tools, wheelbarrows and pray for sunshine!

Check the WHCCA web site as the date approaches for details of clean-up locations and tasks. If you want to volunteer as a "site captain," please contact Rob or Michelle Cash at (425) 401-8517. If leaving a message, please be sure to leave your name and phone number.

Hillside School Event

Karen Chartier, a Hillside school employee, asks you to "Be on the lookout for sandwich boards announcing Hillside's Spring play in mid-June. All are welcome. Visit our website at hillside.org for dates and times. We hope to see you there."

Hillside is a small, state-approved, nonsectarian college-prep school, grades 5-12, located at the end of the Whispering Heights neighborhood (5027 59th Place SE).

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

A big rant for neighbors that put their garbage out on a Monday evening when a windstorm is brewing. The result is our neighborhood looks like a garbage landfill after cans blow open or over! When the wind is blowing, I wait and roll my bins out before 7am on Tuesday morning so there is less likelihood of this kind of problem.
...*Mad Mom, Whispering Heights*

As a newcomer to the neighborhood, I really enjoyed the recent Coffee Klatch. The coffee tasting provided by Danielle Winters was a real treat. I'm looking forward to the next one!
...*New Resident, Collingwood*

My kids and I really like the annual egg hunt that will happen again at Lattawood Park in a few weeks. But when people don't pick up after their dogs, fun can turn to the total opposite really fast!

Imagine little kids running around in the bushes without watching where they step, and picking up everything they see on the ground...

Please! Be especially vigilant when walking your friendly fido at Lattawood, and use the doggy pickup bags provided by the parking lot!
...*MS, Collingwood*

I was disappointed and a little angry at the people who abandoned their cars, practically in the middle of the street, after a winter storm left ice on the hill at the ravine. An already treacherous situation was made more dangerous because of a few inconsiderate people.

One minivan was left for nearly a week, creating an "obstacle course" for drivers.

Even while the ice remained, this vehicle could have been backed downhill to a safer location.

Please show more consideration for others the next time it snows!
...*Disturbed Driver, Whispering Hts*

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

City of Bellevue – Neighborhood Mediation Program, by Mark Afforde

The City of Bellevue provides a unique and useful service to its residents to help with those occasional times when you might have differences of opinion with your neighbors. These instances might arise over something within your immediate neighborhood related to yard maintenance, vehicle parking, pet issues, boundary lines, noise and similar.

The process of mediation is a private, informal means of accessing an objective, third-party that can help to solve points of disagreement between neighbors. This is a step by step process that helps to identify what this issue is, why this is an issue, and what is important to the neighbors involved.

An initial aspect of this process is the identification of the issue as to whether it is related to compliance with Bellevue City Codes. The following links provides information on code compliance and a form for submission of problems to the City for identification and hopefully actions that can lead to their eventual resolution:
<http://www.cityofbellevue.org/reportproblem.htm>

http://www.cityofbellevue.org/code_compliance_complaint.htm

The processes for Code Compliance enforcement are outlined at this web site. But it is always the choice of the person submitting the problem to choose the Neighborhood Mediation Program as a path for problem resolution.

There is a wealth of information provided on the City of Bellevue link (below) that describes who you can talk with, where you can call or email, and what your options are for trying to get resolution to issues within your neighborhood that you feel are in need of attention.

Through the use of this free mediation service, we can continue to live in our great community and help support this wonderful place we call Home !

Bellevue Neighborhood Mediation web link:

www.bellevuewa.gov/mediation_intro.htm

Neighborhood Enhancement Projects (NEP)

Every three years the Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP) allows residents to petition for city-funded construction projects in their neighborhoods. City capital improvement funds are reserved each year for construction projects selected by residents that improve neighborhood safety and appearance.

Typical enhancements, which must each cost less than \$150,000, include park improvements, new trail connections, additional street lights and new curbs or sidewalks.

The NEP funds for 2007 have become available for our neighborhood and newsletters should have been mailed to you in February. While the deadline to submit project requests will have passed prior to this Whispers printing, the next phase will soon be here for your input. An NEP workshop will be held in June where you can comment on

proposed projects and talk with city staff and neighbors. Notices with the date, time and location will be mailed out two weeks before the workshop.

2007 NEP schedule:

February 2007 – NEP information was mailed
 March 15, 2007 – Customer Action Requests were due

June 2007 – NEP Workshop

July 2007 - Ballots will be mailed to residents
 September 2007 – Action plan with voting results will be mailed

Fall 2007- Fall 2009 - Projects designed and constructed

NEP Update for 2004 Project

In 2004, our Neighborhood Enhancement area voted to fund sidewalk replacement near the Eastgate Elementary school (where the deteriorating asphalt sidewalk is). However,

the subsequent design engineering work disclosed that the project was going to well exceed the \$150,000 maximum for NEP projects.

Because of the cost overrun, the project was removed from NEP and the funds were put back into the NEP 2007 cycle. The sidewalk replacement project was then referred to the Capital Investment Program (CIP).

Fortunately there is now a project in the city's current CIP for 152nd Ave SE and SE 45th St, from SE 46th St to Newport Way. Funding for this project was available partly due to the community input during the CIP public processes.

This project will design and construct a curb, gutter, and 6-foot sidewalk on the west side with necessary roadway stabilization maintenance. It is scheduled for design in late 2008 and construction in 2010. Go to whcca.org for a map.

Odds & Ends (but important ones!)

Bicycle and Pedestrian safety online Survey article

The City of Bellevue supports walking and biking as safe, healthy and attractive alternatives to driving. The city is taking a look at ways to making biking and walking easier, seeking to update the 1999 Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan.

The updated plan, "Walk and Roll 2007," will identify walkway and bikeway needs, examine improvements and consider funding sources.

Public input will help the city develop the new Walk and Roll Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan. You can go online and fill out the survey (it's very quick and to the point):
<http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pedbikeplan.htm>

Surveys will be available through April 10.

Dues increase

Our neighborhood association dues are voluntary and modest and have been without an increase in recent memory. Each year our neighborhood enjoys several fun family events – all sponsored by the WHCCA and paid for by your voluntary dues.

Our dues pay for the many annual neighborhood social event such as the spring cleanup, summer picnic (with food, bouncy house and porta-potty), 4th of July bike parade (with food, drink and bike decorations), professional landscape maintenance at the entrances to our neighborhood and the recent structural mailbox upgrades.

The attendance at our social events has been increasing, and it's exciting to see our neighborhood continue to be a great place to live. In order to be able to continue hosting these events, the board of

directors has voted to increase our suggested dues payment from \$20 per year to \$30 per year for each residence.

Please consider supporting your neighborhood and send in your dues for 2007!

Volunteers needed!

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

As a previous WHCCA president adapted from the famous phrase by the late President Kennedy, "Ask not what WHCCA can do for you, but what can you do for the WHCCA."

Please call or email a board member to today, or use the dues submission form on the back page to indicate your willingness to help out.

2006 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers —

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

Vice President: Mark & Sharon Afforde
Mark: Mdafforde@yahoo.com, Sharon:
afforde@yahoo.com, 425-641-3478,
4685 150th Place SE

Secretaries: Mike & Cathy Halliday
Mike: halliday.m@comcast.net, Cathy:
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

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

Gretchan Lindsey
GretchanL@hotmail.com, 425-644-4580
15422 SE 47th Street

Jeremy & Keri Kiefer
Keri.kiefer@comcast.net,
Jeremy@brightonjones.com,
425-747-2447, 16208 SE 46th Way

Board member changes for 2007:

Richard Reeves has retired at the end of his 3 year first term. The other board members thank him for all he did during his tenure. And don't forget Richard—you can come back in the future!

Jeremy & Keri Kiefer joined the board this year for the first time. We appreciate their participation and will be providing illuminating details about the Kiefers in the next edition. Stay tuned!

Where's Wally? Wally Larson, the past WHCCA President, retired after 2006 from official neighborhood functions. He tirelessly contributed many years as a board member and directing the neighborhood emergency planning efforts.

What's he up to now? The editor recently discovered him on his hands and knees in his front yard, digging up rocks! He reports,

"I am finishing off my front driveway rock wall after having a cedar tree and four large junipers removed. Then I start planting my pea patch (No. 8) at the Lake Hills Bellevue Parks plot.

On 20 March I begin the eight week docent course so I can be a 'tour guide' at the Museum of Flight. See you all there later in the year. Never a dull moment....Regards...Wally"

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

Newsletter deliverers deserve thanks!

We appreciate our hard-working newsletters deliverers (including co-captains Lin Sanford and Judy Matthew):

Bonnie Bennett, Bob Blaisdell, Jennifer Carey, Katie Chace, Cathy Cooney, Phyllis Davis, Dennis Fleck, Donna Funcke, Guilia Johnson, Frank Mainella, Julie Mezs, Joan Muth, Suzanne Peery, Sally Raferty, Wendy Saiki, Cathy Salmon, Vickie Shimada, Andy Taylor, Powell Underwood, Barbara Unger.



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 __?