



Whispers

WHISPERING HEIGHTS / COLLINGWOOD

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER, 2007 VOLUME 16, ISSUE 4

WWW.WHCCA.ORG

4957 LAKEMONT BLVD SE, PMB 342, BELLEVUE WA 98006

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Entrance Islands Landscaping Project

After more than a year of planning, the upgrade of our neighborhood entrances is complete!* This was a huge undertaking for the chief instigator, visionary, and project manager, Michelle Smith. Proposals were discussed at the annual meeting last November and displayed at WHCCA events throughout the year. A detailed plan and budget were created with the help of landscape designer Nora Parkhurst#, giving extra attention to low maintenance requirements and drought resistance.

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

Voting results for NEP 2007

In case you've ever felt that your vote doesn't count, consider this fact: apparently only 900 ballots were received from the Eastgate/Cougar Mountain NEP area. The project at our Lattwood park received enough votes to be funded, along with four other projects (see below). Thank you to everyone who voted!

(Continued on page 4, NEP VOTE)

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

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

This year's WHCCA annual meeting will be held November 13th at the Lewis Creek Visitor Center from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. We'll be reviewing the events and activities from the past year and will discuss plans for the coming year. I encourage everyone to attend. There will be refreshments and an opportunity to ask questions, provide feedback and get involved to make this neighborhood even better.

I hope to see you there!

*Jon Smith
President, WHCCA*

P.S. If you haven't been to the beautiful new Lewis Creek Park, head East on 164th towards Lakemont but turn right on Lakemont Blvd. The park is right across from the fire station.

P.P.S. If you are unable to make the Annual meeting, but would still like to help with events or the WHCCA board, please come to the first board meeting of the year in 2008.

It will be held at 7:00 PM on January 8th at the Kiefer residence. Email Keri or Jeremy Kiefer (see back page) for further information and directions.

Emergency prep: Weather is sometimes an "event" this time of year!

Email alerts: With winter weather arriving, city staff is working to ensure that all available channels of communication with citizens are open in the case of an emergency. We recently had our first neighborhood-wide evening power failure of the season—think of that as a wake-up call!

Bellevue encourages you to sign up for its free e-mail alerts through the emergency information web page. The city can then send you emergency bulletins as well as alerts when fresh information is posted on that page. If you include your neighborhood area in your profile, bulletins can be targeted to residents in affected areas.

To sign up, go to http://service.govdelivery.com/service/subscribe.html?code=WABELLE_59.

If you have questions or problems with the subscription service, please contact support@govdelivery.com.

Reporting a power outage: Puget Sound Energy (PSE) continuously monitors weather reports and forecasts to prepare for possible weather related power outages. They would like us to let them know when we experience a power outage. Their restoration process de-

pends on notification from customers to track and respond to outages.

To report power outages, call 1-888-225-5773 (Select menu option #1). This is an automated telephone system which also can provide the status of power restoration efforts.

Phone and internet access: If you use a wireless phone at home, it won't work during a power failure unless you have the central unit equipped with a backup battery. The same is true of your internet access. Even if you are using a laptop that will run on its battery for several hours, your broadband access won't work without a backup battery.

A backup battery designed for brief use of a desktop computer may provide several hours of use if dedicated to your low-power wireless phone or wireless router and broadband modem. These batteries typically cost \$50-200, with the higher cost units providing much more backup time.

Even with backup batteries, your broadband modem won't get you on the web if the broadband service itself is down. Remember last December when Comcast cable was off for two weeks? Our phone seem to be much more reliable during storms than our cable service. In 2007 the editor switched from Comcast broadband to Qwest DSL and it has always worked during power failures. Qwest DSL also can be less expensive than Comcast broadband, with "guaranteed for life" pricing offers available.

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

By Howdy Neighbor

Bottle rocket incident

My neighbor had a problem around the 4th of July--kids apparently threw bottle rockets into the back yard and started a fire. The fire caused some damage, though it could have been much worse. This is really a serious matter that the kids involved should feel very bad about!!

Angry at thoughtless kids...

Too many real estate signs

Tired of all those ugly little real estate signs on stakes pointing the way to homes for sale? I am, and I'm a realtor who lives in our neighborhood. The City of Bellevue doesn't allow them, even "for sale by owner" signs, and there can be a fine of \$100 per sign.

Realtors can have four "open house" A-boards but only on the day of the event. If you feel the way as I do, contact Angie Lillie anonymously at the city Code Compliance office (425.452.6800 or alillie@belle-

viewa.gov next time you see the problem signs. Be sure to have the full street names of the intersection when reporting.

"Signed-out" WHCCA Realtor...

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.

Thanks for paying your dues... So far this year (through Oct 23rd), 236 neighbors (out of 500+ homes) have contributed \$7822 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
 Allen, Scott & Shari
 Anderson, Mark & Tamzin
 Ankarberg, C.D.
 Anthony, Kevin & Karen
 Audycki, Katherine & William
 Barnett, Paul & Kathleen Osler
 Barth, Webs & Tina
 Becker, Jane & Irv
 Bennett, Lowry & Dorothy
 Bennett, Douglas & Bonnie
 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
 *Bristol, Richard & Janice
 Broder, Sue & Larry
 *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
 Carey, Jenney & Dave
 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
 Czarney/Romanchuk, Ron & Wendy
 Daley, Michael & Bonna
 Davenport, Frank & Yvonne
 *Davis, Paul & Phyllis
 Dawson, Joe & Bev
 Dupuy, Paul & Kiina
 Durenberger, Donald & Ingrid
 Eason, Rick & Michele
 Egaas, Dave & Lorrie
 *Eng, Peter & Margaret Li
 Epstein, Robert & Karen
 *Eskenazi, Martin & Madeleine
 Balgley
 Fetsch, Larry & Alice
 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 Ar-ends
 Grantham, Capt A.D. & Pearle
 Griner, Janice & Dan
 Griswold, Patricia
 Haas, Brian & Amy
 Haberman, DDS, James & Helen
 Halleran, Jay & Sheree
 Halliday, Mike & Cathy
 Halling, John & Caroline
 Hanks, John & Betty
 *Harbaugh, Jeff & Angie
 Hargreaves, Will & Karen
 Harper, Rebelanne
 Hauge, Patrick & Stephanie
 Havok, Reek
 Henn, Kristin & John
 *Henn, Gary
 Henson, Walter
 Herpain, Fabrice & Sophie
 Mitkevitch
 Holding, Boyd & Cheryl
 Hollenbeck, Rod & Margo

Holmen, Reidar & Polly
 Hsie, Tadd & Elena
 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
 Koo, Ja-Il & Wha Rim
 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
 Parazyński, Ed & Linda
 *Parker, Rodney & Heather
 Patterson, Mark & Charlotte
 *Peery, Allen (Dr.) & Suzanne
 Phillips, Jim & Laurie
 Plewa, Ken & Lynne Boeger
 Poleschuk, Marilyn & Ilya
 Pollard, Desiree & Terrence
 Prudente, Shane
 Raftery, Christopher & Sally
 Rands, Gary & Marilyn
 Reeves, Richard & Setsuko
 Rehr, 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
 Sanford, Lin & Steve
 Savas, Keith & Noel
 *Schaff, Duane & Marty
 Scheidegger, Grace & Ralph
 *Schreer, Andy & Kelly
 Schwisow, Jack & Rhonda
 *Sekijima, John & Celia
 Senio, Paul & Mary
 *Shertz, Bill & Pat
 Shimada, Vickie & Jon

Shonyo, Harold & Margaret
 *Shroff, Sharat & Paramita
 Mukhejee
 Silverstone, Vladimir & Iraida
 Simcoff, Lanny
 *Smaaladen, Landis & Patricia
 *Smith, Jon & Michelle
 Smith, Lisa & Matt
 Sorensen, Robert & Linda
 Sunada, Marc & Karen
 *Swaisgood, Dick & Jan
 Taherzadeh, Jim & Trang
 Tellefson, Corinna
 Thompson, John & Diane
 Tinney, Edward & Cara Sugi-hara
 *Tjoelker, Rod & Tenda
 Tobin, Jim & Vicky
 Town, Kelly & Cassandra
 *Townsend, Rebecca & Nate
 Tran, Hiep
 Tsang, Michael & Lisa
 Turner, George & Lieberta
 Tuskes, Kenneth
 Van Dongen, Merrick & Shauna
 Velton, Edward & Karen
 Viafore, Ken & Cara Cella
 *Vlasuk, Susan
 Vossler, Dave (MD) & Michelle
 Wang, CE & Grace Huang
 Wang, Yeong & Shu Chu Peng
 Warren, Bruce & Laura
 Watanabe, Kaz & Mary
 Waters, William & Carol
 Wheat, Yvonne & Max
 Whiteley, John & Jane
 *Woltz, Diane
 Wong, Alec & Helen
 Wood, Laura & David
 Wood, Paul & Michelle
 Xia, Yiping & Hua Liu
 Yamane, Susie & Jeff
 Yang, Hong & Xuezhai Ni
 Yasuno, Joe & Sachiko
 Yee, Sam & Dorina
 Yuan, Ryan
 Yurkanin, John & Julie
 *Zhao, Richard & Ping Ping
 Meng
 Zornow, Bruce

*Donated more than the suggested \$30

Entrance landscaping

(Continued from page 1)

*At press time a few plantings are still due at the Whispering Heights entrance island but should be completed by the time you receive this newsletter.



Jon Smith was instrumental in winning matching funds (up to \$4000) from the city for this project after extensive consultation to be sure the plans met city regulations and ordinances.

The upgrade was scheduled over two weekends in September — the first to take out the old plants and prepare the soil, and the second to put in the new plants. In between, the new "boulder signs" were installed. Jon happily reports that the project was completed on schedule and under budget.



The physical upgrade relied completely on volunteers. Although all the volunteers deserve praise (and are listed below based on sign-in sheets), special thanks are due to Anne McCauley for working all day both weekends and to Kyle Lindsey for his amazing endurance in removing seemingly immovable plants (The Stump!). Beside the obvious aesthetic benefit to

our neighborhood, those who volunteered also got to enjoy the camaraderie of friends and neighbors. Hopefully even more folks will get involved with our neighborhood activities in the future—it feels great!



Re-landscaping "L-Days" volunteers include (in no particular order):

**Kyle Lindsey, **Anne McCauley, **Jon Smith, **Michelle Smith, Gretchen & Connor Lindsey, Don Durenberger, Bob Blaisdell, Sharon & Mark Afforde, Frank Mariella, Stan Lance, Shauna, Carley, & Sophie Van Dongen, Suzanne & Allen Peery, Steve Boyd, Sally & Sarah Durbin, Greg Brumley, Bruce Curling, Karen Fusaro, Patt Sellen, Julian Brown, Michelle & Rob Cash, Jeremy & Keri Kiefer, Tina Dalkiewicz, Julie Brown, Elaine Cozart, Sally Burnett, and Will Hargreaves.

(*special mention for extraordinary contributions).

#Nora Parkhurst (<http://parkhurstgardens.com>) is a garden designer and consultant with a degree in Landscape Design and Environmental Horticulture. She is a Certified Horticulture Professional (CPH), and teaches adult horticulture classes at North Seattle Community College. She is currently on staff at Hayes Nursery in Issaquah. Nora is also a former professional ballet dancer and taught ballet for many years.

Odds & Ends (but important ones!)

Neighborhood covenants (CC&Rs) that protect property values

Did you know that our homes in Whispering Heights and Collingwood are part of 14 different subdivisions, each of which has a legally binding set of rules (*CC&Rs, short for *Covenants, conditions, and restrictions). These rules are administered by a locally-elected architectural control committee, and are intended to protect property values from the "bad taste" or "bad maintenance" of a wayward neighbor. The CC&Rs remain in effect unless terminated by a 70% vote of the respective homeowners.

The WHCCA board of directors has no direct relationship with (or enforcement power for) any CC&R, though board members do share an interest in maintaining property values and the desirability of living in our neighborhood. For several years various WHCCA board members have sought to promote CC&R awareness by putting all the CC&Rs on the neighborhood web site. However, until this year, no one was able to obtain copies of all the various documents.

Then first-year board member Keri Kiefer took the challenge! With tremendous assistance from Lin Sanford (through her realtor connections), Keri has spent many hours this year compiling the detailed CC&R documents for all subdivisions within Whispering Heights and Collingwood. Unfortunately the associated maps are too fuzzy to be very useful, so Keri is still seeking a source of usable subdivision maps that will finally allow this information to be posted online.

Great job, Keri & Lin!

Annual picnic

The WHCCA picnic on August 18th was a big success! We had plenty of good food and great company. The kids and some adults enjoyed the inflatable bouncy house and old fashioned games. The prizes this year were an especially big hit! While turnout was down from previous years, we all had a great time and enjoyed meeting new neighbors and catching up with those we haven't seen in a while.

Bellevue Reporter

Are you happily surprised when the "Bellevue Reporter" (BR) appears in your driveway? Or have you ever been away long enough to stop your mail and newspaper, only to return to a carpet of BR's on the driveway announcing to the world, "I'm not home, please come in!"?

This free periodical is published throughout the region under 12 different names that make it seem homegrown (the Bothell Reporter, the Auburn Reporter etc.). For more information, see <http://www.reporternewspapers.com>. It carries some local news articles but is apparently financed totally by advertising revenue.

Since early in 2007, it has often been delivered twice a week to the driveway of each home in our neighborhood. This is in spite of the "No Posting" sign on every WHCCA mail shelter. A Bellevue ordinance prohibits the distribution of handbills (which the BR is considered to be) where such a sign is visible.

The second part of the relevant Bellevue ordinance specifies that even in the absence of a

"No Posting" sign, a resident can request that the publisher stop delivering handbills. At least two WHCCA residents have attempted to opt out of BR deliveries on multiple occasions, only to have deliveries resume unpredictably weeks or months later.

The Bellevue Reporter organization is on notice from the city to comply with the second part of the ordinance (stop delivery on notification). If you want to stop your deliveries, Bellevue is asking you to document your request to the Bellevue Reporter by sending an e-mail to Jeff Ross (jeff.ross@kcjn.com) and Susan Jasper (susan.jasper@kcjn.com), or a letter to them at KCJN Newspapers, P.O. Box 130, Kent, WA 98035. Be sure to specify your property address in the communication to the newspaper. This will document the request to stop delivery.

For any subsequent undesired deliveries, please copy the e-mail to codecompliance@bellevuewa.gov or the letter to PCD Code Compliance, P. O. Box 90012, Bellevue, WA 98009. The city will then set up an enforcement action. The Code Compliance Officer assigned will then contact you to verify the details before a notice is issued and a hearing scheduled.

2007 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers —

President: Jon & Michelle Smith
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3520, 4708 155th Place SE

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15911 SE 47th Court

Board Members at large —

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15422 SE 47th Street

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

Patt Sellen
patt@pattsellon.com, 425-643-9100,
15808 SE 45th Street

**Meet new WHCCA board member
Patt Sellen**



Born in Portland, Oregon, Patt has lived many places including Washington DC, the SF Bay Area, and Japan. She is a committed mother to three sons and a daughter; now a grandmother to seven grandchildren. Family is high priority to Patt.

In Seattle, Patt attended Blanchet High School and Seattle University. She is an active member in her church as a greeter and leader of the pre-school children's program.

Her hobbies include a 15 raised-bed vegetable & flower garden, assisting her husband in the scenery construction and landscaping of his 12' x 14' model train layout, knitting, working on her custom dollhouse with her granddaughter, entertaining friends, and of course shopping for and spoiling her seven grandchildren who she enjoys visiting in southern California.

NEP VOTE *(Continued from page 1)*

Approved projects include:

- (1) Lewis Creek Park Trail extension along Lakemont Blvd.
- (2) Swings and all-year portable restroom with decorative enclosure at Lattawood Park
- (3) New playground equipment at Lakemont Park
- (4) Sports wall at Cougar Ridge Elementary School
- (5) Lewis Creek Trail stream crossings

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 __?