



Whispers

WHISPERING HEIGHTS / COLLINGWOOD / SHALOCH

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 2008, VOLUME 17, ISSUE 3

WWW.WHCCA.ORG

4957 LAKEMONT BLVD SE, PMB 342, BELLEVUE WA 98006

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Recent letters appearing to come from WHCCA board

If you are one of the residents who recently received an official-looking letter signed "Your Fellow Neighbors" asking you to improve your yard maintenance practices, you may have believed that it came from the WHCCA board. Several of you contacted WHCCA board members to complain. However, please be assured these letters were **not** from or associated with the WHCCA board.

The WHCCA has published articles in the past encouraging everyone to do their best in maintaining a neat and attractive neighborhood, but we have been careful not to identify or target specific homes. We are occasionally asked to intervene in disputes between neighbors about maintenance and other issues, but we need to decline to act on these requests since that is not our role in the neighborhood. We ask that whoever delivered these letters refrain from distributing material which might appear to come from the WHCCA Board. And we encourage friendly dialogue between interested parties rather than anonymous letters as a way to resolve concerns and problems.

Merrick Van Dongen, WHCCA President

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

Garage Sale – Saturday, September 20th from 9am-2pm

Mark your calendars for our upcoming neighborhood garage sale, which will be held on Saturday, September 20. For Husky fans, we ensured that the date does not coincide with a home game!

As they say, "one person's trash is another's treasure." Take advantage of free marketing and the increased traffic due to a large neighborhood sale. We will advertise the garage sale through newspaper ads, online through Craigslist and using neighborhood signs.

Garage sale aficionados city-wide look for this event every year. If you would like the visibility of having your address marked on a map hand-out that will be tacked on the sandwich boards, and a balloon for your yard sale table, please contact Natasha Vorley by September 15 at: 425-945-0526 or by e-mail at vorley@netzero.com.

Also, please feel free to get in touch with me if you have any suggestions for organizing this year's neighborhood garage sale.

If you are planning your first garage sale, here are two web sites that provide some helpful pointers:

<http://tipnut.com/garage-sale-tips-for-success-how-to-guide/> and

http://www.ifg-inc.com/Consumer_Reports/GarageSale.shtml.

Additional Garage Sale Tips

- Ensure all items are priced and price tags are easy to read.
- Make your sale inviting and easy to browse. Attract customers by placing highly-desirable items near the road.
- Be friendly. Greet people as they arrive.
- Be willing to bargain, but be less flexible at the start.
- Have lots of change available. Keep money on you. Cash sales only.

Annual WHCCA Board meeting, Nov 5th, Wednesday, Lewis Creek Park, 7-8:30pm

Please mark your calendars for the annual WHCCA board meeting. Once again it will be held in the recreation center at beautiful nearby Lewis Creek Park.

This is an important opportunity to meet the current board members and have input into the program for next year. We also hope to have an interesting speaker for a brief presentation on new ways to protect against identity theft.

Refreshments will be provided. Check www.whcca.org for details as the time approaches. Please come!

WHCCA 2008 Annual calendar

Garage sale, Sep 20 (Sat)

Annual meeting, Nov 5th (Wed)

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

By Howdy Neighbor

Helping your neighbor in times of need

For a different perspective on last month's "rant" about *Yards Gone Wild*, consider this. While going through a very serious health crisis, our household was unable to care for our yard. Those who cannot work because of ill health - and who have large medical bills - are really not in a financial position to hire the work done. One kind neighbor came over and mowed our lawn once. Not one other neighbor ever inquired to see if everything was all right.

In addition to maintaining property values with manicured yards, another important facet of the neighborhood is "neighborliness." Next time you see an ill-kept yard, you might consider checking on your neighbors to see if everything is OK with them.

Better now (as is the yard)

Park graffiti isn't cute!

I just walked Lattawood Park and a young mother was trying to remove some of the writing on the north table under the pavilion. The table is just loaded with writings by children who don't respect others' property.

Also, it would be great if the City of Bellevue newspaper could write an article about this kind of vandalism. Maybe it would be a reminder to the few parents who have forgotten to teach their kids about this.

Cranky park walker against graffiti

Great picnic!

The picnic was fun this year. We liked the bean bag games and water balloons, and especially the popsicles!

Grace (age 8) and Connor (age 6)

Puh-lease, dog walkers!

Huge rant to the teenage kids who walk their dogs at Lattawood Park who will not pick up their waste!

Mom tired of dodging you-know-what

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

Treasurer's report and WHCCA dues status... Thank you!

Below are the names of those who have paid their dues so far in 2008. Through the end of August the WHCCA has received approximately \$5700 from 164 families out of approximately 500 families in the neighborhood. This is better than June, but is still a level of participation that lags most previous years. If you have been busy and overlooked the request on the back page of your newsletter, please take the time to send your dues now! And thank you to those who have already done so!

Abler, Larry & Pat
Abolrous, Sam & Camelia Solomon
Afforde, Mark & Sharon
Akamine*, Dr. Jack & Helen
Ankarberg*, C.D.
Anderson, Lorraine & Arthur
Barac, Dragos
Barnett, Paul & Kathleen Osler
Becker, Jane & Irv
Bellinger, Ned & Gale
Bennett, Lowry & Dorothy
Benson, Tom and aathy
Berry, Richard & Sandra
Bigley*, Raymond & Nancy Gigante
Blaisdell, Robert & Charlene
Blatt, Ms. Zanetta
Brunette, Sally & Andrew
Burke/Stuckey, Pat & Carol
Butterworth, Stephen & Angela
Cash, Rob & Michelle
Cavness Robert & Barbara
Chace, William & Katherine
Chen, Bin & LU YI
Chien, YAU-Ming & Diane
Chin, Kevin & Linda
Christ, Steve
Claypool, James & Frances
Cozart, Steve & Elaine
Davenport, Frank & Yvonne
Davis*, Paul & Phyllis
Dawson*, Joe & Bev
Dolkiewicz, George & Christina Dolk
Drisch, Diane
Dupuy, Paul & Klina
Durenberger, Donald & Ingrid
Economus*, John
Eng*, Peter & Margaret Li
Epstein*, Robert & Karen
Eskenazi, Martin & Balgley
Fleck, Dennis & Jan
Forrest, Cameron & Carolyn

Francis* David & Heidi
Funkenstein, Jakob & Irma
Graham, Rick & Therese Arends
Graham*, Daina & Malcolm
Grantham*, Capt Al & Pearl
Griner, Janice & Dan
Griswold, Patricia
Haberma, James DDS & Helen
Hall, Muriel & Austin
Halliday, Mike & Cathy
Halling, John & Caroline
Hang, HH & HX Doan
Hansen*, Leonora & Doug
Harbaugh*, Jeff & Angie
Hargreaves, Will & Karen
Hart, Bill & Carol
Hauge, Patrick & Stephanie
Havok, Reek
Henn*, Gary
Henson, Walter
Hollenbeck, Rod & Margo
Holmen, Reidar & Polly
Hsie, Tadd & Elena
Huang, Jason & Xucheng
Iwamura, Hiroo & Nobuko
Jacobs, Cynthia
Johnson*, Mark & Giulia
Kacholia, Kalpana & Praful
Kao, Hung-Yen & Shiu-Mei
Kestys, Ms. Mary Ann & Lyndon
Kiefer, Keri & Jeremy
Larson*, Wally & Bobbie
Lee*, Dick & Dianne
Lee, Janet Abe & Steven
Lee, John & Liz
Lee, Jin & Kwang
Lee*, Young & Hana
Liao, Xincheng Mike & Nanyan Jiang
Lin, Mr Yun & Difei Yang
Lindsey, Gretchan & Kyle
Liou, Yong & Esther

Lorenzen, Peter & Amy
Louisell, David & Judy
Mainella, Frank & Pat
Marten, Ann
Martin, Jeff & Donna
Matthew*, Judy & Ron
Mattox, Mary Love & Densmore
McCauley*, Richard & Anne
McCrone, Heather & Lawrence
McDonald, Doug & Judy
McEachran*, James & Nancy
McEachran, Robb & Rebecca
McLean, Kathryn & Kristine
Michelman, Irwin & Iryna
Migliore, Mark & Tamzin
Milton, Larry & Carol Ann
Mix, Carole
Monwai*, Peter & Marian
Mullen*, Charles & Carol Wilson
Nieman, Stella
Niyama, Craig & Chisaki
O'Connor*, Jim & Viki
Ong, Tin-Fook & Daphne
Ono, Louise
Osborn, Carolyn & Howard
Patterson*, Allen
Peery*, Allen
Pfau*, Patricia
Phillips, Jim & Laurie
Pierce, Randolph & Kristine
Plewa, Ken & Lynne Boeger
Poleschuk, Marilyn & Iya
Pollard, Desiree & Terrence
Ralph, David & Margaret
Reeves, Richard & Setsuko
Rehrl, Friedrich & Joan
Rhinehart, Bill & Beth
Richards*, Byron & Diane
Rosen, Ruth & Stuart
Rosenthal, Al & Wafa
Rothman*, Steven & Lynn
Saiki, Terence & Wendy

Sanford, Steve & Lin
Schaff*, Duane & Marty
Scheidegger, Grace & Ralph
Schreer*, Andy & Kelly
Schwisow, Jack & Rhonda
Sekijima*, John & Celia
Sellen, Patt
Shertz*, Bill & Pat
Shimada, Vickie & Jon
Shonyo, Harold & Margaret
Shoshitaishvili*, Igor
Slater, Meljssa & John
Smaaladen*, Landis & Pat
Smith, Lisa & Matt
Smith*, Jon & Michelle
Thompson, John & Diane
Tinney, Edward & Cara
Tjoelker*, Rod & Tenda
Townsend*, Rebecca & Nate
Turner, George & Lieberta
Tuskes, Kenneth
Van Dongen, Merrick & Shauna
Viafore, Ken and Cara
Vlasuk, Dr. Susan
Vorley, Natasha & Wade
Waldbaum, Alan & Kim
Wang, Yeong & Shu
Wang/Zhong, Oliver & Zing
Warren, Bruce & Laura
Watanabe*, Kaz & Mary
Waters, William & Carol
Wheat, Yvonne & Max
Wilson, Nancy & Dale
Winter*, Scott & Danielle
Woltz*, Dianne
Wood, Laura & David
Wuestefeld, Don & Susan
Xia, Yiping & Hua Liu
Yamamura, Lilly & Ted
Yamane, Susie & Jeff
Yang, Hong & Xuezhai
Zornow, Bruce

* Paid more than the suggested amount.

Helping your neighbor in times of need...

We talk a lot in this newsletter about maintaining your yard, but not every case of overgrown weeds is the result of neglect or lack of interest. One resident recently had a serious illness in the family that temporarily prevented normal maintenance (also see Rants & Raves).

We would like to encourage residents to get to know their neighbors, so that if someone needs a little help, a neighbor is likely to be aware and willing to step in temporarily.

Curb appeal and yard maintenance are very important in maintaining property values and making this a desirable neighborhood in which to live. However, there are times where life circumstances make mowing the lawn very low on the priority list!

Call for new project ideas!

WHCCA is **your** community association. In addition to the events that the association sponsors throughout the year, WHCCA has completed several capital improvement projects based on input from its members.

Some recent capital improvement projects are the mailbox upgrade and the entrance upgrade. With these projects complete, the question now is: What's next?

We need your help in determining what the next capital improvement project for our neighborhood should be. Please be creative in your ideas. The past projects were accomplished using WHCCA dues, City of Bellevue Matching funds and volunteer efforts.

New projects ideally would be accomplished the same way. So put your

thinking cap on and send in your ideas. You can contact the board members via phone or email. You can find contact information at www.whcca.org.

Jon Smith
WHCCA board member

New Whispers masthead

As you can clearly see on the first page, our *Whispers* masthead is very out of date after the terrific re-landscaping project completed this past Fall.

Submissions of proposed new graphics are welcome from any resident. If several options look good, we'll put them up for a vote in the next *Whispers*.

Please send photos and/or proposed new graphics to the editor (see back page for address).

Odds & Ends (but important ones!)

City of Bellevue Resources

I received a letter in the mail last month from the City of Bellevue which outlined some of the services available to Bellevue residents through the City's neighborhood liaison program, and I'd like to relay to you what I found out about it. The Program makes a specific liaison representative available for residents of a particular area (ours is Eastgate/Cougar Mountain) to contact any time to get information you need about/from the City, to "connect you to the right people and resources, and (to) help you resolve any city-related concern".

I think it's fantastic that the City of Bellevue has such a program in addition to all its other community-based services in an effort to serve residents more effectively! Those of us who have moved here from other parts of the country or even other locales in Washington know that the same level of community infrastructure is not provided by most cities or towns. In fact, the city states that "Bellevue's neighborhood liaison program has won national acclaim for its responsiveness to neighborhoods."

As an example of Bellevue's responsiveness, I was contacted by one of our neighbors recently who had a concern about potentially unauthorized use of one of the forested greenbelts in our neighborhood. She had contacted the Bellevue Police, but the issue was deemed a lower priority at the time, and she contacted me to see what I could recommend she do. I contacted the

City's neighborhood liaison program on her behalf, and they took immediate action, found the right deputy to investigate the matter, and called me back with the status of their actions. The deputy contacted the neighbor and planned a site visit to the property. Now that's service! There ended up being no cause for concern, but the fact that my call to the City's Neighborhood Liaison group elicited such a response was great!

You can find out more about the City's neighborhood liaison program and who your specific liaison representative is at the following web address: http://www.bellevuewa.gov/neighborhood_liaisons.htm.

Merrick Van Dongen,
WHCCA President

4th of July Parade & Picnic

I'm pleased to say that this year's Independence Day bike parade and picnic was again a successful and enjoyable event, supported by your dues and by volunteers. Decorating supplies were provided for kids' bikes, and the picnic included sandwiches, drinks, chips and popsicles.

The weather cooperated after threatening to rain early in the morning, but the lack of rain also contributed to the early departure of the fire engine. It was preparing to lead the bike parade when a call came in to assist the Mercer Island Fire Department at a fire!

Fortunately, our very own WHCCA President, Merrick Van Dongen, ably filled in for the fire engine and led the parade. His distinctive red and white hat made him easy to follow. It is also rumored that he was making fire engine noises as he led the parade around the block. Next year we'll know that if the Fire Department gets an emergency call, we will have an excellent backup ready to go. But Merrick, don't forget your hat!

Jon Smith,
WHCCA board member

Annual Picnic was August 16th

We had a beautiful hot day for our annual summer picnic held at Lattawood Park. The board provided sub sandwiches, chips, pop, water and a variety of popsicles for everyone's enjoyment. The kids all had a great time playing bean bag toss and other games.

The coolest event was the water balloon toss, in which several adults also participated. The extra balloons were used for a huge "water balloon fight" so everyone could cool down. The kids had several chances to win prizes and everyone went home happy. All in all, it was a great day. It's always nice to catch up with our neighbors.

Thank you to everyone who helped set up, take down and clean up afterwards.

Laura Warren
WHCCA board member

2007 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers —

President: Merrick Van Dongen
vandongen@earthlink.net, 425-644-7676,
4660 159th Ave SE

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

Secretary: Gretchan Lindsey
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15422 SE 47th Street

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

Board Members at large —

Hua Liu
hualiu2001@yahoo.com, 425-373-9224,
4542 157th Ave SE

Patt Sellen
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Jon & Michelle Smith
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SE 46th Way

Natasha & Wade Vorley, vorley@
netzero.com, 425-945-0526, 4726 163rd Ct
SE

Laura & Bruce Warren
gypsygirl6@hotmail.com, 206-388-3191,
4631 161st Avenue SE

About the WHCCA board

The WHCCA is YOUR community associa-
tion. We are all about building and sustain-
ing our sense of community in a number of
ways. Board members and adjunct members
volunteer their services by helping to plan
and host neighborhood events like the Egg
Hunt, July 4th parade & picnic, Spring
cleanup, and Coffee Social.

We are also very involved in ways to im-
prove the quality of the neighborhood
through capital improvement projects such
as mailbox renovations, entrance upgrades,
etc. As a member of the Board for a rela-
tively short time, I am constantly reminded of
how great a neighborhood we actually have,
and how active the community is, in no small
part due to efforts of the WHCCA Board.

I would also like to make the distinction be-
tween WHCCA as a community association
compared to a regular 'homeowners asso-
ciation'. Unlike a homeowners association in
which dues are mandatory and a large por-
tion of the association's business deals with
maintenance of common areas and CC&R's,
WHCCA dues are voluntary and we focus on
building community through events and
neighborhood improvement projects. That
makes serving on the Board fun and fulfilling.

We are looking for interested WHCCA resi-
dents to join the WHCCA Board. You will be
first to know about issues and will participate
in decisions that affect your own neighbor-
hood. We welcome any resident, new or old.

Please contact any Board member if you
have questions about what we do, and we
invite you to attend a future Board meeting.

Merrick Van Dongen

WHCCA Board President

WHCCA ADJUNCT FUNCTIONS

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

Emergency planning, blockwatch:
currently unassigned (any volun-
teers?)

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

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

Web site: Gretchan Lindsey ,
GretchanL@hotmail.com, 425-644-
4580

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willhargr@aol.com, 425-643-0549

WHCCA EVENT COORDINATORS

Coffee social: Laura & Bruce Warren

Spring cleanup: Michelle & Rob Cash

Easter egg hunt: Heather McCrone

July 4th Parade & picnic: Jon &
Michelle Smith

Summer picnic: Keri Kiefer

Garage sale: Natasha & Wade Vorley

Thank you to outgoing board members & welcome to a new one!

Many thanks are due to departing board members
Mike & Cathy Halliday, Mark & Sharon Afforde, and
Scott & Danielle Winter. The ongoing board mem-
bers enjoyed getting to know them and working with
them all. We appreciate their many contributions
over the past several years!

We also warmly welcome our newest board mem-
ber, Hua ("Kwah") Liu. She will be providing a per-
sonal profile and photo for the next Whispers, and
the board is thrilled to have her help and perspec-
tive going forward.



COMPLETE & MAIL this form with check payable to "WHCCA". Send to:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

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, please tell us:

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

WHCCA Treasurer, PMB 342
4957 Lakemont Blvd. SE

*Please send your
dues today!*

*The suggested amount is \$30
per household...*