

Briarcrest

neighborhood news

APRIL / MAY
2008

Neighborhood Calendar

www.briarcrestneighbors.net

Asset-Based Community Development, April 26, Saturday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. Seattle First Christian Reform Church, 14555 25th Ave NE. Low-cost community organizing training with nationally renowned consultant, author & organizer, Jim Diers, to identify assets, tools (people, relationships, organizations) & projects to bring neighbors together around a common vision. RSVP required nsmith@ci.shoreline.wa.us. \$15 includes lunch. There are a limited number of free admissions for help with setup.

Clean Up School Grounds, May 3, 10:00 am. Info: Bill Bear - 368 0858.

Council of Neighborhoods meeting, Wednesday, May 7, & June 4, 7:00 - 9:00 pm (always 1st Wednesday). Shoreline Conference Center, Spartan Room 18560 1st Ave NE.

Briarcrest Neighborhood Newsletter Table Meeting, Thursday, May 15, 7:00 pm, 15517 27th Ave NE. Bring articles for the newsletter.

RECURRING NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

BNA General meeting, Monday April 14, May 12, & June 9, 7:00 pm (always 2nd Monday). Congregational Church, 15518 27th Ave.

Bible Study for Women, Thursdays, 9:45 - 11:30 am, First Christian Reformed Church. Childcare for infants and Story Hour for children 2 to 5. Info: Church office (206) 364-3021.

IvyOut at South Woods Park, Saturday April 19, May 17, & June 21, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm (always 3rd Saturday). More information about the South Woods Preservation Group at www.savesouthwoods.org, dedicated to environmental education & preservation.

Sustainable Shoreline Education Association, Friday April 25, May 30, & June 27, 7:00 pm (always 4th Friday). First Christian Reformed Church, 147th St and 25th Ave. Info: www.sustainableshoreline.org/

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- South Woods was adopted as our park at a recent BNA meeting. For more information: <http://savesouthwoods.org/>

Submit newsletter articles to:

- Bettelinn Krizek Brown, Newsletter Chair
15517 27th Ave NE
bettelinn@hotmail.com, 363 5517
- Marcia Taylor, Assistant Editor
15858 28th Ave NE
iptaylor@earthlink.net, 725 1377
- Submissions for the Briarcrest website:
info@briarcrestneighbors.net

Briarcrest Neighborhood Association Officers

Bill Bear, Director	368 0858
Jon Melusky, Asst Director	361 2563
Bettelinn Krizek Brown, Secretary	363 5517
Charlie Brown, Treasurer	363 5517

Block Contact Coordinators

Jon Melusky	361 2563
Glinda Mathews	361 1917
Dan Henry	363 9562
Dennis Lee	362 7798
Bettelinn Brown	363 5517

BNA Mailing Address:

c/o Sherry Marlin
14750 20th Ave NE

Thanks to the Seattle Congregational Church & the First Christian Reformed Church for the use of their buildings.

This newsletter is published by the Briarcrest Neighborhood Association and is distributed by the volunteer Block Contacts who live on your block. We appreciate your comments, your donations to the BNA which offset the printing costs and your patronage of the local businesses that advertise with us.

Southeast Neighborhoods Subarea Plan Kick-off

On March 19 the City of Shoreline held a community meeting to kick-off the planning process for the Southeast Neighborhoods Subarea. This comprises the southern part of Briarcrest and part of the adjoining Ridgecrest neighborhood. The subarea extends from 10th Avenue NE to Bothell Way, and from NE 145th Street to NE 150th Street (155th on the west side of Fircrest).

At the kick-off meeting, held in the Activities Building at Fircrest, Senior Planner, Steve Cohn, introduced planning consultant, Michael Aippersbach, who gave the audience an introduction to "City Planning 101." He described the genesis of the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) of 1990, requiring all cities and counties in the state to create Comprehensive Plans.

The City of Shoreline's original 1998 Comprehensive Plan was revised in 2005 and included 3 Special Study Areas thought to need further study. The SE Neighborhoods is one of these, and that further study is now beginning.

Aippersbach explained the limits of municipal planning and zoning, and the resulting dependence on market forces and commercial development to realize planning goals.

The City's next speaker was Miranda Redinger, who told how the planning work will be guided by established City strategies relating to housing and sustainability. Steve Cohn then described the steps of the planning process:

1. A volunteer Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) of 12-15 people will be formed (the original application deadline of April 4 has been extended).
2. The CAC will make recommendations to the Shoreline Planning Commission by February 2009.
3. The Planning Commission will make recommendations to the City Council who have final decision authority.

Some questions asked at the meeting: **Q.** Who will select the CAC participants? **A.** The City Planning department. **Q.** How seriously does the city take citizen contributions? **A.** Chris Eggen, a subarea resident and council member, responded that the Council is very interested in meeting the wishes of area residents. **Q.** What are the risks of interim development and re-zoning? **A.** Any such applications would probably be denied now the planning process has begun.

Hamlin Creek Another issue that will face the planners is the proposed daylighting of Hamlin Creek in two areas adjoining the subarea: a segment proposed in the Fircrest Campus Excess Property Master Plan immediately north of NE 150th, and a possible daylighted segment in the City of Seattle from NE 145th south to its confluence with North Fork Thornton Creek.

Stay tuned for news of another Southeast Neighborhoods Subarea Planning meeting. Check the BNA website at www.briarcrestneighbors.net or contact one of the BNA Officers for more information.

- Ian Taylor



On Monday, March 10th prior to the SE Subarea Plan Kick-Off on March 19th, Miranda Redinger, City Planner, took this group for an afternoon "drive-through" of the southern area of the neighborhoods. We explored every street and avenue of the 234 acres (0.47 sq. miles) to become aware of the problems unique to our area. When we returned to the City Hall, Miranda took this picture of us. From left to right: Dick Nicholson, Charlie Brown, Dave Pyle, Bettelinn Krizek Brown, Loretta VanDyke, Bill Bear, Dennis Lee, Frank Moll, Diane Bunce, and Michael Aippersbach.

BNA 10th Anniversary Party

Friends and neighbors came together Saturday, March 29th to enjoy a delicious dinner of lasagna, salad, and garlic bread, with brownies for desert. The City of Shoreline provided the food. Bill and Margot went to Costco to buy it. Jon, Glinda and Steve, Dennis and Margaret, April, Tina, Diana, Pete and Loretta and Lois helped set up, cook, serve and clean up. Charlie collected the money, Bettelinn and Bill coordinated the planning. Diana brought her friends the singing group, "Herbst and Spices" to provide some great live music. Mark and Margot gave us some swing dance lessons. The First Christian Reformed Church provided the space. The Mayor Cindy Ryu, the Deputy Mayor Terry Scott, City Council Member Janet Way and State Representative Maralyn Chase came to wish us well. We met some new people and greeted old friends. We had more fun than a person ought to be allowed to have.

- Bill Bear

Briarcrest Neighborhood Association Director's Report

What is the biggest problem we face in Briarcrest? Is it loss of jobs, rising property values and taxes? Housing and medical care that is increasingly unaffordable? Or is it fear of terrorist attacks, loss of privacy and personal freedoms? Perhaps you're more concerned about global warming, or traffic, our children's education and future, the war, pollution, crime, or addictions?

These are not just global or national problems that affect other people. Some or all of these problems affect people in our own neighborhood. They affect us. It is my experience that whatever harms one of us, harms all of us. And whatever helps one of us, helps us all. While the challenges we face seem overwhelming, they may actually be the symptoms of a few key problems.

First, we have little or no community left. We are isolated from each other, and isolation makes all of our problems seem overwhelming. Second, we feel powerless to affect change. Decisions that dramatically impact our lives are made by those who live far from us, who have the money and influence we don't have. We feel that no-one is listening to us and no-one is speaking for us.

But do not despair! I want to point out some things our neighbors are doing that offer us all a reason for hope.

- We just had our BNA anniversary party. Sixty people came and we had a great time. Our Mayor Cindy Ryu, Deputy Mayor, Terry Scott, City Council Member Janet Way, and State Representative, Maralyn Chase all came.
- Last summer we had 9 different block parties! This year we are encouraging one on every block.
- 40 people came to the meeting to kick-off the planning process for the Southeast Neighborhoods Subarea on March 19.
- More folks from our neighborhood than from any other attended the March 31 City Council meeting for Ridgecrest zoning & property tax exemption.
- February 9 our elementary school was flooded with more than 600 people from the Briarcrest neighborhood and surrounding precincts to elect delegates to the 32nd District Democratic Caucus. 1800 delegates and alternates from all over our district will be at our high school to elect delegates to the Congressional and County Caucuses, many for the first time. Republicans are also seeing new faces in their delegate selection process.
- Neighborhood churches are fulfilling their mission to serve the people of the community: Prince of Peace holds Wednesday night community dinners; First Christian Reformed hosted a block party, our anniversary party, and the Jim Diers Neighborhood Organizing workshop on April 26th; and Seattle Congregational Church hosts our 2nd Monday of the month BNA meetings.

Add to this that dozens of our neighbors routinely volunteer to make our parks better, our environment healthier, our city more sustainable, our students better educated, and our poor, ill, and elderly better taken care of. This is the way to build community. This is the way we can meet those challenges right here, in our own neighborhood. I hope you will join us.

- Bill Bear

Why I Band Birds

I band birds to save habitats.

By finding out which birds use an area, and having the data to prove it, I can activate neighbors and go to council meetings, and say, "These birds need this urban forest, wetlands, or pond." Habitat loss is the greatest danger to wildlife, and especially migrating birds. When a swampy area is drained, a pond filled in, or a creek put into pipes, migrating birds lose a vital refueling and resting stop.

They may not have the energy to fly to the next known landmark. Death is a real consequence, so too is nesting failure due to depleted fat reserves.

I band for the physical exercise.

Birds are caught in banding nets that are 10 feet high and usually 30 feet long. There's a lot of reaching up and squatting down to carefully remove birds. Nets need to be checked every 20 minutes for the birds' safety. MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) stations usually have an array of ten nets up for six hours at a time. These nets are spread across as many different types of habitat features as possible to catch the greatest number of species. If a net has several birds, I have to speed walk to the next net so that the birds in that net don't wait too long. Then I hurry to the banding station to band each bird, determine its age and sex, general health and whether it is breeding or not. 30 feet times 10 = 300 feet times 3 times an hour for six hours = eighteen football fields, and that's not counting the travel distance between nets – easily a five-mile workout.

I band to keep my mind active.

I have to identify the species, know how to use the thick bander's guide, identify age by observing molt patterns, and correctly enter the 34 units of data recorded for each bird. I have to know how to safely hold the bird while I'm closing the band, and I have to recognize signs of stress and let the bird go even if I am not done. The safety of the bird is paramount.

I band for all those reasons.

But really, I band for those awesome moments when I hold the birds safely in my hands, get the needed information, and then open my hands and let them fly free once again. I like to think that each time I hold a bird I help make the world a safer place for them. I want the next generation to be able to hold a bird and soar with it as it takes wing from their hands. - Christine Southwick



Seen a coyote? Heard an owl? Unusual birds, or other wildlife? Call me and leave a message with phone number. Who knows? I might be able to take a picture. Christine Southwick 206-363-4910.



Kudos to Briarcrest Elementary

Many can relate what it means to be a protective parent. I know I'm not the only mom that worries. But ever since our son was diagnosed with autism (and the not so great school experiences that followed), well, that protectiveness has been notched up considerably. I never thought we'd find a school that could work with the challenges and gifts that come with the wiring we call autism. This is why it is worth singing our experiences at Briarcrest Elementary from the rafters. My son is doing well, has a great teacher, and a team of professionals at the school who really celebrate his victories. We have had so many this year, already. We are truly grateful to come home to our neighborhood school at last. Thank you Briarcrest team!

- Kristine Cunningham

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Traffic Update

Four residents of 28 NE and 28 Place NE attended a meeting with Robert Wood and John Marek of Shoreline Public Works. The outcome was that the City of Shoreline will provide some educational material, starting with a speed reader/display (it has been on 28th twice so far), but not consider a traffic calming device like an island or a chicane. A flyer addressing speed was also mailed to residents (in my opinion the flyers went to the wrong people--most speeders are "cut-throughs"). Although the results of a count conducted last year showed some speeding and an average of 300 cars per day, our location is not a priority--other locations are more of a danger. The city will look at the issue of 28NE & 28 Place NE again at a later time.

- Christine Southwick

See the update on the Fircrest Campus Excess Property Master Plan at www.cityofshoreline.com/cityhall/projects/fircrest/index.cfm

The Shoreline Sustainability Strategy document is still in draft form and open to amendment. Get involved with this visionary document at <http://www.cityofshoreline.com/cityhall/departments/planning/sustainable/index.cfm>

An interesting article about a "deconstructed" house in our neighborhood is at http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/athome/353306_deconstruct01.html