

Tips for Your Yard

Russell Link is a wildlife biologist with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and has authored two well known books "Landscaping for Wildlife in the Pacific Northwest" and "Living with Wildlife." I went to hear him speak February 21 at the Thornton Creek Alliance meeting and came away with some good tips for attracting wildlife. Using slides of his home and property, he showed us examples of things we could do in our yards to support birds, bats, insects and animals. We are fortunate in Briarcrest to live close to the natural wildlife areas of Hamlin Park and South Woods, so we get lots of "spill over" of creatures coming from those parks. He suggested planting sweet alyssum, nodding onion, western azalea and asters to attract all sorts of birds and butterflies. Our over-wintering hummingbirds feed on witch hazel, red current and Oregon grape - as well as the feeders we maintain. Bumble bee queens and orchard mason bees come out of their holes in late winter looking for pollen and nectar from flowering shrubs and fruit trees. *Pieris japonica* (Lily of the Valley shrub) is an excellent early bloomer to have for these bees. Serviceberry and evergreen huckleberry attract fruit eating birds. The importance of keeping "wild" areas in our yards - brush piles, snags, dense thickets - for sheltering wildlife was stressed. He has different styles of bat houses and showed appropriate areas to place them. I learned that birdbaths with gradually sloping sides and ponds with a shallow area allow birds to wade and wash as well as drink. He showed us several types of bird feeders; one had all of the feeding ports covered except one. This eliminates much of the rodent attracting mess under the feeder. It was an entertaining evening and I came away inspired to do more in my corner of the neighborhood. Information on attracting wildlife to your backyard can be found at wdfw.wa.gov. To learn more about Thornton Creek Alliance, which is an organization dedicated to preserving and restoring Thornton Creek watershed, go to scn.org/tca.

- Lee Keim

Clean Up Day

Let's beautify the neighborhood together! I make it a habit to pick up litter whenever I can, recycling what is picked up. If you are inspired to help, please join me on Saturday afternoon, February 27 at 1:00 pm, for a Street Clean-up Effort in Briarcrest. We can meet at my house at 14733 32 Ave NE, and begin our work from there. Or if you prefer, feel free to start cleaning the street on your own block. Let's hope for good weather.

- Jonathan Melusky



Kindness Happens

I'm one of your neighbors and I want to tell you about a class that started back in the Fall, called the Kindness Class. It's facilitated online by Andy Smallman, the director of The Puget Sound Community School, which is a small, progressive middle and high school in downtown Seattle, where my son attends. When the announcement of the class was first made to the school community and that it was open to all, the news spread far and wide, and soon there were 250 people participating as far away as Poland. I enrolled because I loved the idea, but I was completely unprepared for the profound effect it had on me. Just stopping to let someone cross the street, letting someone go in front of me in a line, buying the coffee for the person behind me in the Starbucks drive-thru, making a home cooked meal for my family - all simple, every-day gestures that when we're mindful of them, have the power to change how we see the world and those who share it with us. The world is truly brighter!

I am taking a class called the Power of Kindness, based on the book by Piero Ferrucci. Linda Shaw of the Seattle Times did a wonderful article, "Kindness taught in Seattle School's online class." You can read it by going to seattletimes.com and search on "kindness class"; be sure to click the link to the class blog for some fun, poignant, and inspiring stories. If you'd like to join a Kindness Class, you can write to andy@pscs.org. Perhaps you have a story of kindness too. Whether it's holding the door for someone, or helping out at the Food Bank, we'd love to hear them...just send an email to vclearwater@comcast.net and we'll try and share them in future newsletters!

- Victoria Clearwater



More Announcements

32nd District Republican Precinct Caucus, Saturday, February 13, 10 am, Aurora Nazarene Church

32nd District Democratic Legislative Caucus and Auction, March 14, 1 pm, Shorecrest Gym

Lela vision performance art, Saturday, February 27, 7:30 pm, Shorecrest Theatre, A unique performance combining sculpture, music and choreograph. Info at shorelinearts.net.

The Bobs, Saturday, March 13, 7:30 pm, a cappella group, Shorecrest Theatre, bobs.com and shorelinearts.net

Family Astronomy Night, Tuesday, March 30, 7 pm, Shorecrest High School.

Shoreline Christian Spring Vocal Concert, Friday, April 16, 7 pm, First Seattle Christian Reformed Church. The concert will include high school concert choir, Jr. High choir and select singing groups. Come and enjoy. Info 364-7777 or shorelinechristian.org Leann Bakker, lbakker@shorelinechristian.org

South Woods Report: Aliens Invade Briarcrest

No, they do not come from outer space, only beyond our bordering oceans. But they can be nasty and cause problems. And you may be helping them.

Foremost are holly and ivy. They were planted as ornamentals in South Woods many years ago. Now they are a very serious problem. Their vigorous growth crowds out native ground cover, shrubs and trees. The composition of the woods changes and associated animal life suffers too.

Many Briarcrest yards harbor holly and ivy. Even though well-managed on site, seeds from these sources may be causing problems elsewhere. More use of these plants should be discouraged. In fact, King County lists English holly and English ivy as noxious weeds. Eliminate holly and ivy if you are so inclined. Certainly sever ivy vines going up trees and stop further lateral spread on the ground.

Another Kind of Invader

Trees have been cut and removed from South Woods Park. This is theft. Permission for removal is never given. If you see it happening in any Shoreline park, call 911 immediately. In a recent South Woods incident the license plate number was given to authorities, but it turned out that the plates were also stolen and the thieves were never caught.

- Charlie Brown

Donate to Food Bank

Shoreline's Human Services Director, Rob Beem, at the November Council of Neighborhoods meeting, shared his concern that more supplies need to be made available for the food bank. The point Rob made clear is that the most important need is to provide supplies for the food bank. So the task is, to inspire everyone who can, to make a donation. The more food people have the more money they will have to pay for their rent and utilities. To learn how to donate food, money or your time, call Hopelink Shoreline Center at 440-7300.

- Carol Danell

Party Time Saturday, April 17th!

Spring is around the corner, so it must be time to write the BNA Anniversary party on your calendar! This annual party is a splendid opportunity for all of us to get together to celebrate the return of longer days and the chance to chat with neighbors.

Our neighborhood is blessed with a rich diversity of friendly people, and this event helps keep us connected. Plus, you get an inexpensive dinner, games and activities for the kiddos, and the chance to try out a new dance form if you like! Please join us if you can; we'd love to see you!

- Margot Richardson

Briarcrest

neighborhood news

FEB / MARCH
2010

Neighborhood Calendar

www.briarcrestneighbors.net

Submissions for the Briarcrest website:
info@briarcrestneighbors.net

Opportunities for Involvement

Briarcrest Neighborhood Meeting, 2nd Thursdays, 7:00 pm, Congregational Church, 15518 27 Ave NE, Fellowship Hall, downstairs.

Thursday, February 11, Meeting Program: Debbie Tarry and Julie Underwood, City of Shoreline, will give a brief presentation on the City's ability to fund services and the impact on those services by the current long-range financial outlook.

Briarcrest Elementary, 5th/6th Grade Play "Annie Jr." February 12 and 13, various times, Shorecrest Theatre, tickets & info at Briarcrest School 368-4170

South Woods Ivy Out, third Saturdays, Feb. 20, March 20, 10-2

Sustainable Shoreline Education Association, 4th Fridays, Feb 26, 7 - 9 pm, First Christian Reformed Church of Seattle, 14555 25 Ave NE Rm 202. sustainableshoreline.org

Embrace Shorecrest Activity/Gardening Events, Feb. 27, March 27, April 17, 10-2, meet at front steps to main door, Q's - Diane 363-1542

Street Clean-up Effort in Briarcrest, February 27, 1 pm

Council of Neighborhoods, First Wednesdays, March 3, 7 - 9 pm, Shoreline City Hall

Shorecrest Open House, Thursday, March 18, 6:30 pm, Shorecrest High School.

Table Meeting, March 18, 7 pm - prepare April/May 2010 Briarcrest Neighborhood News at Bettelinn's

Briarcrest Open House, Ice Cream Social & Book Fair, Thursday, April 1, 6 pm, Briarcrest School.

BNA Anniversary Party, Saturday, April 17, 5 pm, First Seattle Christian Reformed Church, 14555 25 Ave NE, Margot Richardson, 365-2619

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• The printing costs for each time the newsletter is published is nearly \$140.00. Contributions can be made at the April party, at BNA meetings, or by getting them to Charlie Brown, Treasurer, at any time.
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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.

Director's Report: Looking Forward

2010 is here now and we are on the lighter side of the equinox. As we enter a new year I would like to take time to focus on our goals for the future. Times are tough, but the dark days can become much brighter and you can get through the rough times by helping one another. Listed here in the newsletter activity calendar are a few ways we work together. Read about the projects and get involved. Hopefully your community participation will help you achieve more peace of mind.

The past newsletters can be read on our web site briarcrestneighbors.net. See the Nov/Dec/Jan newsletter for the two articles about our plans this year to work closely with ways to improve our neighborhood's preparedness in the event of an earthquake or other disaster.

The monthly Briarcrest Neighborhood Association meeting night has changed from Monday to Thursday nights as of February 11th. Our annual neighborhood party is planned for Saturday, April 17. Volunteer to help. Post your ideas on our Google discussion group. You can always e-mail me at sad-varthurseattle@comcast.net. I wish the best to all in the upcoming year.

- Arthur Peach, BNA Director

Overview: Southeast Neighborhoods Subarea Plan

The document created by the Citizens Advisory Committee is now in the hands of the Shoreline Planning Commission. Briarcrest neighbors testified at a February 4 public hearing before the Planning Commission, and the Commission is now deliberating. The Planning Commission will make a recommendation to the City Council, which will make our subarea plan a part of the city's comprehensive land use plan. The 13 members of the advisory committee worked tirelessly for 16 months. At the end of their process, the group adopted a zoning map by a 7 - 5 vote, with the five dissenting members issuing a minority report. Dissenting members not only believed the adopted plan lacked context and a cohesive vision, but they also raised a number of technical concerns. They would have liked to have seen a more systematic evaluation of the Shoreline only, Comprehensive Plan, the state Growth Management Act, and the city's overall efforts to meet population density and job creation targets. We can hope that the Planning Commission will address some of these concerns. The Planning Commission agenda and supporting documents are online at cosweb.ci.shoreline.wa.us/uploads/attachments/pds/pc/2010/0204/agenda.htm

- Kathy Hall

Subarea Planning Flawed

The Citizens Advisory Committee work was finished November 2009, with their final zoning map being created from little pieces then "approved" in a rush at the end of the process to meet the city's deadline, causing nearly half of the committee to dissent.

The final map proposes zoning for 900 additional units from 145th north to 155th and from Bothell Way west to 8th Ave NE. About half of these units are proposed between Bothell Way and 30th Ave and the other half are proposed on both sides of 15th Ave NE as Mixed Use-3 (density of up to R-150 and with heights of 65 feet). The vote was 7 for and 5 against. Read the full report, including the minority report on the City web site at: shorelinewa.gov/index.aspx?page=178

The minority members object to the zoning recommendations because they fail to meet the requirements given to the committee by the City Council. The Minority position is that the draft plan recommendations and the zoning map are not in agreement, lack cohesive vision, lack systematic evaluation of relevant city documents, lack evaluation/incorporation of the city's targets for increased density, jobs, and retail space as they apply to the southeast subarea, and do not reflect citizen input from public meetings.

The committee minority propose creating a new zone called an economic zone (EZ) that would bring about favorable conditions, for job-creating business development with living wage jobs, to locate in our neighborhood. Those businesses need reasonable rent costs, high volume traffic passing by and transit within walking distance. Bothell Way, NE 145th, and 15th Ave NE provide the transit, commuter and customer traffic required. One way of driving down the cost of rent or development in this new economic zone is to limit the use of the land for residential development to 12 units per acre and limiting the height to 35 feet.

The process is now in the public hearing phase until final legislation is approved by the Shoreline City Council. The outcome depends on all of us. Your neighbors need you. Read the full report by Bill Bear on our BNA website.

- Dennis Lee