

LAURELHURST

L E T T E R

Published by the Laurelhurst Community Club ... serving 3,000 households and businesses

July/August 2007

Salmon Bake

**Thursday, July 26,
5:30 to 8 p.m.**

Laurelhurst Playfield

Two Scoops Combo
(Rockin' Boogie Woogie)

Tickets are sold at the event for all activities and food. ■

Park Concerts

6 p.m., Laurelhurst Park
Bring a picnic supper!

**Thursday, August 2 –
Little Bill & The Blue Notes**
(Classic Rhythm & Blues)

**Thursday, August 9 –
Michael Powers Group**
(Blues & Smooth Jazz Guitarist)

Night Out

Tuesday, August 7

Night Out is a national Crime Prevention event designed to heighten crime prevention awareness, increase neighborhood support in anti-crime efforts, and unite our communities. It is a great chance to learn about crime prevention, while also celebrating your community and spending time with your neighbors.

To learn more about hosting a block party, visit www.seattle.gov/police/nightout.

Block Watch is a program that is based on the principle that neighbors working together are the first and best line of defense against crime. Roughly 30 percent of Seattle neighborhoods are currently involved in Block Watch, compared to a national average of 8 to 11 percent. Block Watch is simple to begin and can improve the security of your neighborhood while increasing your sense of community. To learn more about starting a Block Watch visit www.seattle.gov/Police/Prevention/blockwatch.

Pesticide-Free Garden Practices

In May 2007 the LCC board of trustees voted unanimously to support efforts to educate our neighbors about gardening without pesticides and using safer alternatives to promote a healthy environment. Here is the first in a series of articles.

Summer is the season for heavy pesticide use. This article introduces the Pesticide Free Zone program, outlines some of the reasons to avoid pesticides, and provides resources for more detailed information. Watch for future workshops on sustainable lawn and garden practices.

Refrain from using toxic pesticides and instead opt for safer lawn and garden alternatives. Declare your support for environmentally friendly gardening by posting a Pesticide Free Zone sign prominently in your front yard. The small, metal sign with an eye-catching ladybug design alerts neighbors that you support healthier gardening practices by using safer pest management techniques. The Pesticide Free Zone project is sponsored by the Washington Toxics Coalition (WTC), a local environmental organization that has worked to protect health and environment for more than 25 years. To order your free sign, contact WTC at 632-1545. Let them know you are from Laurelhurst. Their website, www.wa-toxics.org, provides a wealth of information on products and pest control.

Why not use pesticides? The devastating effects of pesticides can include neuro-toxics, endocrine disruption, sensitizers/irritants leading to allergies, and cancer. They've also been linked to Parkinson's. Effects of pesticides can be slow and subtle, affecting humans and pets over time. For example, the endocrine system represents a delicate, but critical wiring of hormonal signals throughout the body including the master gland, the thyroid. Glandular systems can affect mood, energy, sleep, behavior, concentration, and more.

Pesticides are tracked into our homes where they reside in our carpets and are inhaled 24/7. Pesticides also drain into the soil and contaminate streams and lakes (think, Beach Club) where they affect humans, environment, and sea life. Research has shown that children in homes where lawn chemicals are applied experience more health problems. Pregnant women/fetuses, young children, those with compromised immune systems, and those chemically sensitive are among the most vulnerable populations. However, we can all benefit from cleaner air, water, and soil close to home. More information can be found at the website for the National Coalition for Pesticide-Free Lawns, www.beyondpesticides.org.

To get started with natural lawn care, visit King County's website at www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/naturallyardcare. Click on the Natural Yard Care booklet for a user-friendly presentation about safely managing your yard. To speak to a professional about keeping your garden and lawn healthy without using pesticides, contact the Natural Lawn and Garden Hotline weekdays at 633-0224.

Finally, share safer gardening techniques with neighbors and hire gardeners who use safe practices. If you use a spraying company, insist on an organic, safe solution (many are starting to develop them); avoid regular spraying contracts, which deposit excessive poisons in our area.

Let's work together to reduce the use of toxic pesticides, and keep Laurelhurst beautiful and safe. ■



Playground Fund Match and Fun \$ Raisers

October 31 is the deadline for the Laurelhurst School Community Playground Renovation Project to match the \$90,000 grant awarded by the Department of Neighborhoods. Thanks to many generous supporters, the project already has raised about \$45,000. Three more fundraising events are planned to get as close as possible to the construction estimate of \$270,000. The time to help is now!

■ **Laurelhurst Legacy Bricks** Cement your spot on the new School Community Playground with a brick or two for the walkway on the south playground. Be a part of this enduring tribute to the people and the community that make the playground at Laurelhurst so special. The bricks are \$100.00 each with discounts for multiple bricks, and they are 100% tax deductible! Order forms are available on the school website, www.seattleschools.org/schools/laurelhurst/playground, or contact Stacy Graves at 524-5626, stacyagraves@mac.com, or Coco Sherman at 525-9850, cocosherman@comcast.net.

■ **Sports Gear Sale, Saturday, Sept. 22** Clean out those closets and storage areas, and bring all of your used sports gear to the Laurelhurst School, north playground (look for the Mobile Mini Storage Unit) from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, August 4 and August 18. Though this is a "used" gear sale, please consider whether your items are salable before you donate them. The Project will almost everything: skis, snowboards, bikes, scooters, camping gear, kayaks, canoes, windsurfers, golf equipment, tennis rackets, jog strollers, ski clothes, and any other sports equipment. For information contact Chip Painter at 526-8250 or Kay Rawlings, 729-5942.

■ **Laurelhurst Golf Tournament, Oct. 15** You could win a car – thanks to Westlund Buick GMC – if you can make a hole in one! Lunch-time Tee-off at the beautiful Sand Point Country Club. It's a scramble format with lots of great prizes. The Project is looking for several more sponsors and some celebrity players. Know anyone? Contact Dave Watson at 790-1698, watty1019@yahoo.com or Coco Sherman at 525-9850, cocosherman@comcast.net, for more information. ■

Summertime Crime Prevention Information

- Visit LCC's website: www.laurelhurstcc.com for tips.
- Be diligent in reporting illegal activities to 9-1-1.
- To assist law enforcement when reporting incidents at the park, use the address of the **Playfield (4454 NE 41st Street)**.
- Be observant of any out-of-the-ordinary behavior in your vicinity.
- Be cautious of door-to-door solicitors. Report any overly aggressive soliciting to the police.
- Don't let strangers come into your home.
- Keep your front and back doors locked at all times, especially when working in the garden.
- Make sure your garage door is closed whenever you leave home.
- Leave a talk-radio station on while you're away from the house.
- Arrange for a friend or neighbor to keep an eye on your house while on vacation. Have the post office hold your mail and cancel the newspaper, and also have someone cut the lawn and pick up any unexpected advertising flyers or empty recycling bins. Use light timers. Make your home look lived in, even when you're not there.

Contact LCC Crime Prevention co-chairs Maggie Weissman, 527-6646, and Brian McMullen, 367-9325, for additional information and to report activities that affect the safety and security of our neighborhood. ■

www.laurelhurstcc.com

Update on Children's Master Plan Advisory Committee

The LCC Board of Trustees has closely monitored and participated as permitted in the process developed by the Department of Neighborhoods (DON) for appointment of a Master Plan Advisory Committee for Children's Hospital. LCC interviewed candidates expressing interest in serving on the committee, submitted recommendations to DON and met with representatives from DON on two occasions, with representatives from Children's involved in the second meeting. In light of this experience and its in depth familiarity with the Major Institutions Code, LCC offered detailed comments and suggested amendments on the proposed legislation before the City Council regarding the number and composition of the advisory committee.

LCC advocates strict adherence to the Major Institutions Code, in particular the requirement that those appointed to serve on the committee be from areas directly affected by proposed expansion of Children's Hospital. LCC has worked hard to ensure that Laurelhurst neighbors from all segments of the neighborhood and business community have a spot on the committee. LCC also supports inclusion of a representative from Hawthorne Hills and Ravenna-Bryant.

A Committee orientation was held July 18. Election of officers and presentation of the concept plan will take place at the first formal committee meeting July 31. Neighbors are welcome to attend and there will be an opportunity for public comment. The committee will adopt its final report in November 2008. ■

CALENDAR

August 4 and 18 (Sat.) 9 to 11 a.m.
Sports Gear Collection to Benefit the Playground Renovation Project
North playground, Laurelhurst School

August 13 (Mon.) 7 p.m.
LCC Board of Trustees meeting
St. Stephen's Church

August 24 (Fri.) **Deadline for Laurelhurst newsletter copy and advertising**

UNCLASSIFIEDS

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FOR RENT: 3bdrm/1.75 baths. Laurelhurst. Brick, excel. cond. Hardwd.fl.s, garage, familyrm. Deck, pvt. fenced bkyd. \$1,975/mo. inclds mowing service. NS/sm pet(?) avail 9/15. 206-200-4884

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SUSAN'S CLEANING SERVICE: Cleaning specialist. Dependable, reliable, efficient. Licensed/bonded/insured. 781-8876.

The Laurelhurst Letter is published ten times a year. DISPLAY ADS cost \$75 per space per issue, with a five-issue commitment paid in advance. Laurelhurst-area businesses have priority. Call Leslie at 525-0467. UNCLASSIFIED ADS are free for paid members of the Laurelhurst Community Club, except that repeat ads or ads deemed commercial (including home businesses, real estate rentals, and houses for sale) cost \$20; 25-word maximum. Sorry, no unclassified ads taken by phone. Email copy to laurelhurstnews@comcast.net, or mail it to 4721 47th Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98105. Please include your name, address, and phone number. All ads are subject to space availability.

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LAURELHURST July/August 2007

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Newsletter: laurelhurstnews@comcast.net; 525-0467

Aircraft Noise Hotline	433-5393
Animal Control	386-7387
Police Nonemergency	625-5011
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