

LAURELHURST

L E T T E R

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

November 2007

Children's Advisory Committee Meetings: Tuesday, November 13 Tuesday, December 11 at 6 p.m.

Neighbors are encouraged to attend, and public comment is welcome at the meetings.

Location: Talaris, Cedar Room,
4000 NE 41st St.



SUN Park Partners with Metropolitan Market

The new SUN Native Plant Garden and Park on 47th Avenue NE and NE 47th is selling Metropolitan Market script to raise funds for construction and plant purchases for the landscape plan. Design concepts were presented at the second public meeting November 8 by landscape architecture firm Johnson/Sutherland. The final design will be presented in January. Watch for details on when and where!

Here's the deal: Purchase a \$25, \$50, or \$100 Metropolitan Market gift card from SUN Park steering committee chair Jean Amick, and 5 percent of the value goes to SUN Park.

Cascade Land Conservancy, out of the SUN account, paid \$2,850 for \$3,000 worth of script - which, when purchased by friends of the park, results in a \$150 profit. Use your Met gift card to buy your latte knowing 5 percent goes to a good cause. Or, purchase several for holiday gifts and stocking stuffers. To purchase the SUN Park / Metropolitan gift cards, contact Jean Amick at 525-7065.

SUN Park received a \$15,000 Neighborhood Matching Fund Award from the City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods. Cascade Land Conservancy is a 501.3.c. To make a tax-deductible donation, please make checks out to CLC/SUN Park and mail to 4721 47th Avenue NE, Seattle, WA 98105. Or, contribute directly to CLC and designate your contribution for SUN Park. Maximize contributions with employer matching funds! ■

City Rejects Inclusion of LCC Alternatives in Children's Planning Process

At its September meeting, the Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) unanimously voted to request the City require Children's to consider LCC's proposed suite of alternatives. On October 12, the Department of Planning and Development rejected study of the LCC's alternatives submitted during the Children's environmental scoping process. In a letter requesting the City reconsider its decision, LCC wrote: "Direction from the Department of Planning and Development is needed to ensure development of reasonable design alternatives that address significant impacts. Again, we ask that you reconsider your decision to reject the LCC alternatives for study in the EIS in light of the additional analysis we have provided in the attached memorandum* and the recommendations of the Citizens Advisory Committee."

* The following information is excerpted/edited from an analysis prepared by Carol Eychaner, Land Use and Community Planner, and presented in a memorandum from LCC to DPD. To read the full memorandum, visit www.laurelhurstcc.com.

PPD's response to CAC's recommendation, and rejection of LCC alternatives, is fundamentally flawed:

- It incorrectly characterizes the development potential in LCC's alternatives.
- It is based on ambiguous and unsubstantiated conclusory statements.
- It shirks its authority and responsibility under SEPA to require reasonable design alternatives that would reduce environmental degradation, especially for significant impacts.
- It encourages the development of nearly identical, so-called alternatives.
- It inappropriately abdicates the design of alternatives to CHRMC, providing little direction as to the required design parameters of the alternatives.

In addition to the above, DPD's limiting of EIS alternatives is particularly unjustified and unsupportable in light of the varied alternatives that have been developed for other master plan EISs, including but not limited to the EISs prepared for the last CHRMC master plan and for the University of Washington's southwest campus.

For the reasons described above, DPD's decision to severely limit the master plan EIS alternatives and reject reasonable design alternatives that address significant impacts, is fundamentally flawed. Pursuing nearly identical, look-alike alternatives, all with very significant impacts, does not enable the SEPA process, but instead frustrates the public's, CAC's and the decision-makers' ability to analyze development and mitigation options for the CHRMC site.

About 130 neighbors attend the October 30 CAC meeting, where Children's presented revised alternatives for expansion, one of which eliminates Laurel Terrace, the 136-unit garden condominium complex. The new alternatives can be viewed on Children's website, <http://masterplan.seattlechildrens.com>, and www.childrensaction.com. The originally proposed 240-foot towers have been lowered to 160 feet, still unprecedented and unacceptable in a low-rise, residential neighborhood. Plans for the new emergency wing were revealed as well; construction in 2009 is covered under the existing Master Plan.

Earlier that day, Children's presented their plans to the media. Laurelhurst representatives were not invited, and LCC president Jeannie Hale was not permitted entry to the event. "Guards were on hand to keep us out," she wrote in a letter to the mayor and DPD directors. "Children's told me that it was a private media event conducted on private property and we were not allowed to attend. It is remarkable that Children's would consider a media event private. ...We encourage you to do all you can to encourage Children's to work with the Laurelhurst community and all neighbors." ■

Keeping Neighborhood Sidewalks Safe

The dark winter season is upon us, and walkers are slogging through rain, wet leaves, and even snow and ice. It's time to take a close look at your sidewalk and make sure your property is clear and safe for walkers.

Are shrubs or hedges sprawling across the walk or overhanging the sidewalk's edge? Do tree branches droop causing passersby to duck? Are leaves covering the walkway? Have plantings grown so tall that drivers can't see past them?

If so, it's time to get out the garden tools. City Code requires property owners keep adjacent sidewalks, roads, and alleys clear of all obstructions (SMC15.72.010 and SMC 15.42.020). This means shoveling snow, raking leaves, and repairing damage sidewalks (for example, fixing the sidewalk if a privately maintained sewer or tree damages it). Encroaching shrubs and hedges must be cut back, and a minimum eight-foot clearance must be maintained above sidewalks (14 feet above roads and alleys). Vegetation that obscures an intersection at a distance of 30 feet should be trimmed.

Failure to observe these laws may result in a Notice of Violation, which comes with a \$25-a-day fine for each day out of compliance. Fines aside, keeping your sidewalks clear is a neighborly thing to do.

So, please do your part. As a property owner, be a good neighbor and keep your trees, bushes, hedges, and ground covers trimmed back from walkways!

If your street light is out, please report it. With more than 100,000 streetlights to maintain, City Light appreciates your help in finding lights that are out or malfunctioning. You can report problems online at www.seattle.gov/light/streetlight using the Streetlight Trouble Report Form, or by phone at 684-7056. ■

Playground Project: "We Did It!"

Co-chairs Coco Sherman and Melissa Kane announced they have raised enough money to win the full \$90,000 grant from the City's Department of Neighborhoods for the new school community playground at Laurelhurst Elementary. "We thank everyone for all the ways they have contributed to getting the project to this very significant point. We also thank the City of Seattle and the Department of Neighborhoods for their endorsement and financial support."

Sponsors of the recent Laurelhurst Golf Tournament gave generously to help reach the grant match and support the construction of the new playground.

Please thank these businesses with your patronage: Banquet Sponsor: Tom Maider and Kim Knowles, Windermere Real Estate Company; Beverage Cart Sponsor: Windermere Real Estate, Sand Point Office; Hole Sponsors: Alpha Martial Arts; Coldwell Banker Bain Associates, Lake Union Office; DirectBuy of Seattle North; Dyna Contracting; INFINITY from MARVIN by Signature Windows, Lakeview Mortgage and Lake Union Escrow; Laurel Group; McCallum Print Group; Merrill Lynch; NW Retail Partners; Pro-Robics Conditioning Clubs; Rainier Investment Management; Raymark Plumbing & Sewer; Seabrook Land Company; Seattle Eye M.D.s and Seattle Sunglass Co.; The Opus Group; Varlamos Pizzeria; Windermere Auto Service.

The next step is to contract for construction documents, which define the work to be done and specify costs; then the project goes out to bid. Sherman said they frequently are asked, "When will the playground be done?" The group is doing everything possible to keep the project on track for summer 2008 construction.

Just because ground has yet to be broken, it doesn't mean the Playground Project isn't already building. From 600 loaves of bread from Great Harvest Bread Co. to garden tours in Windermere, to a child's \$72.25 donation to 384 walk-a-thon pledges to a Legacy Brick from the school nurse in 1951 to a play court full of used bikes and a winning 50' putt at the Laurelhurst Golf Tournament, and many business, community organization and private donations – this project has been about school and community since its inception.

For questions/comments/ideas about the project, please contact Coco Sherman (525-9850, cocosherman@comcast.net) or Melissa Kane (527-8547, mmkane@mindspring.com), or visit the playground website at www.seattle-schools.org/schools/laurelhurst/playground/ ■

Think Snow! Think Fiorini Ski School

Even though Fiorini Sports has closed, Fiorini Ski School, founded in 1947, continues to teach skiers and snowboarders how to enjoy the mountains. For more information, visit their website, www.fioriniski.com, or call 206-463-5305; 425 area codes call 206-547-3147.

Help Get Pools on Parks' Agenda

Seattle Parks and Recreation Department soon will begin a comprehensive round of community meetings to guide the development of the Parks' strategic business plan. This plan will direct City focus and investment for the next 5 years. A group of neighbors invites you to help convince Parks to expand public pool facilities in Seattle. For details, see www.outdoorpool.org or contact elizabeth@outdoorpool.org. Plan to attend one of the following meetings to express your interest in expanding public pool space in our area.

Nov. 27 (Tues.) 5 to 7 p.m.
Ravenna-Eckstein Community Center

Nov. 29 (Thurs.) 7 to 9 p.m.
Laurelhurst Community Center

CALENDAR

November 12 (Mon.) 7 p.m.
LCC Board of Trustees meeting
St. Stephen's Church

November 13 (Tues.) Children's Advisory Committee meeting. 6 p.m.
Public welcome. Talaris, Cedar Room, 4000 NE 41st St.

November 20 (Tues.) Deadline for Laurelhurst newsletter copy and advertising

December 7 (Fri.) 6:30 to 8 p.m.
Bingo is back! All ages. Laurelhurst Community Center.

December 8 (Sat.) 8 p.m.
A Baroque Christmas, Gallery Concerts
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church.
206-726-6088 or GalleryConcerts.org.

December 11 (Tues.) Children's Advisory Committee meeting. 6 p.m.
Public welcome. Talaris, Cedar Room, 4000 NE 41st St.

December 14 + 15 (Fri. + Sat.) Holiday on Earth: Winter Art Show and Sale, Crafts, Refreshments. Laurelhurst Community Center. For more information, call the center at 206-684-7529.

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AVAILABLE VARIETY SERVICES: Housecleaning, laundry, ironing, alterations, cooking, etc. Mary, 286-8093.

CRYSTAL CLEAN: 14 years successfully cleaning Windermere and Laurelhurst homes. Weekend availability, special cleaning projects, laundry, ironing, etc. Licensed, bonded, insured. Email: luz0825@hotmail.com. 425-745-5753.

COMPUTER HELP - RAPID RESPONSE: Experienced teacher/tutoring. Hardware/software installation. Microsoft certifications: Word, Excel, Access. Laurelhurst refs. Matt, 525-8077.

DOG WALKER: Experienced, honest, reliable dog walker with excellent references and reasonable rates. www.walkdogwalk.com, e-mail walkdog-walk@gmail.com, or call Erin Eskenazi at 384-2125. Licensed and insured.

FOR LEASE: Newly updated 4 BR, 1.75 BA home on top of View Ridge Hardwood floors. 2 fireplaces. Ample garage space. Large, fenced yard. \$2,350/mo. No Smokers. Tom, 206-729-9555.

FOR RENT: Beautiful Kona (Hawaii) Condo, in exclusive gated community on Mauna Lani Golf Course. Sleeps 6; 2 bdrm, 3 baths. Next to the pool. Discount available. NSNP. E-mail wileys4@comcast.net.

FOR SALE: Dining room set - oval, cherry table with custom pads, 6 side chairs and 2 arm-chairs. 68" long, expands to 116" with 4 leaves. Pennsylvania Woodworks. Perfect condition. \$950. 523-7289 or anneleavitt@comcast.net.

FOR SALE: K. Kawai baby grand (5'1") walnut finish, ivory keys, well cared for by sole owner. Anyone who enjoys the piano will appreciate the

quality sound. 206-524-4934.

HANDYMAN SERVICES - "Bob of All Trades LLC" Licensed, Bonded, Insured. Reasonable rates, experienced, professional, reliable. I listen to your needs. Call 425-301-9265.

HOUSE WANTED: Family seeking home in Laurelhurst or Windermere. No agents, please. Call 206-372-7480.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN: Innovative sustainable residential garden designs for you to enjoy. Dog Day Design, Patricia Gibbon, MLA and Master Gardener, 715-6541.

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NE SEATTLE MOMS: Membership is open to families in Laurelhurst, Bryant, View Ridge, Windermere, Wedgewood, Sandpoint, Ravenna and U District. Share resources, neighborhood issues, support, etc. To join visit: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NESeattleMoms>.

PIANO: Kimball console with bench. Like new, walnut case. \$875 obo. 524-1727.

PIANO INSTRUCTION: Fall openings for classical piano lessons in a relaxed, casual environment. Beginning students welcome. Family-friendly rates. Call Sue, 206-526-9551.

PAINTING SERVICES: Joe Jabon. Cell: 383-6725; Email: jabon@nmlink.com. Affordable residential painting...Bonded and Insured...Great references.

OFFICE SUITE AVAILABLE: Laurelhurst area. Share admin assistant, library, & conference rooms with attorneys & CPAs. Possible joint marketing & referrals. Call 206-523-6470.

RENTAL WANTED: Laurelhurst family seeks rental in neighborhood during remodel project approx. June 2008 for 6 to 8 months. Some flexibility around dates. 206-527-0405.

SHIREY HANDYMAN SERVICE: We have the right tools and the right expertise to do all kinds of jobs large and small. Call today at 425-392-8301 or www.shireyhandyman.com.

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

WANTED: Part-time bookkeeper; must be versed in QuickBooks. Richard 206-522-1031.

WANTED: Styrofoam peanuts, pillows, and bubblewrap. Please leave in driveway at 3415 W. Laurelhurst Dr. NE. Call Candy at 527-0582 with any questions.

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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