

# LAURELHURST

L E A P T E R

Published by the Laurelhurst Community Club ... serving the Laurelhurst community since 1920

March 2019

## *Tips from your LEAP team*

### THE BIG SNOW

It was magical, and then it wasn't. The BIG SNOW brought power and internet outages, school closures, business interruptions, empty grocery shelves, freezing temperatures, icy walkways, impassable roads and more – for nearly two weeks.

Laurelhurst neighbors responded wholeheartedly (with open hearts) to the emergency. Stories of neighbors checking on neighbors, shoveling walks, sharing groceries, sharing tools such as shovels and chain saws, and providing childcare were some of the many ways we supported each other.

Our snow emergency reinforced the importance of preparing for a disaster and of helping each other weather the disaster. These are precisely LEAP's goals for Laurelhurst. The storm created an opportunity for all of us to assess our personal readiness for a disaster lasting two weeks or more. Did we have light and heat sources, appropriate clothing, food, shelter, adequate medications, activities for housebound adults and kids? How did communication happen? Did we have the right tools for weather conditions?

But equally important was our neighborhood's recovery resulting from neighbors knowing neighbors, helping neighbors, and pooling resources. We had a first-hand opportunity to see how our community performs in a disaster/emergency and to gain insights into how we might better be prepared. Remember: the better prepared the neighborhood, the more resilient the neighborhood.

*By City ordinance, homeowners are responsible for clearing sidewalks of snow and ice! Be ready with your shovel and de-icer for the next snow event! ■*

## Transit Options from Laurelhurst

The Laurelhurst neighborhood dedicated **Metro route 78** loops from Seattle Childrens on 45th St. NE to the Husky Stadium Link light rail station and back. The route starts on the south side of Seattle Children's Hospital at the bus pull out near 45th Ave. NE and NE 45th St. It travels along 42nd Ave. NE and NE 41st St., with stops in front of Talaris and the Center for Urban Horticulture, and then travels to the five-way intersection at Mary Gates Memorial Dr. where it turns left along NE 45th St. businesses, and up through the UW campus. The bus stops at the UW HUB and exits campus heading south on 15th Ave. NE to a stop in front of the UW Medical Center. From there it loops to the stop in front of the Husky Stadium light rail entrance (on the east side of Montlake Blvd.).

*Metro 78 operates Monday through Friday ONLY.* The first bus is 6:10 a.m. from Seattle Children's. The last return from the light rail stop is scheduled at 6:49 p.m. Check Metro, but it runs about every 35 minutes.

The cost to take the bus and light rail to downtown Seattle is \$5.25 for adults – less for younger riders and seniors. You can pay bus fare by cash, tickets, or ORCA card. *Drivers do not have change* so be prepared. If you are changing to another Metro bus, ask the driver for a paper transfer ticket. Put the tickets in the fare box next to driver when you board. Light rail is a separate fare payable by ORCA card or with a ticket purchased at the Husky Stadium station machines.

ORCA cards can be used for both bus and light rail modes. Place the card flat against the reader on the bus, and tap the card at the pre-boarding machine readers at light rail stations. When you exit light rail, tap the card against the reader machine again so you won't be overcharged.

The QFCs at U Village and on 35th Ave. NE sell standard ORCA cards. Discounted cards for seniors and those with disabilities are sold at the King Street Station or at Westlake Station. You can also buy tickets at major transit stations or use the phone app Transit-to-Go, which offers a full range of ticket options, downloaded from your smart phone.

**Metro Routes 75 and 65 offer alternatives to the 78.** These routes travel along the west side of Laurelhurst, stopping at 40th Ave. NE and Sand Point Way NE, the BurgerMaster, as well as in the U District. Metro 65 route offers the only night owl connections to light rail between midnight and 5 a.m. It operates almost all day and night from the light rail to the stop at Sand Point Way NE and 40th Ave NE.

While neighbors have expressed disappointment that the old Metro 25 no longer runs through Laurelhurst, LCC has been instrumental in retaining bus service for the neighborhood. Leave your car behind and use the convenience of transit. You can take your bike or small dog along, too! ■

## Heartfelt Thanks to LEAP's John Temple

LCC trustee and LEAP guru **John Temple** and his wife are leaving Laurelhurst for a new home in Anacortes. John has done such an incredible job as the architect and driver behind the earthquake preparedness program for the entire neighborhood. He has worked tirelessly on connecting neighbors in a positive way and has built a strong legacy of more volunteers to carry on with the LEAP programs. LCC could not have partnered with this important program without John's tenacious efforts and his commitment to help create this critical network. We will miss John and thank him for his lasting contributions of community building and emergency preparedness on our behalf. ■

## How to Fix Noisy Bridge Expansion Joints?

Expansion joints on bridges and highways are essential for safety, but they also generate noise to nearby residents and adjacent public park users. The newest and most glaring example of loud noise up to 90 decibels is the SR520 floating bridge.

To find the cause of the noise and target solutions, WSDOT received funding for a grant from the State Transportation budget for the University of Washington's mechanical engineering department to conduct research. These findings will enable WSDOT to refine its best practices and construction specifications to prevent joint noise on future state-wide infrastructure projects.

LCC trustee McAleer and former trustee Jean Amick attended the results presentation in February. With hands-on measurements devices, photo documentations, sound recordings and observation on the SR520 Bridge, UW engineers concluded that most of the noise is actually generated from "the top" of the expansion joints, and not from underneath the joints as presumed earlier.

The noise is linked to the width of the tires hitting the air gaps between the fixed center beam metal parts on the expansion joint. This action is called Energy Spectral Density (EDS). The study found that the narrower the tire width, the more EDS, resulting in higher megahertz (high pitch) sounds.

The UW team recommended two potential solutions to fill the air gaps that could be installed retroactively on the SR520 bridge – and potentially other similar state-wide bridges and highways – that could reduce the noise emitted by at least five to 10 decibels. One involves a plate system that may not withstand the motion stress of a floating structure; the other is insertion of a pre-compressed foam that deteriorates and requires continual maintenance.

UW engineers propose to develop a new flexible sound-absorbing system to fill the air gaps and absorb the energy produced. They are requesting a funding grant, which would require approval in the 2019 State Legislative Session, to develop materials and testing. Please contact your legislators and urge them to allocate funds to improve the expansion joint systems. Contact: David.Frocht@leg.wa.gov, Gerry.Pollet@leg.wa.gov, and Javier.Valdez@leg.wa.gov.

## SPD Online Resources

The SPD website offers comprehensive information and resources to the public. <https://www.seattle.gov/police>

**Tweets by Beat:** <https://www.seattle.gov/police/information-and-data/tweets-by-beat>

**Crime Map:** <https://www.seattle.gov/police/information-and-data/online-crime-maps>

**Crime Dashboard (statistics):** <https://www.seattle.gov/police/information-and-data/crime-dashboard>

**Online Crime Reporting:** <https://www.seattle.gov/police/need-help/online-reporting>

**SPD Blotter:** <http://spdblitter.seattle.gov>

LCC's crimeprevention email is the central location used to collect and communicate information to LCC's off-duty security patrol officers in our neighborhood. Crimeprevention@Laurelhurstcc.com

Please send email immediately AFTER you call 911 on all crime-related issues or concerns. ■

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## LEAP Stop the Bleed

**Laurelhurst Community Center  
Thursday, March 14, 7 to 9 p.m.**

Please R.S.V.P. for this free class if you would like to attend by emailing [LCCearthquake@outlook.com](mailto:LCCearthquake@outlook.com). The February class was cancelled due to the snow. ■

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## Report on City Council's Public Comment on MHA – Affordable Housing

On February 21, LCC trustee **Colleen McAleer** and many concerned neighbors attended Seattle City Council's public hearing to comment on the new Mandatory Affordable Housing Ordinance, which is up for a vote soon. LCC has participated in the public comment process since 2015 and has contributed constructive comments in attempt to balance growth to accommodate newcomers with livability for all. The February Laurelhurst Letter featured an article on HALA and this proposed ordinance.

Key issues include the displacement of current home dwellers due to new development

and the selling of single-family properties to developers who upzone them to build more new units that become too expensive for existing residents to move back to after construction. The option for developers to pay small fees toward affordable housing units often results in those units being built outside the original neighborhood. This could lead to the City creating sub-neighborhoods of segregated low-income housing. Other issues noted by those attending the public hearing include: more resources should be made available for all neighborhoods to preserve historic districts and

buildings from destruction; require at least minimum parking for housing units that are not located close to transit (especially backyard units); retain Seattle's shrinking tree canopy to balance denser urban living with the natural environment.

The City Council offered only this one opportunity for the public to make two-minute comments. The five women City Council members conducted the five-hour comment session. Neither LCC's District #4 Council member Rob Johnson nor CM Mike OBrien, who were the key architects of MHA, showed up to hear the public's feedback. ■

**UNCLASSIFIEDS**

**BABYSITTER:** RHS Junior and Camp Firwood CIT. CPR and First Aid trained, energetic, responsible, fun and loves kids! Volunteer experience in preschool programs and working with children of all ages. Call Libby at 206-258-3335. Also available for dog sitting/walking.

**BABYSITTER:** Reliable 6th-grade girl from The Bush School with Better Babysitting, CPR and 1st Aid certificates looking for babysitting jobs in the neighborhood. 206-972-4792 or romymckey@gmail.com.

**BEST CLEANING LLC:** 25 Years cleaning Windermere and Laurelhurst homes. Regular cleaning and special projects; references from current clients; quality guaranteed. 206-948-2433. bestcleaning@outlook.com

**MOVING:** Let Moves Made Simple pack. We specialize in packing, unpacking, downsizing, organizing, de-cluttering and simplifying your life. Contact Katie Hennings Larson, 206-307-9424, www.movesmadesimple.com for free consultation.

**Each month, trustees review Calls and Concerns from neighbors. Please contact any trustee to bring up something you would like LCC to be aware of or consider action on.**

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**RAPID COMPUTER HELP:** PC/Mac. Upgrades; hardware, software installation; troubleshooting, repair. Spyware, virus removal. Windows, MS Office certifications. Local References. Matt, 206-498-8901.

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**WANTED:** Experienced, exceptional medical receptionist needed. Part-time, right in the neighborhood. Submit cover letter and resume to marie@drsnip.com. Visit DrSnip.com

**Laurelhurst Blog**  
<http://thelaurelhurstblog.blogspot.com/>  
 News, events, issues, restaurants, businesses and lots more. Email a tip or story idea or subscribe at laurelhurstblogger@gmail.com.  
*The blog and LCC are separate entities.* ■

**Sign up for LCC's Constant Contact electronic newsletter for time-critical communications: email laurelhurstnews@comcast.net.**

**CALENDAR**

**March 11 (Mon.) 7 p.m.**  
**LCC Board of Trustees**  
 Laurelhurst Community Center

**March 13 (Wed.) 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.**  
**SUN Park Weed and Sweep**  
 47th Ave. NE and NE 47th St.

**March 14 (Thurs.) 7 to 9 p.m.**  
**LEAP - Stop the Bleed**  
 Laurelhurst Community Center

**Drop off donations for Elizabeth Gregory House,** a U District women's shelter: Huda Giddens at 4338 NE 44th St. (Leave in dark green, covered bin at the front of the house.)

**Master Gardener Clinics**  
 Mondays, 4 to 8 p.m. at Center for Urban Horticulture Atrium

**Laurelhurst Community Center Activities** To receive e-mail notices, send an e-mail to Laurelhurst.CC@Seattle.Gov.

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. UNCLASSIFIED ADS are free for PAID members of the Laurelhurst Community Club, except that repeat ads or ads deemed commercial cost \$20; 25-word maximum. Email copy to laurelhurstnews@comcast.net.

**Democracy Vouchers**

Democracy Vouchers were recently mailed to all registered voters to give citizens an opportunity to become more involved in local elections by allowing them to contribute to the candidates. You may give them to any participating City Council candidate, including candidates within or outside your council district. Democracy vouchers are assigned to you and only you. Your vouchers are good from the time you receive them through November 29, 2019.

This is the second year of this tax-funded mechanism to "level the playing fields" and an attempt to keep special interests' big money out of the local campaigns. Some candidates will not accept vouchers if they want to receive larger donations from PACs and special interest groups.

Find out more [www.seattle.gov/democracyvoucher/](http://www.seattle.gov/democracyvoucher/)

District #4 City Council member Rob Johnson is leaving his seat, opening an opportunity to elect someone new to that position in the November election. ■

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March 2019

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#### 206 area codes for all

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Kay Kelly	522-6773	Jan Sutter	683 9280
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**Newsletter:** laurelhurstnews@comcast.net;  
Leslie Wright, editor, 206-229-1505

**Security Patrol:** crimeprevention@laurelhurstcc.com

**Aircraft Noise Hotline** 206-433-5393

**Animal Control** 206-386-7387

**Community Center** 206-684-7529

**Laurelhurst Beach Club (business)** 206-729-3724

**Police Emergency or Reporting** 911

**Police, Non-emergency** 206-625-5011

**24-Hour Crisis Line** 206-461-3222

Visit our website @ [www.laurelhurstcc.com](http://www.laurelhurstcc.com)

## Engage with Your City

Do you have concerns or frustrations about the City's increasing cost of living, new proposed taxes, allocation of transportation dollars, approach to assisting the homeless, lack of affordable housing, something else? Maybe you approve of the direction City leaders are taking? Let your council member and mayor know what's on your mind.

**Jenny A. Durkan, Mayor**

Phone: 206-684-4000

Email: [jenny.durkan@seattle.gov](mailto:jenny.durkan@seattle.gov)

**Rob Johnson, District 4  
Northeast Seattle**

Phone: 206-684-8808

Email: [rob.johnson@seattle.gov](mailto:rob.johnson@seattle.gov)

And please VOTE! ■

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**Thank you!**

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