

LAURELHURST

L E T T E R

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

May 2020

LCC Annual Neighbors Meeting Mon., June 8

**7 to 8:30 p.m.*
via ZOOM, a video conference**

While Zoom won't offer the usual opportunity to visit with neighbors in person, we will still elect trustees. The program will feature:

■ **Guest speaker from UW on the Covid-19 pandemic**

An esteemed faculty member from the UW Department of Epidemiology will discuss its role on the forefront of predictability, analysis, and public health policy implications for the world during the pandemic.

■ **An update on Talaris**

ZOOM Meeting Information

To join the meeting, log in to zoom.com and Sign In or Sign Up. Then, in the upper right, click JOIN A MEETING:
Meeting ID: 856 2714 1946
Password: Laurel2020

We also will post a meeting link on LCC's website and send a Constant Contact email with the link on the morning of June 8. Constant Contact sign-up information below.

* Join the Zoom meeting as early as 6:30 p.m. to ensure your setup works.

ZOOM Assistance

LCC trustees are available to help! Just make an appointment prior to the meeting date. Contact Katherine Burk, 206-849-4955, or Stan Sorcher, 206-522-7660. Call to receive the Zoom link via email.

Food Drive

Drop off donations for the University District Food Bank **Sunday, June 7, from 12:30 to 3 p.m.** in the Laurelhurst Community Center parking lot. LCC volunteers will be waiting!

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

Covid-19 Changes Just About Everything

The LCC Board of Trustees held its first ever monthly meeting on Zoom May 11. To comply with the Governor's Stay Home, Stay Healthy directive to protect against Covid-19, trustees clicked into the virtual gathering for a productive meeting that included discussion on an Emergency Bylaw to cover just such a need to meet and conduct business other than in person. The Board did not meet in April. The Annual Neighbors Meeting will be held virtually June 8. ■

Public Process Waived Due to Lack of Technology

The irony is inexplicable! In a city known for technology, Seattle cannot provide for virtual public meetings.

To ensure transparency, the City's land use and permit processes require public comment and design reviews as part of the normal approval process, in addition to the staff reviews by the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI). During the Covid-19 restrictions, the City's approval boards, such as the Design Review and Landmark Preservation Boards, have not been offered an electronic meeting option for public participation.

On April 20, instead of providing technology for virtual meetings, the Mayor's Office and City Councilmember Straus (District 6) introduced Council Bill #119679. This Bill extends permit deadlines and waives public comment and public meetings requirements in order to expedite developers' permit approval processes for six months, plus another six months for projects that can be grandfathered into the SDCI permit process if substantially ready. CMs offered many amendments including a 60-day duration (with renewability), but none passed. This Council Bill was initially defeated, with District 4 Councilmember Pedersen and two other members voting against it.

The Bill does not meet the requirements of Governor Inslee's Emergency Proclamation 20-28, as providing an immediate emergency service or providing an immediate product for the Covid-19 pandemic. State Rep. Gerry Pollet, Chair of Local Governments, wrote his objections to the legislation to Councilmembers stating: "Subject to the conditions for conducting any meeting as required above, agencies are further prohibited from taking 'action,' as defined in RCW 42.30.020, unless those matters are necessary and routine matters or are matters necessary to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak and the current public health emergency, until such time as regular public participation under the Open Public Meetings Act is possible."

In a rare move, however, the City Council voted to reconsider the Bill, and passed it on April 27, with CM Pedersen and Herbold again voting

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● **A Shout-Out to our neighborhood graduates –**
● **from elementary to middle school, high school, and college.**
● **Congratulations to each of you and your families!**
● **You are persevering and navigating through interesting times –**
● **challenging your resilience, your creativity,**
● **your patience, and perhaps your parents!**
● **You've got this, grads!**
.....

LCC Centennial Feature: William H. Surber

Researched and written by Jim Rupp, LCC trustee

When developers created Laurelhurst, their plats had picturesque street names that are long forgotten. Names like Laurel Avenue, Prospect Avenue, Ridge Road, and View Drive (all included in the Laurelhurst Heights Plat of the early 1900s) disappeared when Laurelhurst was annexed to Seattle in 1910. Most street names were given numbers, which helped the fire department find homes before they burned to the ground. There are some exceptions. For instance, Cascade and Olympic drives became East and West Laurelhurst drives. And Surber Avenue and Surber Place became Surber Drive.

Why keep the Surber name? Well, it's because its namesake – William H. Surber – was one of the earliest settlers in the area, and he was a memorable figure they called "Uncle Joe." He came to Seattle in 1858 and worked as a carpenter and as a contractor driving piles for many of the early waterfront railroad trestles. He was also Seattle's first chief of police. Through it all he supplemented his income by selling wild game he hunted throughout the area. He shot his first deer in downtown Seattle, near what is now Marion Street and Third and Fourth avenues.

One of Surber's favorite hunting spots was what became Laurelhurst. In 1861 he acquired 160 acres along the shores of Union Bay, bordered on the east and west by what are now 45th NE and 35th NE. In 1888 Henry Yesler bought part of that property and built a sawmill and created the town of Yesler, near where the UW Horticulture Center is located. Surber had a house and a farm on the property, and he would regale visitors with stories of pioneer days. To get there, friends would often take the trolley to Madison Park, then rent a canoe or rowboat and cross Union Bay. Surber was still living in his Laurelhurst house when he died in 1923 at 89. Surber is buried at Seattle's historic Lake View Cemetery on Capitol Hill, near many pioneers who enjoyed his good company. ■

Public Process Waived *continued from page 1*

"no", but CM Morales flipping her previous vote to an approval. The Bill will be in effect during the Governor's Emergency Proclamation, or until the City's SDCI and Department of Neighborhoods can find a way to conduct virtual meetings and include public comment.

City Council members supporting this Bill claim that it will benefit the low-income population by providing mandatory affordable housing (MHA), although this affects developments only in the design review stage right now. MHA projects with approved permits and construction in process were never stopped with Covid-19 restrictions.

LCC expressed concerns that the MHA projects on paper should not be exempt from Design Review as a matter of social justice, and that MHA residences should receive design review and public participation to ensure the same quality-of-life amenities as other City residences – such as walkability, light, window placement, access to transit, setbacks, neighborhood character and scale, tree preservation, and adequate vegetation. In addition, LCC expressed concerns that, while the Historic Preservation process could delegate its Board's authority for minor modifications on landmarked properties, authority should not extend to new development or to controls and incentives without the public's participation. These actions should be delayed until the City can provide virtual public participation.

The City offers written comment options, but they seldom receive a response from the City. Local public comments in the context of a project almost always produce a better review guide for staff and result in better outcomes for the built environment.

After the pandemic is behind us, the City should not be permitted to use this emergency legislation to pave the way for developers to justify expedited reviews and eliminate public participation. ■

Beach Club Update

The Laurelhurst Beach Club is optimistically planning on opening this summer following the State of Washington's Safe Start plans and guidance for businesses and public spaces. The LBC Board will meet the first week of June to assess what phase Washington State is in and adjust its opening dates and procedures accordingly.

The Club is considering all options with the priority being staff and members' health and safety. All suggestions are welcomed at lbcbusiness@comcast.net. The Club is considering special hours for Seniors, families with small children, and teens. There are many more ideas in the hopper that they will research and apply as needed pending on dates and state announcements.

It will be up to LBC members to self-manage to their health and comfort level. Based on their conversations with other community parks and pools such as View Ridge and Windermere, LBC believes opening is possible; however, it will look very different from past years, and August will look different than June.

<https://laurelhurstbeachclub.com> ■

Ship to Shore: Boat Parking on the Street

Each spring throughout the boating season, neighbors express concern or have questions about boats/trailers parked on residential streets and inquire what is allowable per City code.

No vehicle wider than 80" can be parked legally on the street between midnight and 6 a.m.

If a boat/trailer is less than 80" wide, it can be parked on the street providing the trailer is hitched to a vehicle. The 72-hour rule applies – meaning that the boat and vehicle must be moved every 72-hours.

To report abandoned vehicles or a car that has been parked for more than 72 hours, please go to www.seattle.gov/transportation/parking/parking72hour.htm. ■

www.laurelhurstcc.com

UNCLASSIFIEDS

BABYSITTER: Reliable 8th-grade girl from The Bush School with Better Babysitting, CPR and 1st Aid certificates looking for babysitting jobs in the neighborhood. Two year's experience. 206-972-4792 or romymckey@gmail.com.

BEST CLEANING LLC: 27 Years cleaning Windermere and Laurelhurst homes. Regular cleaning and special projects; references from current clients; quality guaranteed. 206-948-2433. bestcleaning@outlook.com

HEALTH/WELLNESS: Let Hennings Structural Medicine get you ready for your next adventure. Focused manual-therapy massage for lasting changes. Contact Trevor Hennings 206-931-4039, www.henningsstructural.com

PAINTING: Luis Ramirez 206-465-3593. Interior and exterior. Great Laurelhurst references. Bonded and insured. Any size job.

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

TUTORING: Customized tutoring available to fit your learners needs. Thirty years of experience. References available. Online or social distancing. Text 617-501-4304. Email Lucasliterature@gmail.com

WANTED: Laurelhurst Homes - As Is. Top Dollar Paid. I will buy your house as is. Don't worry about problems or cleaning up or preparing for sale. Quick and easy cash sale. I live in the neighborhood. Call Mike, LREA, at 206-459-9375.

Community Resources

Washington State Department of Health Hotline for King County: 206-477-3977

Website: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>

King County Department of Health www.kingcounty.gov/covid

For immediate help in times of emotional crisis for you, your family, or friends in need, call the 24-Hour Crisis Line: 866-427-4747.

Teen Link Crisis Help Line: 866-833-6546.

Neighborhood Trivia

As you walk through our eclectic and interesting neighborhood, try a Neighborhood Trivia walk.

This month, see if you can find:

- the "positive tree" with uplifting messages just for and by you!
- The "Laurelhurst Triangle"
- The "plant sharing" stand
- The street-end where you can see Mt. Rainier on a clear morning
- The "little red schoolhouse" free book lending post

Answers in our next issue.

CALENDAR

June 8 (Mon.) 7 to 8:30 p.m.
LCC Annual Neighbors Meeting
Virtual meeting via Zoom

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 or if you need assistance maneuvering City government offices.

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. ■

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.

Update from LEAP

The LEAP Team wants to know how you and your families are doing? How are your neighbors?

This crisis is so different than the one for which we were preparing. We have communications, we have food and water, we have power and flushing toilets. And yet, this pandemic crisis is very difficult in other ways. We are grateful to all who are working hard to keep things going for the rest of us. We are deeply sorry for those that have suffered losses.

LEAP volunteers are going ahead with the HUB shed build June 3 and 4. We hope to hold a Sept. 26 neighborhood open house and drill, depending on participants' comfort level and state directives around the Covid-19 pandemic.

If you have questions about emergency preparedness or something to share, please email LEAPlaurelhurst@outlook.com.

We hope you've been able to reach out via email/phone (or calling across the sidewalk) to your neighbors. Stay safe and stay connected. ■

206-498-4606
ccrile@windermere.com

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May 2020

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206 area codes for all

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Emily Dexter, Treas.	526-2927	Connie Sidles	522-7513
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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, Non-emergency 206-625-5011

Street Light Out, City Light 206-684-7056

24-Hour Crisis Line 206-461-3222

ECRWSSDDM

Postal Customer
Seattle, WA 98105

Visit our website @ www.laurelhurstcc.com

*When THIS is over, may we never
again take for granted:
A handshake with a stranger
Full shelves at the grocery store
Casual conversations with neighbors
A crowded theater or concert hall
Friday (or ANY) 'night out'
A hefty hug from a good friend
A routine checkup at the clinic
The school/work-rush each morning
Coffee/tea with a friend (as an
excuse for meaningful conversation)
The roar of a stadium/coliseum/
arena
Each deep, relaxing breath
A boring Tuesday (or any day –
but not ALL days!)
Life itself – what a GIFT.
When 'this' ends may we find
that we have become more like the
people
we wanted to be, we were called to
be, we hoped to be
and may we stay that way – better
for each other because of the worst.*

Written by Jim Cavener, submitted by
Huda Giddens

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Jenn Flynn	206-427-3900

Quorum-Laurelhurst, Inc. 3505 NE 45th St.
(206) 522-7003 Seattle 98105

Engage with Your City

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

**Alex Pedersen, District 4
Northeast Seattle**
Chair: Planning, Land Use & Zoning
Chair: Chair, Transportation &
Utilities
Phone: 206-684-8808
Email: alex.pedersen@seattle.gov

**If you can dream it,
we can find it.**



All in, for Laurelhurst.

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Renee Menti Ruhl	206.850.1800
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