

LAURELHURST

L E T T E R

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

July 2020

Parks Move Forward to Small and Simple, Reduce Maintenance

In place of “Keep It Moving” messaging, Seattle Parks and Recreation is asking park goers to “Keep It Small and Simple.” The public is encouraged to visit parks and enjoy trails, walking paths, and lawns, but must refrain from large gatherings, large sport games, or parties. Social distancing is required as well as masks in compliance with the Governor’s order of June 26.

Popular parks will close early and parking restrictions will continue to limit crowding. Seward Park and Green Lake continue to be pedestrian only.

Some boat ramps opened June 20, and on July 1, Parks expects to open five lifeguarded swimming beaches – Madison, Matthews, Mount Baker, West Green Lake, and Pritchard. The other swimming beaches in Seattle will remain closed to swimming for now.

As of newsletter publication, amenities that remain closed include play areas and playgrounds, picnic shelters, fire pits, wading pools and indoor/outdoor pools, community centers programs. For a full updated list visit <https://parkways.seattle.gov/tag/covid/>

In a recent communication, SPR Superintendent Jesús Aguirre wrote: “... SPR must turn our attention to addressing the impacts of the COVID-19 on both the City’s budget as well as SPR’s budget. As a result of unfilled vacancies and reducing temporary staffing budgets, park and facility maintenance will have a decreased level of service (reduced mowing and park maintenance, along with slower response to fixing broken park amenities).” ■

Statement of Support for Black Lives Matter

Laurelhurst Community Club’s mission is to foster a welcoming and inclusive community, and LCC acts on the principles that everyone is created equal and deserves our respect. LCC’s policies of non-discrimination have long been imbedded in its bylaws. The senseless and cruel deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and many more have brought to light the long-standing racial biases in our society and its criminal justice system, and LCC calls upon those in leadership at all levels of government to create an unbiased justice system for all. The Board of Trustees of LCC supports the efforts of the Black Lives Matter movement to end racism through its peaceful protests, which are an essential part of our democracy. It is the responsibility of police to respect and protect them.

Neighbors Gather for Annual Meeting Via Zoom

About 30 neighbors and trustees joined the virtual Annual Neighbors meeting that featured pandemic expert Dr. Stephen Hawes, Professor and Chair of the Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, University of Washington. While lacking the ambiance of gathering in person, attendees were able to submit questions to the speaker. The meeting also included the election of trustees **Kathryn Kelly, Jeannie Hale, Liz Hemer, Brian McMullen, and Don Torrie** for two-year terms. LCC thanks these volunteers for their expertise, time, and commitment to the vitality and livability of the neighborhood. ■

Covid-19 Continues to Change Ways of Gathering

- To comply with Stage 2 of the Governor’s Stay Home, Stay Healthy directive to protect against Covid-19, trustees will conduct July 8 business over Zoom. 6:30 p.m. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88136147848>. Or call in: +1-253-215-8782, meeting ID 88136147848.
- As noted in the article in the left column, Seattle Parks is updating available activities and locations as King County moves through the requirements of acceptable social distancing.
- Many local businesses and University Village are open with restrictions as required. Check directly with them for current hours and services. ■

Councilmembers Respond to Challenging Times

Councilmembers have received thousands of emails over the past few weeks, most centering on the protests, calls for defunding police, reimagining public safety, and declaring racism a public health crisis. **District 4 Councilmember Alex Pedersen’s** recent monthly newsletter focused on Protests and Public Safety, Budget Deficits, COVID Updates, Bridges, and More. As an elected official, Pedersen pledged to advance and support policies that: 1) De-militarize the police; 2) Further restrict use of excessive or deadly force by police; 3) Increase accountability and transparency in police union contracts; 4) Give subpoena and other investigative powers to independent oversight boards; 5) Redirect Police Department funding to community-based alternatives. To sign up for his updates, email alex.pedersen@seattle.gov. ■

LCC Centennial Feature: History of Union Bay

Researched and written by Jim Rupp, LCC trustee

A special bonus of living in Laurelhurst is having ready access to Union Bay. Whether by walking or boating along its shores, Union Bay always provides interesting sights to see for all ages, all year-round. I've been paddling boats around there since I was about twelve. That adds up to more than half a century of observing a wide collection of wildlife – from beavers, otters and muskrats, to eagles and ospreys, to noisy bullfrogs and sunning turtles, and a wide collection of migratory birds.

When I was a kid, I used to tell my dad that I was going out to the swamp. "It's not a swamp," he'd say. "It's a marsh." He was right of course. The marsh is the wetland along the edge of the bay where you see lots of cattails and other plants without woody stems. The swamp is Yesler Swamp, at the northwest corner of the bay, which is a forested wetland that is sometimes partially flooded. Fortunately, you can walk through it on the Yesler Swamp Trail, which provides good points for wildlife viewing.

The Union Bay marsh has survived many onslaughts over the years. From the 1880s to the 1920s The Yesler sawmill operated in the area around what is now the Urban Horticulture Center. A garbage dump operated on the northwestern edge from 1926 to 1966, and two 520 bridges have been constructed over its southern edge, the original one opening in 1963. In their 1951 book, *Union Bay, The Life of a City Marsh* (available through Abebooks.com), naturalists Harry Higman and Earl Larrison describe a plethora of wildlife in the marsh. There was a lot more to see back then, but there's still plenty to observe and enjoy. A more current view from a birder's perspective can be found in splendid books written by LLC board member Connie Sidles (see <http://constancy-press.com/>). And don't miss seeing Larry Hubbell's impressive photos of Union Bay wildlife at unionbaywatch.blogspot.com.

Union Bay has also withstood the adverse effects of DDT, which was once used to fight Seattle mosquitos. I remember looking out the window in the sixties and seeing a fog of DDT following a spraying truck as it went down the hill towards East Laurelhurst Drive. Among other adverse environmental effects, DDT made the eggshells of birds of prey so brittle that they could not survive. As a result, we rarely saw eagles or ospreys back then. They are now common. Turtle sightings were also rare, although I'm not sure why. Now one can see a dozen turtles along the shoreline. All nice changes.

Poet Edna Jaques wrote, "Go out, go out I beg of you; And taste the beauty of the wild; Behold the miracle of the earth; With all the wonder of a child." That's good advice, and an outing along the shores of Union Bay, whether by water or land, will be time well spent for both adults and children. Go forth and explore! ■

Encourage Pesticide-free Garden Practices

LCC supports efforts to educate neighbors about gardening without pesticides and using safer alternatives to promote a healthy environment.

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. Pesticides are tracked into our homes and also drain into the soil and contaminate streams and lakes (think, Beach Club) where they affect humans, environment, and sea life. If you use a spraying company, insist on an organic, safe solution.

Refrain from using toxic pesticides and instead opt for safer lawn and garden alternatives. Contact Washington Toxics Coalition (WTC) at 206-632-1545, www.watoxics.org, for a wealth of information on products and pest control. Visit King County's website at <https://www.kingcounty.gov> and search Natural Yard and Lawn Care.

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

Generous Neighbors Fuel Food Drive

On Sunday, June 7, LCC sponsored a food drive to stock the University District Food Bank, and help the greater Northeast community members who are suffering from food insecurity. Over 1,400 people receive weekly assistance from this food bank, including those living in low-income housing complexes at Magnuson Park.

The goal was to collect 1,000 items, but generous Laurelhurst neighbors exceeded that by 75 percent, and donated over 1,750 items (five car loads) and raised \$900 in checks. Fifteen volunteers pitched in with enthusiasm to make it a fun event, including **Lisa White and daughter Maddy, Grace Gunsolus and friend Tatum, Jill Sanchez and daughter Olivia, Scott Poepping, Tanya Hathaway, Craig and son Colin Johnston, Stacy Graves, Stephanie Neffner and son Michael, and LCC Trustees Don Torrie and Colleen McAleer.**

Trustee **Connie Sidles and her husband, John**, also made much appreciated face masks for clients and workers at UDFB.

Thank you for helping our nearby neighbors through your donations and volunteering! ■

Covid-19 Delays Aegis Living Construction

The Aegis Living Laurelhurst construction site was temporarily placed on hold June 1. Demolition of the existing buildings on site may occur in the next 30 to 60 days. The company plan to re-evaluate the project start date in late summer/early fall. Currently, the estimated opening date is Winter 2022.

Aegis Living had planned to break ground in May on their assisted living facility, which includes 135 units and 53 parking stalls.

Aegis anticipates approximately 80 percent of the residents will come from the local neighborhoods. ■

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.

BABYSITTER: Experienced Seattle Children's certified babysitter. CPR and first aid certified. alederman17@gmail.com or 206-743-2054. Alexandra Lederman

BUBBLY BABYSITTER: WSU Soph. Honors, RHS grad. Camp counselor 3 summers. Former Mini Mac employee. Former Lifeguard. Age range: 3 and up, dog walks/sits as well! Contact: Libby Hults, 206-931-3574.

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.

SWEET TREATS: Laurelhurst teen baking to raise \$\$ for University District Food Bank. Due to COVID-19, the number of people facing food insecurity has increased, and I want to help by baking and selling: 3 types of cookies at \$12 per dozen and cupcakes at \$27 per dozen. For details or to place a custom order email alederman17@gmail.com or text 206-743-2054. Thank you! Alexandra Lederman

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.

CALENDAR

July 13 (Mon.) 6:30 to 8 p.m.
LCC Trustee Meeting
 Virtual meeting via Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88136147848>
 Or call in: +1-253-215-8782, meeting ID 88136147848.

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

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. Laurelhurst-area businesses have priority. Call Leslie at 229-1505. 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.

Seattle's Noise Code

A lot of summertime fun happens outside, but please keep in mind that conversation and music carry and be a considerate neighbor!

Sunday through Thursday:
 No noise between 7 a.m. and after 10 p.m.
Fridays and Saturdays:
 Quiet between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m.

SMC 25.08.425 states that Construction and Maintenance noises cannot occur before 10 a.m. on Saturdays, Sundays, holidays. ■

Neighborhood Trivia Answers

- the "positive tree" is at the corner of 51st Ave. NE and NE 41st St.
- The "Laurelhurst Triangle" is where 46th Ave. NE folds into E. Laurelhurst Dr. NE
- The "plant sharing" stand is on 45th Ave. NE and NE 40th St.
- The street-end where you can see Mt. Rainier is at the end of 51st Ave. NE, and next to the Beach Club.
- The "little red schoolhouse" free book lending post is mid-block on the north side of NE 41st St. between 48th Ave. NE and 50th Ave NE.

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.

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

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Emily Dexter, Treas.	526-2927	Connie Sidles	522-7513
Katherine Burk, Sec.	849-4955	Stan Sorscher	522-7660
Kay Kelly	522-6773	Jan Sutter	683 9280
Liz Hemer	517-5862	Don Torrie	524-4316

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

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we can find it.**



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CHOOSE A BROKER FROM YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD.



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.

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
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