

# LAURELHURST

L E T T E R

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November 2012

Photo illustration by former Laurelhurst neighbor  
Charles Steicher



## Give Holiday Warmth

LCC trustees **Linda Luiten, Kay Kelly, and Maggie Weissman** invite Laurelhurst neighbors to donate to the **North Seattle Police Precinct Sock Drive**.

Every year, neighborhoods in the North Precinct collect new socks, hats, scarves, gloves, and mittens for men, women, and children (all ages) to distribute to family shelters and the homeless.

Laurelhurst neighbors have always donated generously. This season, drop off donations at **Windermere Real Estate**, 5424 Sand Point Way NE, or **Flooring America**, 3605 NE 45th Street.

**Please make your donations no later than December 12.**

**Thank you!** ■

## Laurelhurst Blog

<http://thelaurelhurstblog.blogspot.com/>

News, events, issues, restaurants, businesses and lots more. If you have a tip or story idea, send an email to [laurelhurstblogger@gmail.com](mailto:laurelhurstblogger@gmail.com). ■

*Happy  
Thanksgiving*

## LCC Recommends Better Plan for Crossings

LCC submitted a letter to the City Council advocating for changes to currently proposed bike and pedestrian access and safety surrounding the SR520 expansion project. The Council ultimately will recommend westside design improvements to WSDOT for consideration.

The proposed design and routes connecting the Montlake neighborhood and the Arboretum with Montlake Blvd. north of the ship canal fall short. LCC supports safe, well-lit routes with direct connectivity for bicycles.

On the Montlake Bridge, bicyclists and pedestrians now share a mere 7 feet (at most) between the large steel support structures. When the light rail station opens, the expectation is for thousands more users on bikes and on foot to share this cramped and dangerous crossing. We recommend adding capacity to the Montlake Bridge to accommodate safe passage as soon as possible. Another route would send users under 12 lanes of traffic, more than twice the distance of the current trail. Winter darkness will make its use even less appealing, discouraging non-motorized traffic. LCC recommends the City work with Montlake Community Council and SDOT to develop an alternative crossing that is more user-friendly, quieter, and direct.

If the design for SR520 is done well, it will encourage walkers and bicyclists. Conversely, if corridors are long, dark, steep, disconnected switchbacks, the City will have lost a one-time opportunity to promote healthy commuting and to reduce Seattle's carbon footprint. ■

## Talaris Property in Play for Development

The LCC Board and LCC's Land Use Committee (**Jeannie Hale, Colleen McAleer, Stan Sorscher, and Liz Ogden**), **Barb Ragee** from Battelle Neighbors, as well as LCC land use consultant **Carol Eychaner** and attorney **Peter Eglick**, have met with representatives of the new owners of Battelle/Talaris (4000 Property LLC) on several occasions.

George Thurtle, John Scott Real Estate consultant, and Brent Carson, attorney for the property owner, attended the November 5 meeting of the Laurelhurst Community Club at LCC's request to answer questions about a potential plan they presented some months ago. About 40 interested neighbors joined the discussion. While the owner wishes to preserve the unique nature of the property, this option deviates from its single-family residential zoning and institute for advanced study designation. The plan, which would require a rezone, includes commercial and rental housing, although uses are not specified. ■

## Prepare Now for Winter Weather Challenges

The devastation from recent Hurricane/Tropical Storm Sandy is a vivid reminder of the impact natural disasters can inflict on daily lives. The following tips from the King County Office of Emergency Management may protect you, your family, home, and vehicle from inclement weather.

- Have a **family communication plan** in case phone and Internet connections are interrupted.
- Know evacuation routes and establish a **meeting point** for family members that may be separated.
- Build an **emergency kit** for each member of your family, including pets, with a **minimum 3-day supply of water, food, medications, and other essentials**. Keep emergency supplies in your vehicle, too. ■

## Basketball Court Project Well Underway

LCC is making great progress in finalizing plans for resurfacing the old basketball court at Waterway No. 1. Pursuant to our Right of Entry Agreement with DNR, LCC sent a letter October 8 to the Washington State Department of Natural Resources advising them of the progress to date and describing the project plans for final approval.

Two LCC members, **Claudine Lawlor** and **Kristin Luttinen**, are coordinating the project. They have secured three bids and are in the process of raising funds for the project. Haworth Concrete Company is the contractor. The approximate cost of the project is \$8,975 plus tax and includes a one-year guarantee on craftsmanship. The contractor has offered a seven percent discount if work begins after Thanksgiving, which brings the cost to approximately \$8,346 plus tax.

To date, generous neighbors have pledged contributions ranging from \$50 to \$1,000, totalling \$8,350. Roughly another \$700 is still needed. Contributors will be acknowledged on a plaque at the site and in the newsletter. If you would like to make a donation please contact Claudine or Kristin at [claudineo@comcast.net](mailto:claudineo@comcast.net) or [Kluttinen@comcast.net](mailto:Kluttinen@comcast.net).

LCC is in the process of setting up a 501(c)(3) foundation to allow contributions to be tax-deductible. LCC expects a letter from the IRS shortly indicating that the 501(c)(3) status is pending.

The project involves forming, fine grading, reinforcing, and pouring a 1,000-square-foot rectangular sport court to upgrade the existing court as follows:

- Removal and disposal of existing asphalt basketball court;
- Grade, fill, and compaction to existing level;
- Repour basketball court. Concrete is six sack (4000 psi) with stealth fiber (modern reinforcement) and approximately 120 linear feet of #4 rebar. Finish would be an extremely light broom finish;
- Basketball court line painting.
- Installation of new basketball hoop.

After DNR approval of the project and obtaining any necessary permits, work is scheduled to begin right after Thanksgiving. ■

## LCC Applies for Bridging the Gap Street Funds

The City of Seattle's Neighborhood Street Fund program is accepting applications for the third of three rounds of funding from the Bridging the Gap levy. The application deadline is December 17. Up to \$4.5 million will be spent on planning, designing, and building projects selected from among those considered most important by Seattle's neighborhood district councils. District councils will pick three applications in January 2013 for SDOT evaluation.

LCC previously submitted an application for a project that would install sidewalks and curbs on the south side of NE 50th Street, curbs, and gutters on the north side of the street, and repave the entire street between 50th Avenue NE and Ivanhoe. LCC will resubmit this project.

LCC Trustee **Kevin Chang** reviewed the last application and suggested that we focus on the most important need for this section of roadway – a sidewalk along the north side of NE 50th Street. This enhancement would greatly benefit the residents in the area and provide a direct link to the Villa. He added that the other components of the current request are important but may restrict the attractiveness of our proposal due to the added cost. A sidewalk on the south side, along with the repaving of the roadway, are certainly not any less important; however, given the limited funds available, might be worth postponing for now.

LCC president **Jeannie Hale** has been in touch with SDOT in response to a presentation at NEDC regarding incorporating art into traffic and pedestrian safety projects. The committee will continue to explore this possibility and the need for repaving the roadway. ■

## Congratulations, Friends of Yesler Swamp!

The Department of Neighborhoods recommends funding of \$64,000 for engineering, environmental mitigation and Phase 1 construction of a boardwalk through Yesler Swamp, one of Seattle's few remaining wooded swamps. This boardwalk will be part of a permanent, handicapped-accessible trail through this unique natural area. The City Council will finalize the awards soon. **Jean Colley** reports they are embarking on fund raising to meet the \$16,000 match. ■

## Generosity Appreciated at Women's Shelter

Once Laurelhurst neighbor **Huda Giddens** discovered the Elizabeth Gregory Home, established in 2001 by the University Lutheran Church, she became a strong advocate for this transitional housing program for homeless women. Our neighborhood's generosity to those less fortunate makes a difference.

**Giddens makes a regular delivery of neighborhood donations to the Gregory House on the last day of each month.**

Appreciated items include unused travel products such as soaps, shampoos, toothbrushes, etc., as well as garbage bags, sanitary pads, new socks, hats, gloves, sweaters, sweatpants. Learn more at [www.elizabethgregoryhome.org](http://www.elizabethgregoryhome.org). Please place your donations in the dark green, covered bin at the front of the house. Huda Giddens, 206-527-1291, 4338 N.E. 44th St. (just off the 43rd Ave. NE Blvd). ■

## CALENDAR

**Nov. 22** (Thurs.) 8:45 a.m.  
Turkey Trot 5K Fun Walk/Run  
Meet at NE Corner of Laurelhurst Park  
(by the overpass)

**Nov. 23** (Fri.)  
**Deadline for Laurelhurst Newsletter Copy and Ads**

**Dec. 8** (Sat.) 10 a.m. to noon  
**SUN Park Weed and Sweep**  
47th Ave NE and NE 47th St.

**Dec. 10** (Mon.) 7 p.m.  
**LCC Board of Trustees**  
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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. 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.

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