

LAURELHURST

L E T T E R

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Tree Marker Update

In response to the September newsletter article about tree markers for the holly oaks in the boulevard on Mary Gates Drive, LCC learned of the following oversights:

Gordon Bradley and a group of neighbors purchased a tree to honor Howard and Leila Coombs.

Eric and Leslie Harder bought a tree in honor of Lester C. Harder, Mr. Harder's father, who at the time had Alzheimer's and subsequently passed away.

Larry and Betsy Lee purchased a tree to honor their son Jason Andrew Lee.

Noel and Kate Lloyd donated a tree in honor of Kate's parents, Prof. John and Mary McDiarmid.

These trees would not have been planted without the generous contributions and volunteer work of neighbors and friends. Thank you all. ■

LCC Urges Increased Funding for Libraries

The mayor has proposed \$9.5 million in increased funding for Seattle's libraries in the next two years. LCC has written the city's finance and budget committee and council urging them to supplement the mayor's proposed budget with additional funding for collections and technology, and to fund services to Seattle residents who use the King County Library System.

Libraries are the one great equalizer in our society. Seattle citizens deserve a library system with adequate resources, hours of service and technological services. The Seattle Public Library is a leading force in our community providing educational enrichment for all ages and abilities and helping to promote equality of opportunity. Adequate library funding should be a priority for our city. ■

Initiative + Creativity = Street Oasis

In early September, Catherine Kalke appealed to her neighbors to assist in implementing a plan to improve the looks of a "rather ugly traffic circle" at the intersection of 50th Street and 46th Avenue NE. By October, an attractive oasis of plantings and a neighborhood asset took shape.



Left to right: Barbara Asmervig, Jeff Smith with Ciba, and Catherine Kalke

To kick off the project, Kalke met with City of Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) arborist Liz Ellis. Ellis assessed the health of the three oak trees in the 12-foot-diameter circle and determined two needed to be removed due to overcrowding. The City authorized a permit at no charge and later supervised the tree removal and pruning of the remaining tree by a private contractor.

Kalke acquired quotes from tree removal companies and completed a budget for a revitalization project that included the costs of the tree service, new soil, and plants.

Next, Kalke started knocking on her neighbors' doors. She gave each neighbor a written project description, along with a copy of the quote for tree removal, and proposed a contribution of \$25 to \$50 per neighbor. Thirty enthusiastic neighbors contributed \$1,200 to cover project costs.

With the plan and approval in place, Kalke dug up existing weeds and dumped them in the City's yard waste containers. Her neighbor, Jeff Smith, helped her haul two yards of new top soil into the circle and prepare the area for planting. Because the soil berm could not be in direct contact with the tree trunk (it would rot), Kalke built a wood frame to protect the trunk.

Another neighbor, Barbara Asmervig, prepared a planting plan that included plants from the approved City of Seattle plant list, such as drought-tolerant Anemanthele Lessoniana (pheasant grass), Berberis Bagatelle, and Euphorbia Donkey Tail.

She and Kalke planted on October 3, and the neighbor on the NW corner of the circle offered the use of her garden hose for watering.

Installation of new reflector lights around the concrete base of the circle will complete SDOT's tasks, which include a new Yield sign.

Going forward, Kalke is on weed and water watch to maintain the health of the plantings in the successfully transformed circle.

Kalke commented, "I have received several thank you e-mails from the neighbors for the effort. I actually had a lot of fun with this project." She hopes this will inspire other neighbors to take on their own traffic circles. She's happy to share her step-by-step process and offer assistance! For more information, e-mail Catherine Kalke at ckalke@comcast.net.

LCC encourages circle stewardship groups throughout the neighborhood. Take a close look at the circles near you. If they'd benefit from weeding and fresh plantings, gather your neighbors and spend a rewarding few hours revitalizing a green spot for all to enjoy. ■

Who Let the Dogs Out?

There appears to be a rash of unruliness among neighborhood dogs. Dogs run off leash at the park all day, and dogs run loose near their homes after dark. While doing so, they sometimes wreak havoc on smaller dogs and threaten walkers and children. Fines for off-leash, license, and scooping violations range from \$50 to \$150 and can be \$500 at a beach.

Quite a few neighbors report concern. Most are reluctant to involve animal control and hesitant to confront dog owners, because to do so, might put peaceful relationships with neighbors at risk.

What can be done if a neighbor's pets are loose and are creating a nuisance? The city advises people to call in complaints about loose dogs. Here is what the Animal Control website says about loose dogs:

"Call Seattle Animal Shelter immediately at 206-386-PETS (7387) extension 2 and request that an Animal Shelter officer investigate your complaint. If violations of local ordinances are found, the pet owner may be cited or the animal(s) may be taken into custody. If this occurs, the owner must pay fees and/or penalties when redeeming the animal from the animal shelter. ... " For more information, visit www.seattle.gov/animalshelter.

LCC encourages all dog owners to be good neighbors: Scoop the poop, keep dogs on leash in public and under voice command around home, and minimize excessive barking. ■

Addressing Seattle's Loss of Tree Canopy

The Draft Urban Forestry Management Plan (UFMP) prepared by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) begins to address the staggering loss of tree canopy in Seattle. However, LCC is concerned by the draft plan's "lack of teeth and sense of urgency." Tree giveaways and public education will not be enough to achieve the goal of the UFMP. And, tree-planting incentives should not be offered to developers in lieu of meeting other requirements.

LCC wrote SDOT Urban Forestry to express a number of concerns and recommend further study on several key points:

- Immediate legislation is needed to protect our remaining trees.
- To accommodate the greater vision of this management plan and stabilize funding for staffing and stewardship, there is need for a mechanism to overcome conflicting agendas of the various city departments involved (SDOT, Parks, and DPD). LCC recommends creation of a separate department that would perform maintenance, plan/permit reviews, and code enforcement.
- Since single-family zones make up more than half of the city, a specific plan and corresponding legislation for increasing tree canopy in single-family zones should be identified.

To learn more about the UFMP, visit www.seattle.gov/environment/trees.

LCC continues to work in cooperation with neighbors for additional city maintenance of the 43rd Avenue Boulevard trees and plantings. ■

Rental Property Inspection Support

LCC has reviewed and supports the proposed city budget item to add \$50,000 in funding to the Department of Planning and Development (DPD) to hire a consultant to study alternatives for and implementation of a periodic, proactive rental housing inspection program.

Over the years, Seattle has tried to address the need for inspections to ensure Code compliance of rental properties due to neglectful or irresponsible landlords. Currently, in our city there are few avenues to ensure that landlords meet Code requirements. This is an important quality of life issue for our neighborhood and our city. ■

Public Safety Funds

LCC Crime Prevention co-chairs Maggie Weissman and Brian McMullen submitted a letter to Richard McIver, chair of the Finance and Budget Committee, and members of the Seattle City Council addressing LCC's concerns about the inadequate police staffing proposed in the mayor's budget. While Seattle lags far behind other cities of similar size in terms of patrol staffing, the mayor has proposed funding for only six additional officers. LCC finds this proposal inadequate to meet the public safety needs of our neighborhood and our city.

Our neighbors are frustrated with the increasing number of break-ins, thefts, vandalism, auto thefts, and other crimes. Citizens are entitled to an adequate police force with good response times.

LCC supports the recommendations of the North Precinct Advisory Council that call for at least 50 new patrol officers in the 2007/8 budget and supports council member Peter Steinbrueck's proposal to add 250 police officers to Seattle's ranks over the next five years, starting with 50 in 2007. Council president Nick Licata is working on a Public Safety Package for this budget cycle to increase police staffing.

LCC also supports additional funding for crime prevention and Block Watch, now all but defunct due to lack of funding. It is extremely cost-effective for the police to work in partnership with the community to keep our city safe. ■

CALENDAR

November 13 (Mon.) 7 p.m.
LCC Board of Trustees meeting
St. Stephen's Church

November 24 (Fri.) **Deadline for Laurelhurst Newsletter advertising**

November 25 (Sat.) **A German Holiday Fest: Baroque Music for Christmas.**
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. For tickets and information, contact Gallery Concerts at 726-6088, or visit the website at www.galleryconcerts.org.

Master Gardener Clinic, Mondays, 4 to 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Center for Urban Horticulture Atrium.

University District Farmers Market, Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

UNCLASSIFIEDS

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

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

EXPERIENCED NANNY: I am a college graduate and experienced nanny. I am looking for part time work (ideally weekends) or evenings, if you would like a date night out. 380-1718

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: Toshiba color television, 27" CN27H95 (Cinema Series), with remote and picture-in-picture. Very low hours. \$95. Honeywell HEPA air cleaner model 11520 with 8 new filters type 32002. \$50 522-7081

HOUSE FOR RENT: Sunny, 4BR 2.5BA, Lake and Mt Rainier views. Wood floors, 2 Frpls, huge rec room, flat backyard with deck, lots of storage. One car attached garage. NE 41st St. location. Available mid-Dec. Call Lee @ 522.1021.

JOB WANTED: Housecleaning, light gardening, part-time babysitting or elder care. Exp., refs., own car. Prefer NE Seattle. 206 674-5356.

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

MOUNTAIN CABIN: In Mazama, 2 BR, loft, 1.5 baths, view, woodstove, stone floor, passive solar heat, super-insulated, architect-designed. FSBO \$320,000. Alex Hall, 11 Trillium Rd., Winthrop, WA 98862. Call 509-996-3320.

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

PET PALS PETSITTING SERVICE: Loving in-home pet care when you can't be there. 18 years experience, including administering medications. Great references. Leslie, 361-9965.

SHOP for new and slightly used treasures at Cloud 9 donation, consignment, and gift shop. 66 NE and Roosevelt Way NE; 525-4440. Cloud Nine is sponsored by St. Stephens Church. Call to donate household items.

STANDARD CAR SERVICE: To and from SeaTac, all other occasional needs. Efficient, reliable, prompt. Fully licensed & insured. Visit www.standardcarservice.com or call 930-0316.

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

WANTED: Affordably priced 24' trailer (to be used on construction site). Will travel to pick up. Contact Pat, 595-1522 or e-mail pahester007@comcast.net

YOGA CLASSES: OmTown Yoga Fall Session begins September 18. New students are welcome! Visit us online at www.omtownyoga.com. OmTown offers outstanding instruction for all levels.

The Laurelhurst Letter is published ten times a year. Contact Leslie at 525-0467 for advertising information.

Dog Day-care Centers

The LCC Board voted unanimously to oppose the proposed city ordinance to Legalize Dog Day-care Centers in Neighborhood Commercial Zones.

Dog day-care businesses are a new and emerging industry in Seattle that serve the needs of many pet owners and further contribute to the economic vitality of our city. However, these facilities must be located to address the impact of as many as 80 dogs barking and playing adjacent to residences. The Laurelhurst business district abuts residential housing, and noise and other impacts of a dog day-care center on residents in proximity to the neighborhood commercial zones would be significant.

LCC urges the city council to amend the proposal to provide protection to residential areas adjacent to dog day-care centers prior to moving forward with the proposed ordinance. ■

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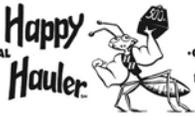
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