

LAURELHURST



L E T T E R

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Strengthening Our Laurelhurst Block Watch Captain Network

For decades, Seattle's Block Watch Captain Program has been one of the city's most effective grassroots tools for neighborhood well-being. The program began in the late 1970s as a partnership between residents and the Seattle Police Department, built on a simple idea: when neighbors know one another, look out for each other, and share information, the community becomes safer and more connected. Block Watch Captains play a key role. They serve as a link between nearby homes and the broader neighborhood, sharing updates and fostering connections that strengthen community resilience. Captains help neighbors stay informed and prepared. The Laurelhurst Community Council is working to map our Block Watch Captains and connect them with one another and the LCC to strengthen neighborhood communication. We are compiling a list of current Captains and seeking volunteers for areas without coverage. **If you are a Block Watch Captain—or believe you are the primary contact for your block—please contact Pat Chaney at patti.chaney@gmail.com.** ■

Hop on Over to the Spring Egg Hunt!

Saturday April 4, Laurelhurst Park. Hunt begins promptly at 9:45am Rain or Shine!
Please meet in the parking lot. Don't be late and bring a basket!

Why Was the Talaris/Yesler Creek Site Sold to Seattle Public Utilities?

The sale of the Talaris/Yesler Creek site to Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) was approved by the City of Seattle to fulfil its legal obligations to protect salmon habitat and the safe juvenile fish passage under longstanding tribal treaty rights and subsequent federal court rulings. In the Pacific Northwest, tribal fishing rights were explicitly preserved in treaties with the United States. The 1855 Treaty of Point Elliott guaranteed tribes the right to fish at their "usual and accustomed" grounds. More than a century later, those rights were reaffirmed in the 1974 Boldt Decision, in which U.S. District Court Judge George Boldt ruled that treaty tribes are entitled to half of the harvestable salmon and that the State and tribes must co-manage the fisheries now under the Department of Fish & Wildlife.

Subsequent court decisions clarified that treaty fishing rights depend on the perpetuity of healthy salmon populations. In 2018, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a ruling known as the Bolt II Decision requiring the State of Washington to repair or remove culverts that block fish passage, finding that such barriers violate treaty obligations. As a result, state and local governments, including Seattle, must remove the infrastructure that impedes juvenile salmon migration whenever possible or when a pipe fails or when new development occurs on those sites.

In the former Talaris landmarked property, Yesler Creek currently runs through a 72 inch, 65-year-old pipe beneath the site.

Restoring—or "daylighting"—the creek would reopen access for juvenile salmon migrating into Union Bay and Lake Washington and adds the needed new stormwater treatment facility which will ensure that the Yesler Creek Preserve has healthy "bugs and food" for the juvenile fish along their journey.

Acquiring ownership of the property now allows SPU to meet its legal obligations while avoiding structural impediments on the site, and preventing an emergency pipe failure: restoring fish passage by replacing the existing pipe with a natural stream channel; improving habitat by reestablishing a forested creek corridor; and enhancing water quality through stormwater treatment projects within the Yesler Creek Basin which protects the water quality in the Union Bay and Lake Washington watershed.

After the Sale: What's Next?

The Laurelhurst Community Council (LCC) is meeting with Seattle Public Utilities' regional manager regularly to share updates as restoration plans move forward over a five- to 10-year timeline. LCC will monitor developments to help protect this unique urban ecosystem. Safeguarding future juvenile salmon runs—and potentially creating a permanent educational opportunity on the site—remains a priority for the community. ■

Security Patrol Update

The Laurelhurst Community Council is pleased to report that a vast majority of last year's Security Patrol subscribers have renewed for 2026, reflecting strong support for the program following its pilot year. Residents may still subscribe or donate as we work toward the goal of 24/7 neighborhood coverage.

Subscribers should have received a welcome letter outlining program details. Anyone who did not receive this information is encouraged to contact securitypatrolquestions@laurelhurstcc.com.

Community members can further support the effort by speaking with neighbors about the benefits of the Security Patrol program and the shared goal of keeping Laurelhurst safe. Subscriptions and donations may be made online at www.laurelhurstcc.com or by mailing a check payable to the Laurelhurst Community Council.

Donations to the Security Patrol program are not subject to Washington state sales tax, and 100 percent of funds are directed toward program operations.

Laurelhurst Community Council thanks residents for their continued support. ■

Important Proposed Zoning Change

There is a proposed zone change that would impact NE 45th St from 40th Ave NE to 45th Ave NE. The proposed change allows multi-family 5-story apartments (which LCC DOES support along Sandpoint Way NE) instead of existing zoning of 30-foot detached homes bordering Laurelhurst Playfield. This would be an overwhelming change in height and type of housing on a residential street with no commercial services. This is not consistent with the intent of locating denser housing along major transit (fixed rail lines) specified in State HB 2011 which passed in 2024. Over 1400 people signed the petition to retain this zoning and move LR3 (55 feet) closer to major transit routes.

Please testify in person or virtually to oppose the proposed 5-story LR3 zone on NE 45th St because it takes 5 Councilmembers' votes to add an amendment to retain existing heights, and add instead along Sandpoint Way NE. We want to invite all neighbors to join in the opportunity to make a public comment. Meeting are: (Council only) March 19 at 2pm, Public Comment April 6 and May 29 at 9:30am, and (Council only)

June 4 at 1pm and June 18 at 1pm. ■

LEAP'S Earthquake Preparation Series

"Getting Prepared for Dummies"

Sorry! That's an obnoxious title for this installment. But if it got your attention, we're glad. Today, we begin a Newsletter series on a one-step-at-a-time approach to preparing your home and family for a major earthquake.

So many of us put this off, yet whenever there's news of a quake in Alaska, California, or elsewhere, we feel a vague unease. So, here's an invitation. Join us. Take the following first step.

Next to each person's bed, place a pair of sturdy shoes, a flashlight, and a whistle. The reasons are obvious: broken glass, darkness, and not knowing where each person is. **Find a safe spot in each bedroom.** Candidates are: beside the bed on the side away from windows, under a sturdy desk or table, against an interior wall with no heavy objects above. **Place copies of your ID's, home and health insurance papers, and key medical information in a waterproof pouch that is stored near an exit.**

Before you turn your attention elsewhere, decide when you will do each of these things. Write it down. Post it.

Comments: LEAPlaurelhurst@outlook.com. ■

LCC Bids Farewell to Longtime Trustee Don Torrie

The Laurelhurst Community Council bids a heartfelt farewell to longtime Trustee Don Torrie. For more than 25 years, Don served on the Board and was especially instrumental as the Council's representative to the Laurelhurst Community Center Advisory Board. As a liaison to Northeast recreational youth sports programs, he helped ensure children of all backgrounds could participate, including securing subsidized fees for low-income families. He also served as LCC's link to Northeast Seattle Little League and local girls' softball programs, later helping facilitate sponsorships for teams in need.

A retired accountant, Don partnered with LCC's treasurer to carefully manage neighborhood donations and keep the books balanced. Don helped beautify the neighborhood. With guidance from his wife, Myrna Torrie, he planted the annual daffodil bulbs along the NE 41st Street medians — blooms now brightening the community. Don leaves a lasting legacy of service. The Council extends its gratitude to Don and Myrna and wishes well-deserved and happy retirement. ■

Fun Happenings at Our Community Center

The Laurelhurst Community Center calendar is packed with family fun!

Friday Night Basketball Games
5:15 p.m., Laurelhurst Elementary Gymnasium through mid-March

Family Game Nights
Fridays, 4 to 6 p.m., Laurelhurst Community Center

NEW! Story Time
March 10 & 24 at 10am

Bring your little one for stories and songs

Mark your Calendars
Spring Registration for all activities
March 3 at 12pm

Summer Camp Reservations
March 17 at 12pm

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BEST CLEANING LLC: 34 Years cleaning Windermere and Laurelhurst homes. Regular cleaning and special projects; references from current clients; quality guaranteed. 206-948-2433. bestcleaning@outlook.com

GUITAR LESSONS: By Brad at your location. All styles. \$95 for a 50 minute in-home lesson. Has taught at School of Rock and at public schools. Laurelhurst area. 206-750-6761.

HOUSE SITTER and/or DOG WALKER: Reliable, trustworthy, experienced, tidy and flexible. Excellent Laurelhurst references. College degree. Contact James Cornish at 267-481-3518 or jwcornish@gmail.com.

MOVING? Let Moves Made Simple help. 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.

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.

WANTED: Laurelhurst or Windermere Homes-As Is. Top Dollar Paid. I am local Laurelhurst architect and neighbor. No need to fix things, stage, or even cleanup. Simple and quick. No condition too bad. Quick and easy cash sale. Call Mike Tutmarc, LREA, at 206-459-9375.

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; after three entries of the same "free" ad within one year,

NOT RECEIVING LCC EMAILS?
Sign up for LCC's Constant Contact for time-critical communications: email ICCnews2026@gmail or visit laurelhurstcc.com.

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 with City government offices.

CALENDAR

March 16 (Mon.) 5 to 6:30 p.m.
LCC Trustees meeting via Zoom
 The link is just a click away on LCC's website. <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4541109392?omn=81329285227>
 Meeting ID: 454 110 9392

April 13 (Mon.) 5 to 6:30 p.m.
LCC Trustees meeting via Zoom

Laurelhurst Community Center Operating Hours
 Mon/Wed/Fri: 2 to 7 p.m.
 Tues/Thurs: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 Information: 206-684-7529

Foot Care Slippers Donations
 Indoor/outdoor slippers proved to be an outstanding hit with Foot Clinic patients at UW's Pioneer Square Foot Clinic. (Dearfoams and Isotoner are possibilities available on Amazon.) **If you would like to donate indoor/outdoor slippers**, please mail or drop them off for Kay Kelly at 3109 E. Laurelhurst Dr. NE.

Gently used shoes needed for distribution to the tiny villages in Seattle as well as outreach to the homeless in the UDistrict. Used clothing is also accepted. Leave on front porch at 3887 44th Ave NE, 98105. *Note: Dropoff location is next door to old location*

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206 area codes unless otherwise noted

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Erin McGee	571-233-9600		

Security Patrol 206-979-8171

securitypatrol@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

Street Light Out, City Light 206-684-7056

24-Hour Crisis Line 206-461-3222

Parking Enforcement 206-386-9012

Police + Criminal Activity 9-1-1

Newsletter:

Amy Koivu, 253-653-5861

ECRWSSDDM

Postal Customer
Seattle, WA 98105

Visit our website @ www.laurelhurstcc.com

Security Patrol

206-979-8171 – call or text

Email: securitypatrol@laurelhurstcc.com

Questions:
securitypatrolquestions@laurelhurstcc.com

Call the patrol to report a disturbance, concern, or crime in progress. **Call 911 first for all emergencies.** ■

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See LCC's website for *Tips on City Contacts and Resources.*

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