

Briarcrest

neighborhood news

NOV/DEC 2009
& JAN 2010

Neighborhood Calendar

www.briarcrestneighbors.net

Submissions for the Briarcrest website:
info@briarcrestneighbors.net

Opportunities for Involvement

Briarcrest Neighborhood Association (BNA) Meeting, 2nd Mondays, 7:00 pm, November 9, December 14, January 11, Congregational Church, 15518 27th Ave, Fellowship Hall, downstairs.

The December 14th BNA meeting program will be presented by the Shoreline School District regarding the upcoming Levy and Bond vote on Tuesday, February 9th.

A Bazaar for Africa, Saturday, November 14, 10-5, Northwest Church, 15555 15 Ave NE, park in lower lot west of the church. Proceeds for tables go to missions in Kenya. Contact Judy Alonzo at Personal Touch on 15th Ave NE. 365-6332 or auntjudi@yahoo.com

Embrace Shorecrest, Saturday, November 21, 10-2, to help with the landscaping of the high school grounds.

Annual Thanksgiving Dinner, Wednesday, November 25 POPY's Café, 4:30-6:30, 14514 20 Ave NE, info: 363-8100.

Messiah, Sunday, December 6, 4:00, 14514 20 Ave NE, Prince of Peace Choir and select members from the Seattle Symphonic Choral.

Council of Neighborhoods, First Wednesdays, 7:00 – 9:00 pm, November 4, December 2, January 6, Shoreline City Hall.

Blood Pressure Check, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, November 11 & 25, December 9 & 23, January 13 & 27, POPY's Community Dinner, 14514 20 Ave NE. Suzanne Gillette, RN, is donating her time. Info: 363-8100.

Holly and Ivy Out at South Woods Park, 3rd Saturdays, 10 am -2 pm, November 21, December 19, January 16, South Woods Preservation Group, savesouthwoods.org.

Table Meeting, , January 14, 7 pm - prepare Feb/Mar 2010 BNA newsletter at Bettelinn's.

Sustainable Shoreline Education Association. 4th Fridays, 7 - 9 pm, November 27, January 22, First Christian Reformed Church of Seattle, 14555 25th Ave NE, room 202. sustainableshoreline.org

Submit newsletter articles to:

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Block Contact Coordinators
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BNA Mailing Address:
c/o Sherry Marlin
14750 20th Ave NE

This newsletter is published by the Briarcrest Neighborhood Association and is distributed by the volunteer Block Contacts who live on your block. We appreciate your comments, your donations to the BNA which offset the printing costs and your patronage of the local businesses that advertise with us.

A Resident's Perspective

More than 12 years ago I bought a single family home. The yard, neighbors with children, and big trees with all the critters they shelter, made me fall in love with my home. My corner of Briarcrest has no through streets, so even though 145th St. and Lake City Way are less than 5 blocks away, it felt like a neighborhood. Traffic has worsened on my street, 30th Ave NE, as people cut through trying to beat a traffic light. I thought, until this year, that this was the biggest challenge our neighborhood was facing. I was wrong.

Our Briarcrest neighborhood is being studied for possible major changes in land use zoning. A *Southeast Neighborhoods Subarea Plan Citizen's Advisory Committee* has been envisioning a long range plan for our area. Some committee members have conflicting visions and agendas. Some members have a financial interest, but have never lived here.

Planning conflicts are apparent when you compare the draft subarea plan's text, with a proposed rezoning map. The document calls for controlled development, while one of the maps I've seen called for high-rise apartments on a lot that now has an affordable family home, on a street that lacks supporting infrastructure. I urge you to take time to dream and envision our community in 20 years. Compare it to the plans. Please make sure your voice is counted by those who are on the committee. It may make a difference. To get the facts, and who to contact, please visit the Shoreline webpage: shorelinewa.gov/index.aspx?page=178.

- Diana Herbst

Mini-Grant Project

Twenty volunteers have recently transformed the weed-ridden strip along the eastern boundary of South Woods, between the sidewalk and curb, on 25th Avenue into a pleasing roadside garden.

The Briarcrest Neighborhood Association received funding from the Shoreline Neighborhood Mini Grant Program and purchased mulch, bark and native groundcover plants. This planting strip connects with the walkway and rain garden drainage improvements on NE 150th along the southern boundary of South Woods.

- Jason Henry



Bettelinn Krizek Brown, Pam Brosvik, Jason Henry & Charlie Brown plant the parking strip east of South Woods. Oct 10, 2009

What am I doing for the environment?

I reduce my carbon footprint by walking instead of driving on errands within a mile-and-a-half from home. That matches my passion for patronizing local business and also keeps a larger amount of each dollar I spend in Shoreline. North City fits my prescribed distance.

So, when I have packages to mail, I walk to the post office. I've discovered other businesses along the strip. The two sisters who own Golden Bow Flowers and Gifts have roots in the area. Their merchandise includes a small selection of gift cards, exquisite jewelry handcrafted by Northwest artists, naturally made soaps, lotions, tea, candles and flowers from the Pacific Coast states. When I needed a new carpet, I chose North Sound Carpet and Stone. The salesperson Chris provided service beyond anything I would have received at a big box store.

Restaurants run the gamut from the Subway Sandwich, to the North City Bistro and Wine Shop with fine wine, candlelight, white tablecloths and live music on Friday and Saturday nights. I often see Larry, the owner and long time North City business owner, bicycling along 15th Ave NE on his way to work. I also like Leena's comfort food, Sunni's burgers and pizza, Ichi Bento's Japanese food, Peking House Chinese food and Laughing Ladies Cafe. Further north on 15th Organic Fair Trade coffee is available by the cup or the pound at Brown's Coffee Roaster.

- Lois Harrison

Director's Report

It is that time of year when traditionally we give thanks for all that we have. I would like to thank all the residents of Briarcrest. With your participation you create the opportunity for us to facilitate and convey ideas which become our events and programs, and bond us together as a community.

My thanks also go to the Seattle Congregational Church for our monthly meeting place. The Everest Kitchen did not hesitate to provide food and drink for our Candidate's Forum. We continue to have Prince of Peace provide a gathering hub with the free meal on Wednesday. All our churches give countless services for our community.

Have a safe winter; remember to communicate with those around you to ease any situation that may include power or heat loss and possibly the need of food. Together we make the neighborhood a better place.

- Arthur Peach

Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness

The State of Washington Department of Emergency Management created a program called Map Your Neighborhood to give neighborhoods across the state a consistent way to prepare for emergencies or natural disasters. Our City encourages us to coordinate with our immediate neighbors – within a block – to get “ready” so we can help each other. To learn more contact Christopher White, Shoreline Ready Neighborhood Program Coordinator at cwhite@shorelinewa.gov - 801-2256

Bicycle and Pedestrian Plans

Shoreline's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee is discussing aspects of the bicycle and pedestrian plan that will be incorporated in to the city's Transportation Master Plan Update. Meetings, 6:00-7:30 pm at the new Shoreline City Hall, 17500 Midvale Avenue N, are open to the public. The next three meetings are:

Nov 17 Identify and evaluate the City's Bicycle Network

Dec 15 Identify and evaluate the City's Pedestrian Network

Jan 26 Prioritize the City's non-motorized system

Briarcrest resident Kathy Hall serves on the committee.

Shorecrest High School Events

- Shorecrest Drama presents “Into The Woods” - 2nd and 3rd weekends of November. Tickets available at the school office, at the door, and at Third Place Books.

- December Concerts at Theater, 8th Wind Ensemble and Shoreline Community College Band; 15th Freshman Band, Concert Orchestra and Treble Choir; 17th Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Symphony Orchestra and Advanced Mixed Choir.

- Big Band Dance, December 12, Jazz Band Fundraiser for Reno, SF trip and a piano! Tickets sold by jazz band and stage band students.

- Dave Johnson

Shoreline City Council Candidates' Forum

Briarcrest's first Candidates' Forum, held on 9/17 and organized by Sarah Kaye and Arthur Peach, and moderated by Dru Williams was a success. The seating arrangement in the large open floor setting at the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church helped create a professional atmosphere. Dru presented this event as a public forum and not a debate, which helped facilitate order and respect. Each candidate answered the same questions in random order, submitted by residents ahead of time, allowing audience members to better distinguish who these candidates are and what they are committed to for all the neighborhoods of Shoreline - including issues that directly affect Briarcrest residents.

It was great that, after the forum, candidates and residents spent time mingling and informally learning more about each other while enjoying delicious veggie pakora, mango lassi and chai tea contributed by Mohan Gurung from the Everest Kitchen. I look forward to the next Candidates' Forum which will build on what worked and what can be improved based on suggestions from the community.

- Celeste M. Williams

Individual Readiness

When preparing for the unexpected, it is best to use a plan known as an “All-Hazards Approach”. This approach was born of a government response to terrorism but is also easily applicable to communities and individuals. It covers essentially all scenarios and its corresponding risks/threats, whether they are man-made, natural disasters, or health-related.

Generally, the four-phases of this approach include Mitigation/Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery. The benefit of this is that it is a highly individualized plan; use these phases to help guide you when you prepare yourself, family and home or business. Further, many preparations cross over and can be used for multiple scenarios, therefore only minimal effort and commitment is needed. For example, prepare your home to shelter in place. This includes, although not limited to, storing food, medications, tools and equipment. Now you are ready for any number of threats, such as natural disaster (earthquake), weather (snow or heavy rainfall), or health (pandemic flu).

This plan is both financially and time efficient. Spend one day preparing for the worst, and if that time should come, then you can expect the best when you execute your plan with confidence and knowledge. For more information, see fema.gov/about/history.shtm

- April Ingle

Healthy Briarcrest Kids

While it's impossible to avoid seasonal germs altogether, it is possible to help nurture the immune systems of the little people in our lives. The same general guidelines apply to all of us! Good nutrition, adequate rest and regular exercise are the foundation of a healthy immune system.

Good childhood nutrition starts with at least five servings of fruits and vegetables each day, plus whole grains and lean sources of protein (beans, nuts, lean meats, eggs and dairy). If getting your children to agree to this list seems challenging, start small. One serving of fruit or vegetable is about ½ cup. Stir fresh fruit into plain yogurt. Make sweet potato fries. Make a smoothie with frozen berries. Get creative; you'd be surprised at what kids will eat when its part of a food art project. Look for great recipes at pccnaturalmarkets.com/.

Exercise is still important, despite winter weather. Some ideas: go to the Shoreline Pool for family swim. Take advantage of sunny days and go for a walk together. On colder days, have a jumping jack or hula hoop contest, where a warm house is just a few steps away. After a good night's sleep (10-12 hours for children), create a list as a family of activities and foods to help give everyone at your house an immune system boost!

- Alicia Guy

Aging in Place

October 12-18 was National Aging in Place Week, which got me thinking how nice it could be to grow older in Briarcrest. “Aging in place” means having a safe home that accommodates your changing needs, and supportive services to allow you to stay there. When we remodeled our house to accommodate my elderly father, we talked with several certified aging in place (CAP) contractors.

Briarcrest has a housing stock that can be easily remodeled, a strong sense of community fostered by our neighborhood association and our churches, and accessible transit services. Less ideal are our pedestrian environment and the lack of stores within walking distance.

Seattle's Phinney/Greenwood neighborhood is exploring the idea of creating an intergenerational “village,” modeled on Boston's Beacon Hill Village. The Swedish are ahead of us, applying community-network policy models to the challenges of their elder neighbors. The network consists of elder-care agencies whose services are coordinated by the city or county. I have heard some interest from Shoreline City Hall, and I would like to see this concept incorporated into the Southeast Subarea Plan and the city comprehensive plan.

- Kathy Hall