

OCTOBER –
DECEMBER 2007

Briarcrest

neighborhood news

Neighborhood Calendar

www.briarcrestneighbors.net

Tuesday Sept 25, 7:00 to 8:30 pm, Emergency Preparedness, Richmond Beach Library, 19601 21st Ave NW. Better prepare for emergencies as an individual, family, in your neighborhood, at work & in your vehicle. FREE - More info: Gail Marsh (206) 546-7873.

Sundays Sept 30 & Oct 14 and Saturdays Oct 6 & 20, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, Ronald Bog & Thornton Creek Restoration, park in north lot on N 175th Street. See article below.

Thursday October 4, 6:30 to 9:30, City Council and School Board Candidates Forum, Shoreline Center, Shoreline Room

Thursday Oct 11 & Wednesday, Nov 14, 6:00 to 8:30 pm, Sustainability Strategy Conversation, Shoreline Conference Center, Shoreline Room, 18560 1st Avenue NE. The City of Shoreline is gathering community input and ideas for creating an environmentally sustainable community. More info: Shoreline Planner Juniper Nammi at (206) 546-8805.

Saturday Oct 13, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Clean Sweep Recycling Event, Shoreline Park & Ride, Aurora Avenue N & 192nd. Clean Sweep provides residents opportunities to recycle and dispose of items. More info: (206) 546-1700.

Monday Oct 22, 6:00 to 8:00 pm, Trail Corridor Open House, Cascade Room, Spartan Recreation Center, 18560 1st Avenue NE. The Shoreline Trail Corridor Study Group invites the community to review and comment on its work identifying trail improvements in Shoreline. More info: Dick Deal (206) 546-2072.

Friday Oct 26, 6:00 - 8:30 pm, Hamlin Halloween Haunt, Hamlin Park, 16006 15th Ave. NE. Listen to spooky songs and stories around a campfire, take a hayride around the park and play Halloween games for prizes and candy. FREE - More info: (206) 418-3383.

RECURRING NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

Thursdays starting Sept 20, 9:45 - 11:30 am, Bible Study for Women, First Christian Reformed Church. Childcare for infants and Story Hour for children 2 to 5. More info: Church office (206) 364-3021.

Monday, October 1, November 5 & December 3, 7:30 pm, BNA Leadership Team at 2541 NE 165th St (always 1st Mondays).

Monday October 8, November 12 & December 10, 7:00 pm, BNA General meeting at the Congregational Church, 15518 27th Ave (always 2nd Mondays).

Submit newsletter articles to:

- Bill Bear, Editor
2451 NE 165th St
flyingbear@acn.net, 368 0858
- info@briarcrestneighbors.net
- Marcia Taylor, Assistant Editor
15858 28th Ave NE
iptaylor@earthlink.net, 725 1377

Block Coordinators

Jon Melusky 361 2563
Glinda Mathews 361 1917
Dan Henry 363 9562
Dennis Lee 362 7798
Bettelinn Brown 363 5517

BNA Mailing Address:

c/o Sherry Marlin
14750 20th Ave NE

Thanks to the Seattle Congregational Church & the First Christian Reformed Church for the use of their buildings.

This newsletter, published by Briarcrest Neighborhood Association, is possible solely through the efforts of volunteers. We appreciate your comments, your donations to the BNA to offset printing costs, and your patronage of the local businesses that advertise with us.

Briarcrest Neighbors Discuss Possible Rezone of 32nd Ave NE

On September 10th, 25 Briarcrest Neighbors met to discuss the rezone of 32nd Ave from R12 and R18 to R24 for seven parcels. The developer had previously lost a request for a rezone of three of the seven parcels. The developer has teamed up with another developer to request a rezone of those seven parcels and four more. The proposal would allow building up to four attached single-family homes three stories high with a common driveway or alley on each of the lots.

Dennis Lee and Bill Bear reviewed the application at the Shoreline Planning Department. There were major items on the SEPA filing that were marked N/A. This is because the rezone does not actually involve building plans.

The Planning commission had requested the developers to make a soil and traffic study to find out what the impact of building three additional units on each lot would be on drainage and neighborhood traffic. The water table in the area is very high due to increased run-off from tree removal further uphill. There is cut-through traffic through Briarcrest to and from Bothell, Lake City Way, and 145th St NE to avoid lights. Another issue was the invasion of privacy in building a three-story building next to one-story residences. At the meeting, many neighbors spoke in favor of keeping the character of the neighborhood single-family residences. A few neighbors said that 32nd Ave NE was a place for dropping off stolen cars and houses were occupied by renters and had absentee owners. These owners were lax in investigating who they rented to and were not interested in keeping their houses maintained. These neighbors looked at the new development as a good thing since it would improve appearance and reduce crime. Are these homes affordable? The developer stated the homes would be in the \$300,000 range.

For the rezone to be approved, there must be a SEPA checklist with a Determination of Non-Significance (DNS). Will this rezone significantly impact the environment? For almost all development the finding is always a DNS. When you look at the Washington State Report on the State of Puget Sound http://www.psp.wa.gov/publications/puget_sound/sos/07sos/sections/2007_stateoft-hesound_executive.pdf, the cumulative effect of all the development in the last few years is very significant. "Toxic chemicals are still flowing into Puget Sound waters and sediments from a variety of sources. As our population increases, the amount of chemicals coming from our households and businesses also will increase. The magnitude of toxic activity is a significant threat to the Sound's long-term health" See also http://www.psp.wa.gov/our_work/toxics.htm

You can comment on this rezone proposal # 201677 by mail to City of Shoreline Attn: Steven Szafran, 17544 Midvale Ave N, Shoreline, WA 98133, or email sszafran@ci.shoreline.wa.us, or in person at the November 15th Planning Commission hearing at the Shoreline Conference Center.

One proposal is to measure the ratio of living space to lot size rather than the ratio of a building foot print to impermeable surface. This would require changes in the Development Code and a thorough review of the Comprehensive Plan to see if we are in line with the original framework goals. In order to find development solutions that are consistent with neighborhood needs and developer needs, many of us will have to study and work on reading and rewriting these complex documents. I would suggest that until that is accomplished we have temporary development controls to disallow spot rezones which are not based on an overall neighborhood plan. The time limit of these development controls forces the neighbors, the developers and the City to work together to write a plan we all can live with.

-Bill Bear

Help Restore Ronald Bog and Thornton Creek

The Shoreline Community Wildlife Habitat Project has been granted permission to improve a section of Ronald Bog. We will work 4 week-end days from 10 to noon: Sunday, 9/30 and Saturday 10/6 we'll remove invasive plants (mostly blackberries); Sunday 10/14 and Saturday 10/20 we'll plant native plants, and put down wood chips to enhance the area and make it more wildlife and bird friendly.

I am looking for 20+ volunteers to work on a 140 ft x 15 ft area. It will

be divided into five sections with groups of 4 people in each section. People are welcome to volunteer for fewer than 4 hours.

Shoreline Parks will be supplying tools but, if you can, bring a shovel, pruners, gloves, etc. Wear long pants, sleeves, and boots.

Don Norman and Nancy Moore of **Go Natives Nursery** will be supplying the plants and planting instructions.

Tell everyone you can! Ronald Bog and Thornton Creek need the help! Park in North lot along N 175th St.
- Christine Southwick 363-4910



Mentor at Briarcrest School for one hour a week!

How much of a difference can a mentor make in the life of a child? You'd be amazed!

Big Brothers Big Sisters is excited to be in our 50th year as the premier youth mentoring organization in Western Washington and we would like you to join us. It's fun and easy. And it makes a big impact. It's the simple things in life that form our favorite memories. We currently are seeking adults who would like to be mentors at Briarcrest Elementary during the 2007-2008 school.

How does school-based mentoring work?

You can help make school fun just by showing up. As a school-based mentor you can broaden a child's horizons and give a child the one-on-one support he or she needs to succeed. You will meet weekly at the child's school for an hour that is fun for you and life-changing for your new friend! Together you can visit the computer lab, play in the gym, read a book, do an art project, or work on a school project. You will not be a private tutor, simply a good friend!

Can one hour a week make a difference?

You bet! Our 2007 survey of the teachers of students in our program reported that 75% of students improved their academic performance and 87% showed increased self-confidence! They also reported that mentored students are more likely to develop positive attitudes towards school and improve their social skills.

How do I get started?

To become a school-based mentor you will need to complete a simple application, do a short interview with us, and provide a couple of references. Also, as safety is our top priority, we will conduct a criminal background check. Get started today by calling 206-763-9060 or by visiting www.bbbs.org/pugetsound.

32nd Avenue Block Party

On August 7th, National Night Out Against Crime, Briarcrest neighbors on 32nd Ave gathered for their 7th Semi-annual Block Party. Local politicians, school board candidates, and police officers joined them, asking

and answering questions, while the younger neighbors blew bubbles and created chalk art.

- Thea and Jeff who live in the 15500 block to the east of Briarcrest School.



Why Should You Care About the City Council Elections?

There are essentially two political perspectives in the City Council race. Some candidates see the future of our City with development driven by the community. They want Shoreline to maintain its residential character, preserving and protecting its neighborhoods, small, locally-owned businesses, and the environment. Other candidates backed by Pro Shoreline see the future of our City as higher-density (more customers), with large business producing a sales tax base to fund even more infrastructure and development. These candidates would let developers decide what and were to build. But, not in their neighborhoods.

Ten years ago the City Council was dominated by people from the Richmond Beach, Innis Arden, and Highlands neighborhoods. They chose City managers like Steve Burkett to run the City as they directed. There was not much regard for small businesses on Aurora, the environment, or the neighborhood concerns about development. Eventually, the citizens of Shoreline elected a majority of Council members who wanted to make positive changes. There has never been a "secret meeting" to make these changes. These Council

North 28th Avenue block party

September 9th marked another great turnout for the annual north end of 28th Avenue block party. More than forty neighbors gathered to share good food, neighborhood history, and re-modeling plans. If any of you heard a steady beat and wondered what was going on, it was a twenty-drum jam ses-



sion, courtesy of new neighbor Edward. The kids, young and old, used the closed-off street to play ping-pong, draw with chalk, and feed the new resident chickens dandelion greens. It was a great chance to fortify our relationships with those who live nearest to us and mold our own modern village.
- Alicia Guy

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members had stated these opinions publicly.

A group called Progress Shoreline or Pro Shoreline, were opposed to these changes. Some of their members initiated a lawsuit alleging that a secret meeting took place. This was an attempt to win in court what they had lost in the ballot. When they saw that they were not going to win in court they named the City in the suit to force a settlement. It cost the tax payers hundreds of thousands of dollars to defend our elected representatives and the City in this frivolous lawsuit.

The plaintiffs withdrew all charges against the City and the Council members. The City and the Council members not named in the suit agreed to pay a settlement of \$159,000 of the our tax money to the plaintiffs. Doris McConnell and Paul Grace are backed by Pro Shoreline.

Don't allow last-minute smear campaigns with unsubstantiated claims to cause you vote against the people who represent your best interests. On the home page of the City <http://www.cityofshoreline.com/> you can find links to the Council Elections and the website with PDC reports of who funds their campaigns.

-Bill Bear

Greetings from Stan Terry

After living in the Briarcrest for over 35 years, I have made many wonderful friends there. I have loved living in Shoreline, and Briarcrest is, I think, the best community in our beautiful city. Health issues during the past few years have forced me to slow down and back down from my commitment to serving our neighborhood. Also, the upkeep of owning a home had become a burden that was difficult to maintain. My wife, Irene, and I are settled in an apartment in North City (not far away) that is more in keeping with our current needs. It is a nice place that is becoming more comfortable the longer that we are here. My health is improved and I have been trying to become more active again.

- Stan

See the full text of Stan's letter at www.briarcrestneighbors.net

Community Stewardship Project

It is easy to certify your balcony garden or yard with the National Wildlife Federation. The four components of habitat to attract wildlife to your yard or balcony are food, water, shelter and places to raise young. Visit www.nwf.org/bwh (backyard wildlife habitat) for more tips to attract birds and butterflies to your yard or for applications to register your yard with the National Wildlife Federation. The certification fee is 15 dollars. For more information contact our local habitat team coordinator, Boni Biery at birdsbeesfishtrees@gmail.com or mail your registration to Shoreline Sustainable Education Association, PO Box 55955, Shoreline, WA 98155