

Briarcrest

neighborhood news

SUMMER ISSUE
2009

Neighborhood Calendar

www.briarcrestneighbors.net

Submissions for the Briarcrest website:
info@briarcrestneighbors.net

Opportunities for involvement:

Briarcrest Neighborhood Association Meetings, second Mondays through the summer, 7:00 pm, Congregational Church, 15518 27 Ave NE.

Citizens Advisory Committee, South East Sub Area Plan Open House, Tuesday, June 16, 7:00 to 8:30, Fircrest Activities Building, 15th Avenue NE at NE 155th Street.

Open House for our clients and neighbors, Saturday, June 13, 9-11 am, Animal Surgical Clinic of Seattle, 14810 15th Ave NE. If you have an interest in attending please email us at invite@animalsurgical.com, Jane David, LVT, Hospital Manager.

National Wildlife Federation, Great American Backyard Campout, Saturday, June 27, register at backyardcampout.org or call Courtney Sullivan, Senior Regional Education Coordinator, 285-8707 x108.

iLLuMiNa Girls Arts + Adventure Camp, July 6-10 still has openings for girls ages 9-13. illuminagirls.blogspot.com or Margot Richardson 365-2619.

Novena to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, July 7 – 16. Services each morning and evening at St. Joseph's Carmelite Monastery 2215 NE 147th Street.

"The 2009 Concerts in the Park Series," July 8 – August 19 at Paramount Park.

Swingin' Summer Eve, Wednesday, July 22, Paramount Park. Drop off books for the Neighborhood Book Sale at Congregational Church or bring to Charlie Brown.

Celebrate Shoreline, Saturday, August 15, Ridgecrest Elementary School following the parade at noon.

6th Annual Shoreline Solarfest, Friday and Saturday, July 17-18.

Vacation Bible School and Basketball Camp, Contact the First Christian Reformed Church of Seattle, 14555 25th Ave. NE, 364-3021.

Newcomer Packets are available for new neighbors, call Bettelinn.

Submit newsletter articles to:

- Bettelinn Krizek Brown, Editor
15517 27th Ave NE
bettelinn@hotmail.com, 363 5517
- Marcia Taylor, Layout
iptaylor@earthlink.net, 725 1377
- Submissions for the Briarcrest website:
info@briarcrestneighbors.net

Briarcrest Neighborhood Association Officers

Arthur Peach, Director	412 3198
Sarah Kaye, Asst Director	522 6233
Bettelinn Krizek Brown, Secretary	363 5517
Charlie Brown, Treasurer	363 5517

Block Contact Coordinators

Jon Melusky	361 2563
Glinda Mathews	361 1917
Dan Henry	363 9562
Dennis Lee	362 7798
Bettelinn Brown	363 5517
Fawzi Khoury	367 0221

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 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.

Preserving Neighborhood Character

You will have an opportunity on June 16 to participate in decisions that could permanently change the character of South Briarcrest. The State Growth Management Act requires cities to do planning in accordance with state law. The City of Shoreline's Comprehensive Plan, adopted in June 2005, is the framework for future planning that must be followed and implemented.

A Citizens Advisory Committee appointed by Shoreline City Council has been working on the details of this plan for the past year. The purpose of this land use planning process is to guide new development and population growth for the southern part of our neighborhood for the next 20 years.

The committee is introducing some draft ideas to the neighborhood on Tuesday, June 16 from 7:00 to 8:30 in the Activities Building on the Fircrest Campus. It is time for your input.

I can't stress enough how important it is that you attend and participate because at some point legislation will be passed by Shoreline City Council that will make this plan a reality. The Comprehensive Plan can be found at the library or on line at shorelinewa.gov/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=1743. A paper copy can be purchased at the city planning department for \$26.32 or a CD for \$2.00. Or you can borrow one from me.

If you were to read only the first two chapters, some 50 pages, you would find policies and goals that require preserving the neighborhood character; you could see how to evaluate growth for the next 20 years and accomplish the preservation of neighborhood character. As an example see page 16, Citizen Participation Goals and Policies: Are they being followed and implemented? And, on page 6: Framework Goals, read them and the introductory paragraph. What do you think?

We really need your analysis because it is important for all of us. I have talked on these subjects for years and it is time for me to just play relaxing music with my flute and improve my technique so I can share that with you. The Open House is your opportunity to listen to the ideas of the Citizens Advisory Committee and make sure they preserve the character of your neighborhood.

- Dennis Lee, 362-7798



New Briarcrest Neighborhood Association officers, elected at the May 11 BNA meeting, from left to right: Bettelinn Krizek Brown, Secretary, Charlie Brown, Treasurer, Arthur Peach, Director (see article on page 2), and Sarah Kaye, Assistant Director. Photo: Elise Bakketun Photography.

Certified Arborist - What Does It Mean?

Are you inspired to become an arborist? An arborist by definition is an individual who is trained in the art and science of planting, caring for, and maintaining individual trees. The International Society of Arboriculture's Arborist Certification program is a voluntary effort among professionals in the tree care industry to establish a meaningful standard of quality in arboricultural work, promote and encourage continuing education, and provide the public with a mechanism for identifying qualified arborists.

This information is sourced from the following web site for the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture at pnwisa.org/certification.html. Also, check out the site for Trees Are Good at treesaregood.com/. For further information contact Rebecca Alexander, MLIS, Plant Answer Line Librarian / Miller Library, UW Botanic Gardens at 897-5268. The Plant Answer Line's email address is hortlib@u.washington.edu.

- Bettelinn Krizek Brown

We Are One of a Kind

Community is a word I learned in school that means where we live. I thought that definition was vague. It took me 27 years in Shoreline to finally find what I believe is a Community. When I came to the Briarcrest neighborhood 5 years ago, I moved into my house realizing that from past neighborhood experience I should keep to myself. My blinds were always shut, and I never paid attention to my neighbors. One morning I received a vase with brilliantly colored flowers and some cookies. My first thought was "I better throw these out because who knows what is in these cookies or who put them here." A voice came from the neighbor's driveway and she came over to talk about how I was adjusting to home ownership. I had my first encounter with community at that moment. I did not even realize it because it had never happened before. Since then life has changed for me. We have now built relationships through block parties, garage sales and everyday interaction.

As we weave the fabric of our lives thru experience, community should play a larger part than we have been taught. As growth is inevitable, we need to infuse the newcomers and current residents that communication is the key to a community. We need to build from the ground up. I encourage you to meet your neighbors, if you have not already. If we communicate clearly, concisely and build a strong network of block contacts we can help each other in emergency or if we must organize for a common cause. It is to the benefit of all of us to get involved. I hope to meet you all and we will make Briarcrest a more brilliant and interconnected community.

- Arthur Peach, BNA Director

Green, Local, Organic and Wholesome

My Girl Scout Gold Award project is entitled "The GLO Project." Driven by the slogan of Green, Local, Organic and Wholesome produce, it is focused on organic gardening with local youth. The need for organic produce for the homeless community was the major inspiration for my project. While higher-income families can choose organic options, the homeless population is often stuck with canned food and lower-nutrient alternatives. My project is harnessing the strength of youth to plant and maintain gardens.

I've registered one garden at the Burke-Gilman Site with the Seattle P-Patch Organization, and am beginning a second P-Patch at Shorecrest High School. The food that these volunteer students grow will go towards dinners at a local homeless shelter as well as our school's culinary arts and daycare programs.

The involvement of youth in this issue is eye-opening, not only for the beneficiaries of the project, but to the modern generation of teens. It's amazing to see the continual looks of astonishment and success on their faces. In the beginning it seemed ludicrous to think that we could do anything like start a garden or really make a difference, much less get anything out of the ground. The feeling of looking at the first radishes to sprout (the first things my group had ever grown) is so striking to a society that is constantly plugged into something, and to teens who think only about the next program, website, or video game. When we realized that we could make something happen, the sense of empowerment and purpose was overwhelming.

If you would like to mentor these students, or know anyone interested in helping to develop these gardens, please contact danielle.lyons@comcast.net. The project will continue into the summer months.

-Dani Lyons, Senior Girl Scout

Embrace Shoreline Project

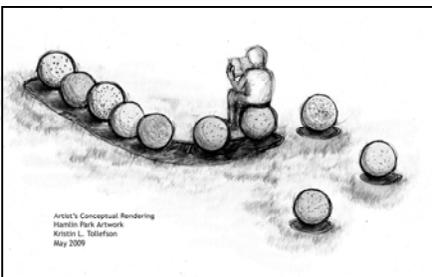
Kellogg Middle School was given a beautiful grooming by local Northwest Church members on Saturday, May 16th for Embrace Shoreline. We would like to make sure a special thank you goes out to them for their generosity in donating their time on a beautiful Saturday morning and for the fabulous job they did. Kellogg looks so gorgeous and well kept. They were really wonderful to our school. Thank you from all of us at Kellogg Middle School.

- Carol Hunter, Kellogg Middle School Registrar

South Woods Summer

Removing invasive plant species from South Woods is becoming a popular thing to do. Students, church groups, civic organizations, and commercial interests have helped or are scheduled to do so. With the approval of the city parks department South Woods Preservation Group is creating a brochure and PowerPoint presentation to encourage even more such participation. We have also received approval to assign specific locations in the park to the care and maintenance of designated groups, families, and individuals. These contributors will be given public credit for their work. We can use your help. If interested in participating contact me at 363-5517 or cbcb66@hotmail.com

- Charlie Brown



Public Art Design at Hamlin Park

"Bead/ball concept drawing for Hamlin Park art by artist, Kristin Tollefson. The beads will be different colors of concrete and with some insets included in both the spheres and the footing." Ros Bird, Public Art Coordinator, 801 2661, rbird@shorelinewa.gov

Create a Great Block Party

A summer block party carries rewards throughout the rest of the year. Neighbors will recognize each other, stop to talk and share ideas and resources, and generally feel more connected. Are you thinking that planning a block party would be fun, but daunting? It is a fairly easy task if you just following these suggestions:

1. Secure three or four neighbors to help with the event.
2. Talk to your neighbors and choose a date and time. It may be virtually impossible to choose a date that works for everybody. If it works for the planning committee, that's good enough.
3. The location can be your street, someone's front yard or a driveway. Make an alternate plan in the event of adverse weather. Will you move it to someone's carport, erect canopies or postpone the party?
4. Decide if there will be a theme or creative direction to your block party.
5. Plan the party around a meal, either lunch or dinner. Decide on a menu. Have each neighbor bring a contribution--for example, if their name starts to A-I, it's appetizers and salads; J-R, main dishes; and S-Z, desserts and drinks. Have each neighbor also bring their own plates, eating utensils and napkins. Have extra on hand in case someone forgets.
6. Have each volunteer bring some equipment: tables, chairs, barbecue grills, garbage and recycling bins or games for the kids (sidewalk chalk, bubbles and beach balls are always popular.
7. Ask if anyone plays an instrument. Music creates ambiance!
8. Once you've created the plan, print up the information and deliver a copy to each neighbor. Keep one copy for the City of Shoreline if you'd like to arrange for a free permit to close the street.
9. To obtain the needed forms for closing your street contact Nora Smith, Neighborhood and Public Outreach Coordinator at 801-2253 or nsmith@shorelinewa.gov. A form is included that asks for the signature of one of the Briarcrest Neighborhood Association officers. Their contact information is given in the announcement column. Call any one of them to arrange for this signature.
10. Provide name tags (such as simple computer file labels) to help folks feel comfortable striking up conversations with each other.
11. Check, check and double check your "to do" list and do some gentle follow-up. Also call your fellow organizers to plan for set up and take down.

- Margot Richardson

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Briarcrest Neighborhood-Based References Available