

# Briarcrest Neighborhood Newsletter



AUTUMN 2019 EDITION

## BNA Director's Message

Autumn tidings from your Briarcrest Neighborhood Association! We're already seeing temps in the 40s, the days are suddenly shorter, and crisp, blue-sky days are ending in dark rainy nights. Time to cozy up!

The BNA had a fun-filled summer, complete with **National Night Out** block parties, the City of Shoreline's **Swingin' Summer's Eve** neighborhood used book sale (Briarcrest donated 623 items!) and our **Fifth Annual Briarcrest Summer Picnic**. The picnic was a huge success with more than 70 neighbors sharing good food and lively conversation. Shoreline City Manager Debbie Tarrie answered questions about the upcoming Prop 1 "ShARCC & Parks" bond measure, which includes plans for a brand-new Briarcrest Community Park. Many yummy desserts were awarded as prizes in the annual Cake Walk, while expert balloon-toy-maker Lauren surprised our younger guests with free balloon crowns, animals and Spidermen. Thanks, Lauren! And thanks to all who helped make our neighborhood picnic so much fun. Hope to see you all next year!

As always, the BNA would like to make a difference in our neighborhood, whether by helping with school or community projects, assisting neighbors with establishing their own **Shoreline Watch** or **Emergency Preparedness program**, or hosting discussions of neighborhood issues of concern. If you have a project or an issue you'd like help with, let your Briarcrest Neighborhood Association know!

We invite you to join us at our regular Briarcrest Neighborhood Association meetings (**second Tuesday of each month at Patty Pan Cooperative, 15550 - 27th Ave. N.E., 7:00 to 8:30 pm**, next meeting is **November 12th**) as well as all of our neighborhood events.

Have a warm and wonderful fall! We look forward to meeting you or seeing you again soon!

Jean Hilde-Fulghum  
BNA Director

## Events Calendar

**BNA General Meeting**  
2nd Tuesdays  
Nov 12, Dec 10, Jan 14  
7:00 - 8:30 PM  
Patty Pan Cooperative,  
15550 - 27th Ave NE

**Hamlin Halloween Haunt**  
Friday, Oct 18  
6:00 - 8:30 PM  
Hamlin Park  
16006 - 15th Ave NE

**Flying Colors Quilt Group**  
3rd Mondays  
Oct 21, Nov 18, Dec 16  
10:30 AM  
Shoreline Christian  
Reformed Church  
14555 - 25th Ave. NE

**Experience Shoreline:  
(For Prospective  
Students)**  
Tuesday, Oct 29  
4:00-6:00 PM  
Shoreline Community  
College  
9000 Building Room 9202

**Indoor Playground  
Halloween**  
Thursday, Oct 31  
Spartan Recreation  
Center  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
202 NE 185th Street

**BNA Storytelling Evening**  
Friday, Nov 1  
7:00 - 9:00 PM  
Anscher Home  
16010 - 25th Ave NE

Get Connected with Your Neighborhood Online

Website: [Briarcrestneighbors.org](http://Briarcrestneighbors.org)

Google Group: [groups.google.com/forum/?hl=en#!forum/briarcrestneighbors](https://groups.google.com/forum/?hl=en#!forum/briarcrestneighbors)

Facebook: [facebook.com/BriarcrestNeighbors](https://facebook.com/BriarcrestNeighbors)



## **BNA Storytelling Evenings**

**Friday, Nov. 1, 7:00-9:00**

We're underway in our fall season of sharing stories in a cozy home atmosphere. Jill Boyd opened her home for our September evening, but in November, we'll be back at Jon and Amy (and Elizabeth!) Anscher's house, 16010 25th Ave NE. All our BNA hosts are much appreciated!

As always, come with a story to share (maximum seven minutes, with some practice beforehand preferred), or feel free to just enjoy others' stories. If you like, bring a treat for our mid-evening break.

Questions? Contact Afifi Durr: [afidurr15@gmail.com](mailto:afidurr15@gmail.com)

We look forward to seeing you there!

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## **City Council Candidates Forum**

A roomful of neighbors gathered for our fifth biennial City Council Candidates Forum on Oct 3, chatting with both City Council and School Board candidates at the informal meet & greet, and then going through a round of great questions for the City Council candidates at the moderated Q&A.

We are hoping to get video available: keep an eye on our website at <http://briarcrestneighbors.org/>, or our Facebook page (no login required) at <https://www.facebook.com/BriarcrestNeighbors/>.

The evening was co-sponsored by the Ridgcrest Neighborhood Association and Shoreline Area News.

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## **Flying Colors (Local Quilt Group)**

Shoreline Christian Reformed Church (14555 -25th Ave. N.E.)  
Every Third Monday Morning at 10:30 a.m. **(Oct 21, Nov 18, Dec 16)**

We are an established group that makes small quilts for **New Beginnings**, a woman's shelter. This is a fun group who loves to quilt and help others while using up our fabric stash.

Call 206-364-8124 for more information.



## **BNA Officers 2018-2019**

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For content suggestions to be included in upcoming newsletters, contact Anthony Sison, BNA Newsletter Editor  
[briarcrestanthony@gmail.com](mailto:briarcrestanthony@gmail.com)

## **Free Briarcrest Neighborhood Yard Signs!**

Have you seen those colorful and friendly Briarcrest signs in your neighbors' yards? Want one (or two) of your own? Well, come and get 'em! Just contact Sarah Kaye at [stckaye@gmail.com](mailto:stckaye@gmail.com) or 206-612-1614 or Jean Hilde at [jmhilde@earthlink.net](mailto:jmhilde@earthlink.net) or 206-362-4315.



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## **Briarcrest Communications Hub**

In case of disaster such as a major earthquake, an emergency communications hub will be set up in the parking lot of **Hamlin Park East on 25th Ave NE**, between Shorecrest and Kellogg schools. People can go there to get information and to request help. More information in future issues of this newsletter.

The Briarcrest Emergency Prep Committee has been active for about 2 1/2 years now. We'd love to have more members!

If you'd like to participate, contact Bill Dwyer and Lee Keim, [billandlee@mac.com](mailto:billandlee@mac.com).

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## **Opportunity for Team Briarcrest!**

City Planning Commission Open Positions in 2020: The purpose of the Planning Commission is to provide guidance and direction for Shoreline's future growth through continued review and improvement to the City's comprehensive land use plan, zoning code, shoreline management, environmental protection and related land use documents. The Planning Commission consists of seven residents and/or property owners appointed by the City Council. Members serve for a four year term. The Planning Commission provides regular opportunities for the public to comment on matters of interest at each meeting. There will be three commissioner positions open in 2020.

<http://www.shorelinewa.gov/government/departments/planning-community-development/planning-commission>

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## **Social Media Coordinator Position Opening**

The Briarcrest Neighborhood Association has an opening for a volunteer Social Media coordinator.

Update and discover content for our website, [www.briarcrestneighbors.org](http://www.briarcrestneighbors.org), and our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/BriarcrestNeighbors](http://www.facebook.com/BriarcrestNeighbors).

This is a great way to contribute to the neighborhood if you have limited time available! Contact Sarah Kaye at [skbriarcrest@gmail.com](mailto:skbriarcrest@gmail.com).

November Prop 1 "ShARCC & Parks" bond measure will include new Briarcrest Community park

July 29, 2019

Dear Shoreline City Councilmembers:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Briarcrest Neighborhood Association. In regard to Item 8(a) on the July 29, 2019 City Council Meeting Agenda, we urge you to adopt Ordinance No. 866 with Attachment B, to include construction of a new city aquatics and community center, much-needed improvements to three existing parks (Brugger's Bog, Hillwood, and Richmond Highlands) and creation of a brand new park in our own Briarcrest neighborhood.

As you know, Briarcrest is the most south-east neighborhood of Shoreline. Briarcrest and southeast Shoreline have the lowest socio-economic status and lowest median income (along with Ballinger) in the city. We have among the highest levels of multi-family housing, renters, immigrants, residents under age 18 and residents over 60. Nearly 30 languages other than English are spoken by our students in their homes. The 2016 PROS Communication & Public Engagement Plan states: "*Populations of special concern include renters, foreign born residents, and residents who speak a language other than English at home.*" These are the very people who live in Briarcrest and southeast Shoreline.

Briarcrest has received very little financial investment from the City in the nearly 25 years I have lived here. The Briarcrest neighborhood received no funding whatsoever from the 2006 Parks bond because, well, we have no park to fund, no community gathering place, no "heart" of the neighborhood to bring our very diverse community closer together.

While Briarcrest does border the east side of Hamlin Park, there are no entry points from Briarcrest that are safe and accessible to folks with mobility issues, baby strollers, the elderly. The current entrance from the east parking lot on 25th Avenue NE requires a long, uneven and unpaved walk through dark woods, a daunting proposal to many, an impossibility to others. The main entrance off 15th Avenue NE is a mile and a half or more from most of Briarcrest, much further than the ideal 15 minutes' walk envisioned by the City's level of service goals, requiring either a long dangerous walk along busy 15th NE or a car to access it. Thus, although Hamlin is physically sited in our neighborhood, it is not truly "in" Briarcrest.

In its Final Report, the Parks Funding Advisory Committee agreed: "*The Briarcrest community would benefit from a central gathering place and easy, safe access to Hamlin Park. While the east side of Hamlin borders the Briarcrest neighborhood, it has its back to the neighborhood, is inaccessible for people with mobility issues, and viewed as unsafe for young children. The proposal is to make improvement to this community park by replacing two underused ballfields, located on the hill between Shorecrest High School and Kellogg Middle School, which would provide Briarcrest residents with a safe, accessible gathering and play space.*" In its quantitative assessment of 10 different park investment opportunities, the PFAC ranked a new Briarcrest Park in the top three projects. City staff agrees.

The proposed Briarcrest Park would provide a community anchor and gathering place for our neighborhood. The east side of Hamlin Park at 25th Avenue NE and NE 160th Street would be redeveloped with a mix of park amenities including signage and an entry plaza, community garden, perimeter trail, picnic shelter, playground, open lawn, skate and/or fitness features, splash pad, amphitheater and public art, and enhancements to one of the current diamond fields. The park would benefit not only Briarcrest and southeast Shoreline but would provide expanded recreation amenities to the City as a whole, helping to meet the goals of PROS Plan Strategic Action Initiative (SAI) #3.

Briarcrest residents clearly expressed their wants and needs in their answers to the PROS team's public surveys. We rated as "very important" neighborhood parks, playgrounds, and picnic shelters, including adding more ADA-accessible play areas and paths. Similarly, in the March/April 2019 Resident Priorities Survey, park improvements were rated "very high or somewhat of a priority" by 68% of respondents. Outreach for the PROS Plan consistently found that Shoreline residents are in favor of improving parks.

Again, quoting the 2016 PROS Communication & Public Engagement Plan: "*Populations of special concern include renters, foreign born residents, and residents who speak a language other than English at home. These populations have typically not participated in Shoreline engagement programs.*" These residents of special concern are our neighbors here in Briarcrest. As the Briarcrest Neighborhood Association, we hope and try to represent them and all of our neighbors, to assure that their needs are met and that their lives are enriched in equal measure to Shoreline residents who do typically engage with the City. We respectfully request that you, as our City Council, help us meet this goal by adopting Ordinance No. 866 with Attachment B.

Sincerely,  
Jean Hilde-Fulghum  
Director, Briarcrest Neighborhood Association