

LAURELHURST

L E T T E R

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April 2008

Please Pay Your Annual LCC Dues Online Now!

It's time to pledge your continued support to our neighborhood by paying annual dues. Convenient secure online payment is available through LCC's website: www.laurelhurstcc.com.

Laurelhurst Community Club reaches out to the community in many ways to reflect the values and priorities of neighbors – support for parks, open space, public safety, schools, and libraries – just to name a few. Your dues support expenses related to these projects, to production of the *Laurelhurst Letter*, and to special projects. In 2007/08, for example, LCC contracted with a land-use and planning consultant, a hospital consultant, and an attorney to work on issues related to the proposed expansion of Children's Hospital.

Basic annual dues are \$50, plus a \$15 contribution for boulevard maintenance. Additional contributions are always welcome. **Thank you for your continued generosity and support.** ■

Children's Advisory Committee (CAC) Meetings

Neighbors are encouraged to attend CAC meetings, and public comment is welcome at them.

April 15 (Tues.) 6:30 p.m. @ Talaris

May 6 (Tues.) time and location TBD

May 20 (Tues.) 6 p.m. @ CHRMC

June 3 (Tues.) time and location T.B.D.

June 10 (Tues.) 6:30 p.m. @ Talaris

Take this opportunity to learn more about Children's proposed massive expansion, the design alternatives, and the environmental impacts.

Watch for updates at these websites:

www.laurelhurstcc.com

www.childrensaction.com

<http://masterplan.seattlechildrens.org>

New Laurelon Alternative Considered

At the March 18 Children's Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting, Children's Hospital presented a brief glimpse of another expansion design – Alternative 7, "Early Laurelon Terrace" – in response to the potential purchase, demolition, and redevelopment of the Laurelon Terrace condominiums. Children's offered few details about the new alternative. According to LCC's land use consultant Carol Eychaner, much of the institution's new proposed development would be located on the Laurelon Terrace site, which would be zoned for up to 160 foot heights. Vehicle access to campus via NE 50th St. was still part of the plan, while access via NE 45th St. appeared to be eliminated.

In her written comments to a CAC subcommittee, which met March 29 with hospital representatives to review Alternative 7, Eychaner noted:

"Alternative 7 still appears to allow an enormous amount of development – 350 additional beds and 1.5 million additional square feet of development – that is excessive for the Laurelhurst location. The "expansion" is bigger than the hospital that now exists. The Alternative also significantly expands the institution's boundary, converting two large residentially zoned properties for institutional uses. Such boundary expansion is discouraged by the Land Use Code explicitly to protect neighborhood areas from being overtaken and transformed by major institution uses. My concern about these over arching issues is well documented in the record – indeed, the takeover is being played out right before our very eyes – and remains unchanged."

LCC will continue to look very closely at the land use and environmental cost of the proposal to change the City's long-standing major institution boundary for Children's, eliminating Laurelon Terrace. These townhouse condominiums are appreciated as a well designed housing option for the Laurelhurst community, and their preservation has been a long-standing concern of the LCC. During Seattle's 1989-90 citywide rezoning process for multifamily properties, LCC asked for a downzone from Lowrise 3 to Single Family for property south of Laurelon Terrace across NE 45th St. and, in cooperation with the Laurelon Terrace Condominium Association Board, also asked for a downzone from Lowrise 3 to Lowrise 1 multifamily on the Laurelon Terrace site itself, because this better reflected Laurelon's actual scale and development type. The first request was granted, ensuring single-family development on that block compatible with the scale and character of Laurelon Terrace. For whatever reason, the second was not; the City Council did, however, lower the height of the Lowrise 3 designation to 30 feet, which allows far less development on the Laurelon Terrace site than what Children's has now proposed. ■

LCC Endorses Oversight of Biosafety Labs

LCC urges the City Council to adopt draft regulations developed by Labwatch for operation and independent oversight of biosafety laboratories. This is an important public health and safety issue. The regulations will ensure that the biotechnology industry in Seattle operates safely and responsibly with appropriate oversight. The National Institutes of Health (NIH), although it provides guidelines, has no enforcement powers over publicly funded labs. There is no governmental oversight of privately funded labs.

In late December 2004, the University of Washington applied for a grant through the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to build a Level 3 bioterrorism lab on its south campus. During that tumultuous period, LCC learned that communities around the country resisted these labs because of poor biosafety records and a lack of requirements to notify the public should accidents occur.

Lack of accountability and public oversight can be remedied by adoption of the draft regulations modeled after those adopted by the City of Boston and initiated by the Cambridge Biosafety Committee three decades ago. ■

Laurelhurst Requests Officer Havenar's Return

As a result of the Police Department's new patrol redeployment plan, Officer T.J. Havenar has been reassigned to the Wallingford area. LCC wrote Mayor Nickels and Chief Kerlikowske to request his return. Officer Havenar started his Laurelhurst patrol in August 1997 and has provided consistently excellent service. He has been instrumental in responding to our needs in keeping the Laurelhurst Playfield nighttime activities under control. His persistence and vigilance in patrolling kept problems and damages at the playfield and community center to a minimum. Havenar is especially skilled in dealing with our youth in a manner that promotes respect for the law and our community.

He has earned the support, trust and gratitude of our community and received a Good Neighbor Award in 2001. LCC hopes Officer Havenar will be reassigned to the Laurelhurst community soon. ■

SUN Plant Sale May 17: Dig, Divide, Donate

Have you ever wondered what to do with that hosta you divided or with all the extra sweet pea starts? **Donate your healthy garden plants, trees, or seedlings, and help build SUN** (Saving Urban Nature) Park. The "donate-a-plant" fund raising sale is Saturday, May 17, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the SUN Park site on the corner of 47th Ave. NE and NE 47th St. All sale proceeds will go toward SUN Park's construction fund.

Drop labeled donations off at Cary Lassen's front porch, 4557 46th Ave. NE (across from school play area) between May 10 and 16. Call Cary at 524-1928 to arrange plant pick up, if needed, or to volunteer on May 17.

This new park is a partnership between neighbors and Cascade Land Conservancy, a nonprofit agency dedicated to environmental stewardship and conservation. To learn more, visit <http://home.earthlink.net/~jeanseattle/>. ■

Natural Lawn Renovation for Spring

In May 2007 the LCC board of trustees voted unanimously to support efforts to educate our neighbors about gardening without pesticides and using safer gardening alternatives to promote a healthy environment.

Spring is a great time to revitalize your lawn and make it more resistant to weeds. Emily Bishton of The Garden Hotline shares 3 easy steps:

Aerate. Use a power aerator to increase water infiltration, drainage, and oxygen content of your soil. Either let the cores decompose on the soil surface, or rake or mow them to hasten the process.

Overseed. New grass will help to crowd out weed seeds that have blown in during the winter. For best germination, overseed during April, using a combination of perennial ryegrass and fine fescue, which grow well in our climate.

Top dress with compost. Use ¼- ½ inch of fine-textured compost, so the grass is still standing up and not bent over or buried. Use a leaf rake to spread it out and work it into the aeration holes.

Other Spring Care: Begin mowing weekly when the grass is 2 to 2 1/2 inches high, and continue mowing at that height throughout the year so that the grass blades will shade the soil and help it retain water.

For more information, contact the Garden Hotline at 206-633-0224 or help@gardenhotline.org for free answers to any questions about your lawn and garden. Visit their new website at www.gardenhotline.org.

Let's work together to keep Laurelhurst beautiful and safe. ■

Master Gardener Foundation Plant Extravaganza

May 2, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., A Garden Stroll pre-sale event. Wine, appetizers, and first chance to buy great plants. \$35, at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/30578 or call 206-257-9262. **May 3 and 4, Plant Sale.** Thousands of great plants from specialty growers and Master Gardeners' gardens. Saturday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Center for Urban Horticulture. Free parking. www.mgfk.org. For more information, e-mail joyceharms@comcast.net or call 253-838-4713. ■

Note: The March issue of Laurelhurst Letter listed incorrect dates.

Maintain Critical SEPA Review

LCC wrote the City Council to urge rejection of CB 116010, which would amend Seattle's State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) ordinance by increasing thresholds triggering SEPA review and by applying different thresholds inside urban villages.

The proposed changes would eliminate an important avenue for public participation in the environmental review process currently in place. The Design Review Board is no substitute for the current environmental review process. Issues such as height, bulk and scale, traffic and parking, water and air quality and review of the cumulative impacts of a project are not addressed in the Design Review process. LCC learned this a few years ago when University Village constructed its large garage. In that case, the Design Review Board was told by Department of Planning and Development (DPD) that it could approve the project or approve it with conditions. The Board was not allowed to disapprove the project.

New plans for an additional expansion at University Village likely will be exempt from environmental review under CB 116010. CB 116010 is inconsistent with SEPA policy and should be rejected. ■

CALENDAR

April 14 (Mon.) 7 p.m.
LCC Board of Trustees meeting
St. Stephen's Church

April 15 (Tues.) Children's Advisory Committee meeting. 6:30 p.m.
Public welcome. Talaris

April 25 (Fri.) Deadline for Laurelhurst newsletter copy and advertising

May 2 (Fri.) 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Master Gardener Plant Pre-sale Event
Center for Urban Horticulture

May 3, 4 (Sat., Sun.) 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Master Gardener Plant Sale
Center for Urban Horticulture

May 6 (Tues.) Children's Advisory Committee meeting. 6 p.m.
Public welcome. Location TBA

May 12 (Mon.) 7 p.m.
LCC Board of Trustees meeting
St. Stephen's Church

May 17 (Sat.) 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
SUN Park Plant Sale
47th Ave. N.E. and N.E. 47th St.

UNCLASSIFIEDS

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DOG WALKER: Experienced, honest, reliable dog walker with excellent references and reasonable rates. www.walkdogwalk.com, e-mail walkdogwalk@gmail.com, or call Erin Eskenazi at 384-2125. Licensed and insured.

HANDYMAN SERVICES - "Bob of All Trades LLC" Licensed, Bonded, Insured-Lic#BOBALAT936N3. Reasonable rates, experienced, professional, reliable. I listen to your needs. 425-301-9265.

HOUSE FOR RENT: E Laurelhurst Drive NE, Views, 3400 sq ft., 4/5 bedrooms, 1 Full, 2-3/4 baths. 2-car carport. Lake access across street. Available approximately April 1. 206-679-3679.

HOUSE/CAT SITTER WANTED: 2 weeks in July. Laurelhurst view home with sophisticated decor. Adults only. 525-3276.

HOUSE WANTED: 3 or 4 bedroom home in Laurelhurst. Locating from North Carolina to Seattle in August; hoping for Laurelhurst home. lizstankavage@yahoo.com or 919-382-7573.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN: Innovative sustainable residential garden designs for you to enjoy. Dog Day Design, Patricia Gibbon, MLA and Master Gardener, 715-6541.

NE SEATTLE MOMS: Membership is open to families in Laurelhurst, Bryant, View Ridge, Windermere, Wedgewood, Sandpoint, Ravenna and U District. Share resources, neighborhood issues, support, etc. To join visit: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NESeattleMoms.

PAINTING SERVICES: Joe Jabon. Cell: 383-6725; Email: joejabon@gmail.com. Affordable residential painting...Bonded and Insured...Great references.

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SUMMER TUTORING: School psychologist in Laurelhurst looking to tutor K-5 students in reading/writing/math. Knowledge of learning disabilities, ADHD, and standardized testing. July-August. Call Shannon 206-353-8432.

SUSAN'S CLEANING SERVICE: Cleaning specialist. Dependable, reliable, efficient. Licensed/bonded/insured. 781-8876.

WANTED: Styrofoam peanuts, pillows, and bubblewrap. Please leave in driveway at 3415 W. Laurelhurst Dr. NE. Call Candy at 527-0582 with any questions.

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. Call Leslie at 525-0467. 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; 25-word maximum. Sorry, no unclassified ads taken by phone. Email copy to laurelhurstnews@comcast.net, or mail it to 4721 47th Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98105. Please include your name, address, and phone number. All ads are subject to space availability.

Street Light Out?

Look on the pole for its unique identification number. Report problems to City Light online at www.seattle.gov/light/streetlight, or by phone at 206-684-7056.

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April 2008

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Aircraft Noise Hotline	433-5393
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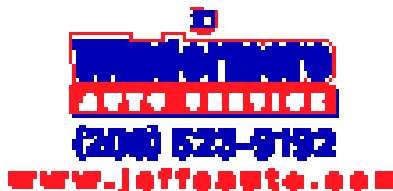
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