

# LAURELHURST

L E T T E R

Published by the Laurelhurst Community Club ... serving the Laurelhurst community since 1920

March 2011

## Spring into Action and Spruce Up the 'hood

During April and May, Seattle's Spring Clean cleanup program will be in full swing. Projects include litter pickups, removal of invasive plants such as English ivy, weeding and general upkeep of traffic circles and planting strips, storm drain stenciling, and graffiti removal.

Last year neighbors rolled up their sleeves and worked on clean-up projects for traffic circles, street ends, pedestrian islands, and Waterway No. 1.

LCC trustee **Emily Dexter** is coordinating Laurelhurst activities again this year. **Please contact her with your ideas for neighborhood spring cleaning projects:** 526-2927 or edexter4@comcast.net.

Spring Clean provides opportunities for neighborhoods to clean up public spaces with city support. Spring Clean participants can receive free resources from Seattle Public Utilities, including bags, gloves, safety vests, transfer station passes, and waste pick ups. For more information, go to [www.seattle.gov/util](http://www.seattle.gov/util) and search "Spring Clean" or call 206-233-7187. ■

## Fire Station 38 Open House

Sat., March 12, 11 a.m to 1 p.m.

- Tour the new fire station
- Meet your local firefighters
- Explore children's activities
- Refreshments

In the April 2007 *Laurelhurst Letter*, LCC urged the City Council to release funding approved by voters in the 2003 Fire Facilities and Emergency Response Levy. Come see the community asset that resulted.

## It's a Photo Finish: Red-light Runners

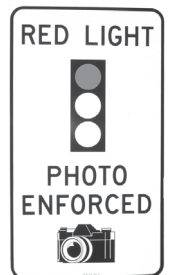
The LCC Board of Trustees supports House Bill 1279 relating to automated traffic safety cameras and wrote a letter to Representatives Phyllis Gutierrez Kenney and David Frockt urging them to insure that the bill is voted upon before the March 7 deadline. This bill is critical to ensure pedestrian, bicycle, and driver safety for those who run red lights at major arterials and for those affected by speeders on arterial streets adjacent to transit stations, public parks, and recreation facilities.

LCC supported Seattle's initial pilot project for red-light-runner cameras in 2006 and its expansion to add 24 additional cameras in 2008 to include cameras at Five Corners, where Union Bay Place NE, Mary Gates Boulevard, NE 45th Street, 35th Avenue NE, and Sand Point Way NE meet – an extremely dangerous intersection.

LCC has read the City's studies of its program and materials from the Federal Highway Administration and the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. We are convinced and studies document that red-light-runner cameras save lives and prevent serious injuries.

HB 1279 clarifies existing law in stating that cameras may be placed at intersections of two or more arterials, thus addressing Five Corners here in Laurelhurst. The bill would expand the use of cameras to detect speeders on arterial streets adjacent to transit stations, public parks, and recreation facilities, in addition to schools zones. This bill also addresses the situation when a driver making a right-hand turn fails to yield to a pedestrian or bicyclist in a crosswalk. The bill provides accountability to the public by requiring an annual report of the number of traffic accidents that occurred at each location where a camera is located and the number of tickets issued. The bill strengthens existing pedestrian and bicycle safety efforts and should be passed. LCC also supports SBs 5301 and 5188, similar bills in the senate.

LCC opposes HBs 1098 and 1099, which would place restrictions on the use of red-light-runner cameras – a Tim Eyman approach to the issues. HB 1098 would require a public vote before cameras could be installed. HB 1099 is similar but also would require the local ordinance that allows for the use of automated traffic safety cameras to indicate the maximum number of cameras that may be used within the jurisdiction and a public vote to increase the number of cameras. These bills would stifle the efforts of local jurisdictions to address pedestrian and bicycle safety issues. LCC urges opposing these bills. ■



## Livable Streets Improvements, Goals: Calmer and Safer for All

When it comes to walking and biking in Northeast Seattle, it turns out that we all want the same things: safer crossings on Sand Point Way NE, finished sidewalks, better access to the Burke Gilman trail and well-connected bike/pedestrian friendly streets. These findings were revealed through the Livable Streets Initiative in a compilation of comments and ideas from the workshop held last November co-sponsored by LCC.

**Cary Lassen\*** and many other Laurelhurst neighbors participated in the workshop. Lassen has been a strong advocate for safer bike and pedestrian streets. She reported that the Seattle Children's Livable Streets Workshop, co-sponsored by LCC and 17 other community groups, had more than 300 participants and hundreds of emailed suggestions to improve bike/pedestrian connections and make streets safer.

"At the workshop, participants wrote ideas on an oversized Google Earth map. Comments included everything from having crosswalks on our NE 45th hill to adding a pedestrian signal crossing at NE 52nd and Sand Point Way NE," she said.

Many people recommended implementation of "Green Streets." Green Streets are bike and pedestrian friendly residential streets with low traffic usage. By adding calming elements such as traffic circles and planters, the streets are quieter and safer for children to play, ride, and walk. Over time, Green Streets would connect our neighborhood parks. Imagine that someday that a 10-year-old could safely ride a bike from Laurelhurst playfield to View Ridge playfield. Portland has had great success with their Green Streets, and property values of the homes on these streets have increased.

Lassen reported, "Green Streets, along with most of the projects outlined in the Livable Streets final report, are improvements specified under various studies and plans such as the Sand Point Way Pedestrian Study, Pedestrian Master Plan, and the Bicycle Master Plan." Seattle Children's Hospital, as part of City Council Conditions for their expansion, will contribute funds for some of these plans. The participating communities now hope to work with SDOT to complete many of the proposed projects in the next few years. ■

### Transportation Improvement Workshop March 19

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Laurelhurst Elementary Auditorium  
Seattle Children's is sponsoring a workshop to learn and share ideas about:

- The future traffic signal at 40th Ave NE and Sand Point Way NE, and surrounding streets and intersections

- Other Phase 1 Livable Streets transportation projects

Kids are welcome! Free bike helmets and fittings for kids. BicycleSkillz and Thrillz safety course - kids, bring your bikes!

*\*Cary Lassen is taking a break from serving on the LCC board of trustees to devote more time to her work as a children's book illustrator. She has served on LCC's Crime Prevention team for several years, led the Sock Drive, participates as a member of the LCC/Children's working committee, and is now serving on the Transportation committee.*

*Thank you, Cary, for your many contributions to the newsletter and for your passionate commitment to making Laurelhurst a great place to live!* ■

## Waterway No. 1 Work Party Braves Cold!

LCC had a successful and productive mini-work party at Waterway No. 1 on February 27 to address concerns from a neighbor about the yellow flag irises and wood pieces in the water. Five volunteers – **Emily Dexter, Jeannie Hale, Arthur Lee Jacobson, Len Nelson and Don Torrie** – under the leadership of **Arthur Lee Jacobson**, LCC's consultant and plant and tree expert, accomplished quite a bit in one hour, despite the 22-degree temperature and icy cold lake water. Control of yellow flag irises, a Class C noxious weed, is recommended but not required by the King County Noxious Weed Board. Volunteers clipped the tops of all of the yellow flag irises, except a very small section intertwined with the native bulrush. Under Jacobson's direction,

the volunteers dug out some of the iris rhizomes that had not been embedded into the lake bottom.

Volunteers waded into the icy water and picked up litter – beer cans, plastic pieces, bottles, and other debris – and hauled it away for disposal. They also retrieved floating pieces of wood debris, relocated a small patch of weeds that had floated into the waterway, and relocated several of the rocks in the vicinity of the municipal sewer outlet.

When spring growth begins, LCC will target the weedy iris and reed to ensure that they do not overwhelm the native bulrush and cattail.

LCC is very appreciative to have the expert assistance of Arthur Lee Jacobson. ■

## CALENDAR

**March 12 (Sat.)** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Fire Station 38 Dedication and Open House**

**March 14 (Mon.)** 7 p.m.

**LCC Board of Trustees Meeting**

Wu Hsing Tao School of Acupuncture, Talaris campus

**March 19 (Sat.)** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Transportation Improvement Workshop** (see above)

Laurelhurst Elementary Auditorium

**March 19, 20 (Sat., Sun.)**

Seattle Tour of Architects  
[www.TourofArchitects.com](http://www.TourofArchitects.com)

**March 25 (Fri.)**

**Deadline for Laurelhurst Newsletter Copy and Ads**

**Laurelhurst Garden Club**

Second Friday of the month, 11 a.m.  
Laurelhurst Community Center  
Call Cheryl for more info at 386-9106.

**Master Gardener Clinic**

Mondays, 4 to 8 p.m.  
Center for Urban Horticulture Atrium

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FOR SALE: 2000 Mercedes S500 in excellent condition. One owner, 82,800 miles, new tires, purchased and serviced at Phil Smart, black, asking \$16,500. Email: dhhsiao@gmail.com.

FOR RENT: Hawthorne Hills mother-in-law apt. 1500 sq.ft. 2 bdrm, 1 bath, frpl, furnished. New construction. Alarm system. Pets OK. \$1,500/mo. utilities included. Pat, 206-595-1522.

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**Second Annual Trifecta School Fundraiser Set Sat., July 16**

This men-only community-building event raised \$12,000 last year. All proceeds go to the school fund of your choice at Laurelhurst Elementary, Villa Academy, or The Mike Foy education foundation at St. Bridget. For tickets or further information, please call Mike Wayte at 206-371-7000, or email mike@fastenix.com.

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. UNCLASSIFIED ADS are free for PAID members of the Laurelhurst Community Club, except that repeat ads or ads deemed commercial cost \$20; 25-word maximum. Email copy to laurelhurstnews@comcast.net.

**Laurelhurst Blog**  
<http://thelaurelhurstblog.blogspot.com/>

News, events, issues, restaurants, businesses and lots more. If you have a tip or story idea, send an email to laurelhurstblogger@gmail.com. ■

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March 2011

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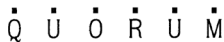
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