

LAURELHURST

L E T T E R

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

November 2010

Sock Drive!

It's not too late to donate to the annual Seattle Police North Precinct Sock Drive. SPD distributes new socks, hats and gloves to service organizations, foster children, domestic violence shelters, and the homeless.

Please drop off your donations – **new socks, hats, and gloves** – in the "Sox Box" on the porch at 4557

46th Ave. NE (corner house with white picket fence across from Laurelhurst Elementary School). If you would like your donation picked up, email carypillo@mac.com or phone 206-524-1928.

Donations needed by Dec. 1. ■



Illustration: Cary Pillo

Will Momentum Reverse Center Decision?

October 30 at the Northeast Branch Library, Councilmember **Tom Rasmussen**, vice chair of the Council's Parks committee, met with neighbors, who told him why the community center is important to their families.

Hundreds of neighbors have written, called and emailed city councilmembers or testified at the recent City Council Budget Committee public hearings in response to the Mayor's proposed plan to close our beloved community center. *Your efforts have made a huge difference.*

Because of your efforts councilmembers are now asking, "Why should five (out of 26) community centers be singled out for closure or "limited use" as they call it. In the case of Laurelhurst, it really means that we would never have a community center – after working over a decade to get the funds to expand the center to meet our neighborhood needs. Parks Department documents state that our center would be closed to the public, other than available for private rental. The lower-level activities room would be converted to office space. We will never get that space back again unless our efforts to persuade City Councilmembers succeed.

LCC has presented the following points urging that the center stay open:

- Any cuts to community center hours should be distributed equitably throughout the city. No community center should be singled out for reduced hours or closure.
- It makes no sense to convert the Laurelhurst Community Center to a satellite program for seniors and special populations. Our Center is not centrally located, transit service is poor and there is little parking. This Center already serves its seniors and special populations.
- Office space options exist at Magnuson Park for for the Lifelong Recreation Program; this would not shut down neighbor access to our Center.
- There is no easy access to the Ravenna-Eckstein or Magnuson Park centers for Laurelhurst neighbors. The Parks Department's own policies recommend community centers be located within a mile of every household. Ravenna-Eckstein is 2.2 miles away, Magnuson 1.9 miles.
- What about considering an across-the-board reduction in staffing of all community centers so that all can remain open?

Email budget@seattle.gov and Budget Chair Councilmember Jean Godden at jean.godden@seattle.gov and your message will go to all Councilmembers. Tell your story. Why is the community center important to your family? Why is it unfair to close our center and transfer programs to Ravenna-Eckstein and Magnuson? Let's keep the momentum to save Laurelhurst Community Center. ■



Kent Mettler, Tom Rasmussen, and Al Hovland at the rally for the Center.

Laurelhurst Holiday Art Fair and Winter Festival

Fri., Dec. 3, 1 to 8:30 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 4, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- Artwork by local artists
- Live Music and Entertainment
- Kids Holiday Crafts
- Refreshments
- Silent Auction to support Laurelhurst Pottery Classes for Youth with Disabilities
- Luminary Walk and Marshmallow Roast (Fri., 6 to 8 p.m.)

FREE Admission

Please bring a canned good.
Laurelhurst Community Center
206-684-7529

<http://www.seattle.gov/parks/centers/Laurelcc.htm>

Livable Streets Workshop: Sat., Nov. 13

10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Gould Hall, University of Washington

Seattle Children's workshop, co-sponsored by LCC and others. Family friendly. For more information, email LivableStreets@seattlechildrens.org.

Reconsidered Children's Helipad Location Flies

At the October SAC (Standing Advisory Committee), Children's Hospital presented an alternative site for the helistop in response to LCC and SAC concerns about the rooftop location originally proposed. Children's model showed a raised helipad on the ground in the front entry area of the hospital, with a path leading directly to the new Emergency Room. Patients would be transported to the same main elevator and go down one floor directly to the ER or, depending on their needs, to the floor providing the necessary emergency treatment.

Children's estimates that the travel distance to emergency services is the same for both the roof and ground locations. The new proposed ground location is still near the site originally approved on the MIMP. The new proposed site would be temporary – about two years or until future phases of development begin. If the next phase is built, the helipad would be temporarily moved back to the South Bed Tower roof near NE 45th Street for a few years during construction and then permanently located to the roof of the new centrally located diagnostic and treatment building, which was the originally proposed helistop location.

More detailed studies will be conducted as Children's prepares its MUP application. These studies will include noise, wind turbulence and other impacts. There will be a public comment period when Children's submits their MUP application, which LCC will review thoroughly. ■

WHOO WHOO WHOO... Nearly bOWLed Him Over

Laurelhurst neighbor **Andy Hutchison** reported an unusual experience around 5:45 in morning October 19. While jogging through Laurelhurst Park, he was "grabbed on the head from behind by what turned out to be a good-sized owl, who, over the course of the next 10 minutes, took two more low-level passes at me, but neither of those with contact. Interestingly, the owl followed me out of the park and watched me from overhead power lines as I departed."

He contacted **Patricia Thompson**, a wildlife biologist with the Wash. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife who had written a 2006 article about owls that was published in the *Seattle Times*. He described his attacker to her as "about a foot and a half tall, so, based on your description [in the article], probably a great horned."

Thompson emailed her response: "I apologize on behalf of the owl, it's a bit of a mystery as to why they exhibit what looks like nesting territoriality this time of year. It can be rough making it through the winter though, and they may be defending feeding territories, however, these owls usually move on and we are in the middle of fall migration.

Some of our Puget Sound owls stay the winter, some of the owls are migrants, so it is hard to tell. It may also have been a barred owl which have been recorded exhibiting this behavior as well.

Some people have experience these encounters two or three days in a row. If you wait a few days, the owl will probably have moved on."

Hutchison wears a reflective vest when jogging but doesn't normally wear a hat. He plans to now, though! His wife's inspection of my head found no marks, so he concludes, "it was a pretty mild 'attack.'" Fascinating. ■



New Sand Point Way Sidewalk Opens

After many years of LCC requests for pedestrian safety improvements, the City's Bridging the Gap program funded completion of a key section of sidewalk between 47th and 50th Avenues NE on Sand Point Way. Thanks SDOT, for the beautiful landscaping, too. ■

Volunteer for the Good of the 'hood!

LCC's **Crime Prevention** committee would like to add a few new members. If this appeals to your inner sleuth, please contact LCC trustee **Cary Lassen** at carypill@mac.com or 206-524-1928.

LCC also would like to form a committee to work on **Emergency Preparedness**. This new group would develop plans to help neighbors cope in the case of a large-scale emergency caused by an earthquake, severe winter storm, or other disaster. If you have interest or expertise in planning for emergencies, or just want to dive in and get involved, please contact LCC trustee **Emily Dexter** at edexter4@comcast.net or 206-526-2927.

Board of trustee responsibilities are posted on LCC's website. The strength and effectiveness of LCC depends upon the active involvement of neighbors. Working together, Laurelhurst can continue to make a positive difference in our neighborhood and in our community. ■

CALENDAR

Nov. 8 (Mon.) 7 p.m.

LCC Board of Trustees Meeting
Wu Hsing Tao School of Acupuncture,
Talaris campus

Nov. 13 (Sat.) 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Livable Streets Workshop
Gould Hall, UW. See page 1 for details.

Nov. 13 (Sat.) 10 a.m. to noon

SUN Park's Weed and Sweep Brigade
SUN Park, 47th Ave. NE and NE 47th St.

Nov. 24 (Wed.)

Deadline for Laurelhurst Newsletter Copy and Ads

Nov. 27 (Sat.) 9 a.m.

Bird Walks on the Burke

Email jim.corson@comcast.net to reserve a spot. Meet at the small park on the trail just south of Metropolitan Market at 40th Ave. NE. Space is limited to 12.

Dec. 3 (Fri.) and **4** (Sat.)

Laurelhurst Holiday Art Fair and Winter Festival

Laurelhurst Community Center
See page 1 for details.

Dec. 12 (Sun.) 4 p.m.

Neighborhood Carol Sing

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

UNCLASSIFIEDS

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COUNSELOR: Licensed Masters-level counselor taking new adult and senior clients struggling with depression, anxiety, life transitions and Dementia. Home visits to seniors. Lindsey Hewes, 206-335-9995.

DOG WALKER: Dog-Walk Empire: Daily walking and dog-sitting for Laurelhurst and surrounding area. Emphasis on training and special-needs pets. Contact Audrey at audreygjennings@gmail.com for more information.

FOR SALE: Architect/Artist horizontal flat file; 5-drawer on base.; metal, approx. 46 x 36": \$150. Linksys Wireless Internet Router; 2.4 GHz, 802.11b; \$45. Contact Leslie at 206-229-1505.

MOVING ASSISTANCE: Moves Made Simple offers a cost effective solution to managing your move. We assist in de-cluttering, packing &

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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. ■

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. 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.

Street Light Out?

If so, please report it. With more than 100,000 streetlights to maintain, City Light appreciates your help in finding lights that are out or malfunctioning. Note the number on the pole and then report problems online at www.seattle.gov/light/streetlight using the Streetlight Trouble Report Form, or by phone at 684-7056. ■

Keep Sidewalks Safe

The dark winter season is upon us, and walkers are slogging through rain, wet leaves, and even snow and ice. It's time to take a close look at your sidewalk and make sure your property is clear and safe for walkers. We may be in for some snow shoveling this winter! ■

About Garbage

It's not okay to put garbage, including dog poop, in your neighbors' garbage cans. In fact, it's illegal to dispose of stuff in other's trash without their permission. ■

www.laurelhurstcc.com

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	Aves NE. 527-6646	


Newsletter: laurelhurstnews@comcast.net; 229-1505

Aircraft Noise Hotline 433-5393
Animal Control 386-7387
Police Emergency or Reporting 911
Police, Non-emergency 625-5011
Community Center 684-7529
Children's Construction Hotline 987-7744

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