

LAURELHURST

L E T T E R

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

October 2011

Planning Community Center Access

In January, Seattle Parks and Recreation converted five community centers to "limited use" sites in order to reduce its 2011 operating budget by \$10 million. This resulted in a significant drop in the hours community centers are open, as well as a reduction or displacement of programming, and saved about \$1.3 million.

The Laurelhurst Community Center lost its recreation staff, reduced its hours, and converted one of the activity rooms to office space for city staff.

Parks and Recreation is recommending a "Geographic Teams" Community Center Management Model designed to "increase flexibility to meet current needs and to adapt to short-run and long-run change."

LCC will address possible impacts on the Laurelhurst Community Center at its October 10 board of trustees meeting. Neighbors are encouraged to contact City councilmembers and make their concerns known. ■

LCC Again Supports Education Levy

At its September meeting, the LCC board was briefed on the Families and Education Levy that will appear on the November ballot. Seattle voters passed the first Families and Education Levy in November 1990 and renewed the levy in 1997 and 2004. LCC supported all of the previous measures and voted unanimously to support the 2011 as well.

The Levy is focused on achieving three overarching goals: school readiness, academic achievement and closing the achievement gap, and increasing high school graduation rates. ■

LCC Appeals DPD's Amendment Regarding Siting of Essential Public Facilities

On August 18, DPD issued a notice of a text amendment that would allow the siting of "essential public facilities" throughout the city and waiver of development regulations. Essential public facilities are defined as those that are difficult to site and include things like airports, state education facilities, transportation facilities, jails, in-patient facilities, substance abuse facilities, mental health facilities, group homes, etc. The list of essential public facilities is not exhaustive and could be most anything. State regulations specifically say that highway projects (like SR 520) are included.

What the text amendment basically means is that if a private developer or a governmental entity establishes that something is an essential public facility, then it could be sited anywhere, including in residential areas despite zoning restrictions and development regulations. This includes siting in shoreline areas within the conservancy and other zones.

DPD's proposal was a surprise and appeared without broad public outreach or participation regarding the notice and only a 14-day period for comments, which included Labor Day weekend. LCC requested an extension of the comment deadline, but DPD denied the request. Further, DPD refused to provide key records concerning the proposal in a timely way, substantially impairing the public's ability to submit informed comments.

LCC got right to work on this issue and has spent many hours reviewing the proposal, the state law, and regulations and code provisions from other cities. Some jurisdictions have comprehensive (and lengthy) provisions governing essential public facilities with actual criteria as to where certain kinds of facilities can be located (e.g., juvenile detention facilities can't be located within 1,000 feet of a park or school; crisis centers cannot be located in residential zones, etc.). Seattle's amendment is very open-ended with total discretion left with DPD. Our concerns are mostly with the possibilities of essential public facilities on the Talaris property and at the Hartmann Building (across from Children's).

DPD says that all the proposal does is make our code consistent with the Growth Management Act (GMA). But, there are many questions. Cities can't preclude the siting of essential public facilities, but does that mean they can restrict where they site them like some cities do in limiting them to industrial and commercial zones? Some wonder if this came up to get the city off the hook in an ongoing lawsuit by a neighborhood group in Jackson Place opposed to the siting of a crisis center in a residential area with a nearby middle school and Japanese Cultural Center that has programs for kids. Police would be permitted to drop off individuals under the influence of drugs and alcohol or those with mental health issues at the crisis center instead of taking them to jail.

On August 31, LCC, together with Seattle Community Council Federation, filed an appeal with the City Hearing Examiner regarding the SEPA (State Environmental Policy Act) Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) issued August 18 by DPD for proposed amendments to the Land Use Code related to essential public facilities.

Due to the expertise required to navigate complex GMA issues, LCC hired its legal counsel to prepare comments on the proposal, which were due September 1. The hearing is scheduled for October 18, but LCC's lawyers have asked for a continuance to allow time for discovery. ■

For the Love of Pets and People

The staff at **Hawthorne Hills Veterinary Hospital** (HHVH) is focused on giving back to their community and the pets they love.

Located at 4020 NE 55th Street across the street from Metropolitan Market, HHVH is a three doctor, small animal practice with over 35 combined years of veterinary knowledge. Since owner **Dr. Robin Riedinger** opened the doors in March of 2000, HHVH's mission has been to form a partnership with clients, providing the best medical care with a thorough and thoughtful approach to each pet and client.

As an AAHA accredited veterinary hospital, HHVH is one of a select group of veterinary facilities in the nation (only 14%) that have met the rigorous standards set forth by the American Animal Hospital Association. Dr. Riedinger, along with **Drs. Brandi Eskesen and Stacy Davidson** and a dedicated staff, take pride in providing compassionate and comprehensive medical care which incorporates a variety of services including PennHIP digital radiography, dentistry, surgery, dermatology, nutrition guidance, behavior consultations, and medical boarding.

Hawthorne Hills Veterinary Hospital hosts fundraising events throughout the year to make it fun and easy for people to lend their support. In June, they teamed up with their own dogs and completed the Seattle Animal Shelter's 12th Annual Furry 5K. They exceeded their goal by raising over \$500 for the "Help the Animal's Fund." A Doggie Wash was held in August and a splashing good time was had by all. Donations went to purchasing Josh & Friends *I'll be O.K.* books for kids facing surgery at Seattle Children's Hospital (see photo below).

Year round, HHVH keeps a donation bin in the office for the Seattle Humane Society's Barrel Buddy Program, which provides services to keep people and pets together in King County. Low-income senior citizens and those disabled by AIDS can receive pet food, supplies, grooming, and veterinary care. And each December, a Giving Tree in their lobby accepts donations such as pet food, toys, towels, beds, treats, leashes, and more for the Seattle Animal Shelter. Lucky pets this winter will be thankful for your generous gifts.

If you would like to learn more about upcoming opportunities to contribute, please view the HHVH FaceBook page or stop by their office (206-528-1980, www.hhvh.net). ■

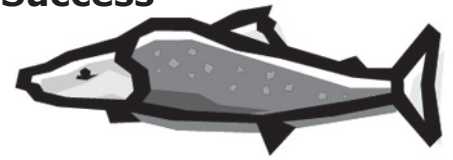


Editor's note: Special thanks to Sara DiJulio of Hawthorne Hills Veterinary Hospital for providing information for this article. Through its advertising commitment, HHVH is a long-term supporter of the Laurelhurst Letter.

Prune Now to Prepare for Autumn Wind Storms

In a sudden, late-August gust of wind, a 200-pound Deodar Cedar branch fell on a parked car on N.E. 43rd Street. Fortunately, no one was walking on the sidewalk just then. This is a good reminder for neighbors to be aware of the condition of their trees – especially large ones that overhang sidewalks and public street parking or have the potential to fall on nearby homes – and have them checked by an arborist. Seattle's biggest wind storms usually occur in the coming months. Check now before trouble blows in. ■

Thanks to Volunteers, Salmon Bake a Huge Success



Lifelong Recreation, Specialized Programs, Laurelhurst Advisory Councils, Magnuson Community Center, and Community Kitchens partnered to present the annual Laurelhurst Salmon Bake on September 8, a lovely late-summer's evening.

More than 600 dinners were served including grilled salmon, hotdogs, steamed mussels, and clam chowder with over 800 attending. Quality live jazz entertained and the Kids Carnival provided extra fun.

A huge THANKS to generous sponsors Aljoia Senior Residence (Northgate), Metropolitan Market, Great Harvest Bakery, Full Circle Farms, and Taylor Shellfish Company (Melrose Market).

Thank you to more than 30 community volunteers who worked that day to make the event a success and to the Laurelhurst Community Council members who recruited numerous volunteers and advertised the event. ■

CALENDAR

October 8 (Fri.) 5 to 8 p.m.
Kid's Karnival Fun for the entire family!
Laurelhurst Elementary School

October 28 (Fri.)
Deadline for Laurelhurst Newsletter Copy and Ads

November 12 (Sat.) 10 a.m. to noon
SUN Park Weed and Sweep
47th Ave NE and NE 47th St.

November 14 (Mon.) 7 p.m.
LCC Board of Trustees Meeting
Location TBA

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

Laurelhurst Community Center Activities To receive e-mail notices, send an e-mail to Laurelhurst.CC@Seattle.Gov.

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FOR LEASE: Sun Valley luxury townhome on Elkhorn Golf Course. Minutes from Golf Club, tennis, pool, hot tub and bike path. 3BD, fully furnished designer interiors. \$2,000/month. Laurelhurst owner, 206-524-9665.

FOR RENT: Fully furnished house, early Dec. to mid-June; mt/water views; 3 bdrms, 3 baths, office, level access, no garage, close to Bus 25 stop. \$1,500/mo including utilities. No smokers, no pets. Contact JayBird1938@gmail.com.

FOR RENT: Luxurious Hawaiian Big Island Townhouse on Mauna Lani golf course, minutes

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FOR SALE: Alto saxophone in excellent condition, everything needed to pick up and play: neck strap, case, reeds, extra mouthpiece. Perfect for student. \$275 or best offer. Call Cindy Gustafson at 206-992-5490

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RENTAL WANTED: Local family looking for home to rent in the Laurelhurst neighborhood during house remodel. Beginning February 2012. 3+ Bdrms. 206-650-0989.

SEATTLE AIRPORT LIMO: Toll free 888-513-1983; business 206-930-0316; mobile 206-930-1503. www.seattleairportlimoandtaxi.com. / info@seattleairportlimoandtaxi.com.

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TUTORING: Grades 1-8 and piano instruction. WA State Certificated Teacher. Family friendly rates. Call Susan at 206 526-9551.

WANTED: Laurelhurst neighbor seeks secure garage, preferably in Laurelhurst area, to store classic car. Would want to be able to access as desired. Please contact Kevin at 206-612-6606.

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. Call Leslie at 229-1505. 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.

www.laurelhurstcc.com

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October 2011

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