

LAURELHURST

L E T T E R

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

September 2011

Bright City Lights

Seattle City Light will install 40,000 LED streetlights in residential neighborhoods over the next five years. Laurelhurst lights are scheduled for replacement by the end of October.

According to the City's fact sheet, LED lights use about half the energy as the high-pressure sodium lights currently used. They also last three times longer, increasing reliability and reducing maintenance cost. Seattle is using equipment that provides a white light similar to moonlight that does not distort colors. Also, the fixtures are Dark Sky friendly, meaning they produce no up-lighting.

Once all 40,000 streetlights are installed, the savings will add up to about \$2.4 million each year. ■

Put a Cork in It!

It's not too late to drop off your wine bottle corks and enter a raffle to win a stylish cork holder courtesy of LCC.

The cork recycling effort is in support of CleanScapes' Neighborhood Waste Reduction Rewards competition, which ends September 30. Both Laurelhurst Wine Merchants and University Wines are accepting corks and will continue to do so after the competition ends.

LCC hoped to win the \$50,000 prize for the most waste reduced, but Laurelhurst currently is tied for sixth place! It may be too late to win, but it's never too late to

Reduce. Reuse. Recycle.
www.cleanscapes.com ■

State Approves "Preferred Alternative"

The SR 520 Record of Decision was announced in July by the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and approved by the Federal Highway Department on August 4, 2011. The design is called the Preferred Alternative and is six lanes with eight-foot double shoulders. The profile is two-and-one-half times its current width. The concrete viaduct-style structure will be 24 feet above the lake surface compared to a 12-foot height now. Ramp access to the Eastside will be shared by vehicles from both north and south of the Montlake Cut and several stoplights will be added.

Because the project is underfunded by \$2.1 billion, WSDOT proposes to build a "partial bridge," bringing the new six-lanes-plus-shoulders to a merge at the western high rise. This partial design was not included in the year-long analysis of the Environmental Impact Statement; therefore, the traffic backup congestion with this merge on Lake Washington was never analyzed. The promised "benefits" of the added two HOV lanes, pedestrian access, and bike lanes will be lost with a partially finished structure. The parklands, including the Arboretum, Union Bay and the habitat of the wetlands, will be impacted significantly. In addition, adjacent neighborhoods will be subjected to a second round of construction noise and visual blight in approximately ten years, when the SR 520 project continues.

There is not an adequate funding package to build the replacement for SR 520. The assumptions of planned tolling revenue have been set back in long collection-system delays, and there may be initiative restrictions on the ballot in the November election as well. The lack of ability to bond these unpredictable revenues likely will compound the project deficit.

LCC vice president **Colleen McAleer** reports that despite the lack of funds, WSDOT is bidding out the project to a design/build contractor and setting up a community design forum. Laurelhurst has applied to be a member of the committee, since the design of SR 520 directly impacts its quality of life and mobility of its residents and businesses.

The Coalition for a Sustainable SR 520, promoting a better design for mobility and the environment, filed a lawsuit on September 2, 2011, in both state and federal courts. LCC supports these lawsuits as the final EIS has numerous important omissions, inaccuracies, and a partial bridge design was never vetted in the SDEIS process. The other neighborhoods in the Coalition lawsuit are Montlake, Roanoke Park and Portage Bay, North Capital Hill, Madison Park, and the Seattle Boating Community.

Funds for legal council are needed now to pursue a better bridge design. If you would like to support the efforts of Coalition for a Sustainable SR520, please send a check to Friends of SR 520 Corridor, 117 East Louisa St #205, Seattle 98102. Learn more at www.sustainable520.org. ■

It's Back-to-School, So Please Drive Carefully

Lots of children are walking and biking to the Villa and Laurelhurst Elementary, as well as to area pre-schools. It's easy for drivers to speed in a rush to beat the school bell, and it is potentially very dangerous. LCC reminds drivers to adhere to speed limits, be extra mindful of pedestrians at crosswalks, and don't text while driving. Expect the unexpected, such as a child or pet running into the street. ■

Keep Neighborhood Sidewalks Clear and Safe

LCC has heard from a few neighbors who are concerned about overgrowth. As a property owner, please be a good neighbor and keep your trees, bushes, hedges, and ground covers trimmed back from walkways. Take a close look at your sidewalk and make sure your property is safe. Walkers, joggers, dogs, and children biking and scootering frequently need to dodge overgrowth that encroaches on sidewalks. Do you have shrubs or hedges sprawling across the walk or overhanging the sidewalk's edge? Do tree branches droop causing passersby to duck? Have plantings grown so tall that drivers can't see past them? If so – after a short, late summer and with autumn quickly approaching – it's time to get out the pruners and go to work.

City Code requires property owners keep adjacent sidewalks, roads, and alleys clear of all obstructions. This means shoveling snow in the winter, raking leaves in the fall, and repairing damaged sidewalks. Encroaching shrubs and hedges must be cut back, and a minimum eight-foot clearance must be maintained above sidewalks (14 feet above roads and alleys). Vegetation that obscures an intersection at a distance of 30 feet should be trimmed.

Failure to observe these laws may result in a Notice of Violation, which comes with a \$25-a-day fine for each day out of compliance. Fines aside, keeping your sidewalks clear is a neighborly thing to do. ■

It Must Be Fall: Time for Book and Plant Sales

■ Friends of the Seattle Public Library Fall Book Sale:

Sat., Sept. 24, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun., Sept. 25, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Members Preview Sale, Fri., Sept. 23, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. (memberships sold at the door), Building 30, Warren G. Magnuson Park and The Brig, 7400 Sand Point Way NE. Please bring your own boxes or bags.

More than 100,000 books, CDs, records, videos, sheet music, art prints and posters are among the items up for sale at bargain prices. Paperbacks sell for 50 cents, hardbacks \$1. "Better books" are priced separately and rare and collectible books are available at affordable prices. Everything is half price on Sunday.

Contact Friends of Seattle Public Library at 206-523-4053 or www.friendsofspl.org/booksale.php or go to www.splfriends.org. ■

■ Fall Abundance Plant Sale: Sun., Sept. 25, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.,

Graham Visitors Center, Washington Park Arboretum. Free parking and admission. Fall is the best time for planting in the Pacific Northwest, so don't miss this sale hosted by the Pat Calvert Greenhouse and Plant Donations Nursery. After a long season of propagating, growing, potting, and re-potting plants, the greenhouse and nursery will have an abundance of plants to offer. You'll find a great selection of your favorite trees, shrubs, and perennials, plus many unusual species and varieties. All proceeds benefit Washington Park Arboretum.

If you'd like to volunteer at this event, please contact the Arboretum Foundation at info@arboretumfoundation.org or 206-325-4510. For more information, go to www.arboretumfoundation.org/?page_id=1952. ■

Share Your Ideas for LCC's Safe Streets Program

Kevin Chang, LCC trustee and Transportation Committee member, is the lead on this program. Do cars drive too fast on your street? Are your kids safe and bicyclists safe? Your suggestions on pedestrian and bicycle safety projects and traffic calming projects would be appreciated. Your recommendations are very important to us and will be reviewed by LCC in its work with the Seattle Transportation Department (SDOT).

You can download a comment sheet form from LCC's website or email your ideas to transportation@laurelhurstcc.com. ■

Interested in contributing your enthusiasm and talents to a great neighborhood? Get involved with LCC! Volunteer to be on a committee. Or, learn about trustee responsibilities at www.laurelhurstcc.com/LCC/Trustees.html. Contact Emily Dexter at 526-2927 or edexter4@comcast.net. ■

Tee Off for Playground

5th Annual Laurelhurst Elementary Playground Renovation Golf Tournament

Broadmoor Golf Club, Monday, October 3, 2011. Register online at <http://www.seattleschools.org/schools/laurelhurst/playground/golf/registration.html>, or contact Kevin Engman (kengman85@hotmail.com or 206-890-6513) or Rick Myers (rick@myerspartners.com or 206-412-6256).

The playground committee has finalized the Phase 2 renovation plan, which includes the following:

- New asphalt blacktop with repaired drainage, a colorful United States map, sports field, and new four square lines.
- New entry plaza featuring the Laurelhurst Bear Logo.
- An outdoor classroom and stage area that can be used by the students, teachers and other community groups. ■

CALENDAR

- September 23** (Fri.)
Deadline for Laurelhurst Newsletter Copy and Ads
- October 8** (Sat.) 10 a.m. to noon
SUN Park Weed and Sweep
47th Ave NE and NE 47th St.
- October 10** (Mon.) 7 p.m.
LCC Board of Trustees Meeting
Location TBA
- Oct. 28** (Fri.) 5 to 8 p.m.
Kid's Karnival Fun for the entire family!
Laurelhurst Elementary School
- 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**
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Center for Urban Horticulture Atrium

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FOR RENT: Hawaiian Big Island Townhouse. Luxurious condo on Mauna Lani golf course, minutes from great beaches. 2,100 sq. feet, sleeps six comfortably. Weekly rate available. Laurelhurst resident owner, call John 206-919-7408.

FOR SALE: 6 unit commercial building. Laurelhurst. Totally updated. High traffic count. 3430-3436 NE 45th St. \$1,395,000. serebrin@comcast.net; Alan, 206-280-3820; Pat, 206-595-1522.

JOBS WANTED: Seeking part-time, responsible, hard-working teen (15 yrs.+) to help with mowing, trimming, garage clean-out, misc. house chores, etc. \$10/hour. Call 522-2443; and leave your contact info.

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Lookout Green Space Area Unstable

LCC no longer supports the Laurelhurst Lookout street-end park project proposed by Richard Ettinger and described in the April 2011 issue of the *Laurelhurst Letter*. Concerned neighbors contacted LCC to point out that the area is in a major landslide zone and expressed concern over other safety issues as well. While the views and small forest areas are exceptional, the site is not suitable for development. ■

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

Email 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. 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.

www.laurelhurstcc.com

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