UPCOMING EVENTS

SCA Board Meeting
December 12, 7 pm

SCA Board Meeting
January 9, 7 pm

Annual General Membership Meeting
January 23, 7 pm
Forest Ridge School
2014 Dues are now accepted
Thank you for supporting our community!

SCA Board Meeting
February 13, 7 pm

Save the Date
July 4, Kids’ Parade and Family BBQ in the Park Starting at 11 am
The 4th is a Friday this year!

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A Special Thank You...

It was our privilege to represent the following Somerset owners in the sale of their home in 2013:

- Steve & Mary Adams 14605 SE 45th Street
- Philip & Luisa Bernstein 13830 SE Somerset Lane
- Ann Marie Borys & Daniel Friedman 4449 140th Avenue SE
- David Deits 14134 SE 45th Street
- Joe & Jie D’Elia 4400 144th Avenue SE
- Phillip & Eda Lee Haas 4515 145th Place SE
- Steve & Kristen Haizlip 4508 132nd Avenue SE
- Rod & Janet Kelly 14203 SE 49th Place
- Mike & Ruth Kidd 4678 144th Place SE
- Walt & Montel Livingston 13210 SE 46th Street
- Neal & Jennifer Luna 4241 135th Avenue SE
- Tom & Kathy Montine 13912 SE 47th Street
- John & Jan Murdoch 4507 141st Avenue SE
- Kevin & Lucy Regan 4442 144th Avenue SE
- Kay Rohwer 14702 SE 46th Street
- Heidi & Chian Chew Sun 4502 145th Place SE
- Sandie Vergillo 13720 SE 44th Street

It has also been our privilege to be your Somerset Team and Neighbors for the past 11 years and we look forward to being a helpful resource for you and the people you care about in 2014.

Experience counts in today’s market—

- 26 years of proven real estate success and marketing expertise
- Mary is the former Vice-President & Director of Education for Windermere
- Master Certified Negotiation Expert (only 180 agents in the U.S. have this designation)
- Luxury & View Home Specialists
- Seniors Real Estate Specialists (SRES)
- Accredited Seller Representatives (ASR)
- Accredited Buyer Representatives (ABR)
- 150 home sales in Somerset

We are passionate about creating an exceptional real estate experience for each client and would welcome the opportunity to create a success story for you! Please feel free to visit our exclusive seller information website at www.SecretsToSellingYourHome.com.

Mary Lee & Jeff Shaffer
Your Somerset Team & Neighbors!

(425) 941-4229 or (425) 941-4900
Windermere Bellevue Commons, Inc.
www.somersetsun.com

Happy Holidays
2014 SCA President’s Message

As the weather turns, the gray clouds roll in, the winds kick up and the rains come down we embrace the holiday seasons regardless of our personal celebration(s). We reflect on the year about to come to an end and look forward to the future with great anticipation.

Your ‘SCA’ Somerset Community Association Board and Committee members, all volunteers, have had a very productive year on behalf of our neighborhood and we thank them all for their time, energy, enthusiasm, commitment and willingness to serve others. Many Thanks indeed! The Somerset "brand" is a strong one and we enjoy a high quality community. Let's all continue to work hard and do what we can to maintain a level of excellence!

Our Annual General Membership meeting is Thursday, January 23rd at Forest Ridge Academy (girls school at the top of the hill) at 7:00 pm, and we hope you will plan to attend. It is an excellent opportunity to meet the SCA leadership, board and your neighbors.

Your support by joining and paying the $60 per year dues is valued and much appreciated. Somerset offers a strong value proposition that we all enjoy and it is important that everyone pays their dues. Thank you in advance!

As my term of President for 2013 comes to an end I want to especially thank our SCA Officers, Board of Directors, CRC Chair and Committee for their outstanding work this year. Thank you!

We wish all of our Somerset neighbors a joyous Holiday Season with your family and friends and a very Happy New Year 2014!

- Steve O'Donnell
sdofour@aol.com (C) 206-953-6483

Letters to the Editor Welcomed from All

Do you have a question or comment about the Somerset SUN or about what is going on in the Somerset community? Submit your thoughts, questions, or concerns today!

Your Somerset Community Association welcomes Letters to the Editor. Share your ideas, questions, and matters of interest to the community with your neighbors around you.

Send an email to Diane Kehm, Somerset SUN Editor at ddumelle@yahoo.com, and please cc SCA President Steve O’Donnell at sdofour@aol.com and past president Gary Albert at albert.gmail.com.

The SCA values your input and suggestions!
Real Estate Market Update

The Somerset market hasn’t slowed down even into our fall and winter months. Inventory continues to remain low and there are still many buyers looking for homes. Following is a recap of the market so far this year:

- Number of Active Listings: 2
- Number of Pending Listings: 7
- Number of Closed Homes YTD: 56
- Average list price active: $1,160,000
- Average list price pending: $814,957
- Average sale price sold: $850,289
- Prices range from $532,000 to $1,500,000

For more information on available Somerset homes and recent sales, go to: www.somersetsun.com

We would like to extend a personal welcome to all of the new families in our community. If you have not received a visit from our committee (whether you own or rent), please let us know so we can make arrangements to stop by. We look forward to meeting you!

- Mary Lee, Membership Co-Chair
Improvement at Somerset Entrance and Taking Care of Yards this Winter

Signature Landscape has recently completed a project above and around the stone retaining wall in the hill behind the main entrance. Below the wall unhealthy boxwoods were removed and replaced with Korean Boxwood to match larger boxwood and create a more uniform appearance. In the upper bed daylilies were moved to the side below and smaller shrubs were moved to the front. Taller Japanese Pieris shrubs were moved to the back of the bed and augmented with additional Pieris. Heather and Heuchera were added in the center front, while Nandina was installed in the center to transition from taller plants to shorter ones. Now there is better plant visibility and design coherence at this section of the Somerset entrance.

WINTER IS HERE

Winter has arrived and with it the task of cleaning out remaining leaves and debris from yards and beds. A compost bin is a good option or debris can be recycled in the yard waste bin. Late fall clean-up, pruning and composting will make spring gardening simpler and keep the neighborhood looking great.

KEEPING PLANTS HEALTHY

While there are various insects and diseases that can affect plants, control with insecticides and fungicides is often difficult or environmentally undesirable. Often the best treatment is simply keeping plants in good shape (see tips below) as healthy plants are less prone to damage. Some varieties of trees and plants are more susceptible to damage. Consider replacing them with more resistant varieties as opposed to spending time and money on chemical control. While there are environmentally sensitive products available, utilizing resistant varieties and keeping them healthy is often a better approach. There is a natural balance between plant damaging insects and their predators, and some amount of damage is expected and not indicative of the plant being harmed.

1. Water properly.
2. Renovate and improve garden soil with mulch and organic matter.
3. Use compost or fertilizer optimally.
4. Choose plants suitable for soil and light conditions.

- Judy Atherton, Landscape Chairman
Year End Review 2013

Priority 1 (and 1a) – Fountain Pumps and Entrance Lighting: The fountain pump was repaired and entrance lighting was upgraded to highlight the entrance trees with up lighting. Kenn Gennari and Gary Albert accomplished this in March, on budget with $1,775 in parts, $125 for electrical repair and $400 for installation costs.

Priority 2 – Entrance Trees: Judy Atherton, Kenn and Gary arranged for the aging trees at the main entrance to be removed and several others pruned on a budget of $1,095 in April.

Priority 3 – Entrance Fence Damage: Gary and Kenn worked with Pemco to have the damaged fence at the main entrance repaired. This fence had been damaged by an insured motorist, but Pemco had misdirected the repair funds but with some detective work on Gary Albert’s part the insurance funds were repaid to the SCA in March.

Priority 4 – Mulching and Barking: In May, Judy Atherton directed mulching and barking of the SCA common areas on Somerset Boulevard and 143rd Ave SE.

Priorities 5, 6, 7 – Membership: Steve O’Donnell and Mary Lee worked together to send out 2013 SCA membership notices, Gary helped finalize the Somerset Directory and update the membership contact data. Contact info is helps the Covenant Review Committee get in touch with people affected by neighbors’ remodels when they are otherwise unavailable or out of the area.

Priority 8 - Website: Samir Rustagi, Mary Lee, and Gary Albert began the process of scanning SCA Board binders to the Somerset98006.org website, for digital access.

Priority 9 – Entrance Seasonal Lights: After several years of problems with LED lights purchased from Lowes’, the Board decided to have commercial grade lights installed on selected trees at the main entrance, at a cost of $3,000. These will be turned on during the holiday season and remain on until the spring when the leaves return. Saving an enormous amount of effort and frustration with lesser quality lights.

Priority 10 – “Rock Signs” Lighting: The Board decided to explore getting lighting (possibly solar powered) for the new “rock signs” at Highland Drive, Somerset Drive and Forest Drive. This priority is still ongoing.

Priority 11 – 4th of July: Steve O’Donnell and a wonderful crew of Somerset volunteers produced another outstanding 4th of July celebration for our residents and friends.

Priority 12 – Planting Area along Newport Way: Judy Atherton arranged for Signature Landscaping, our landscape maintenance company, to transplant some of the large plants from the center island at the entrance. These plants were moved to the SCA common area just north of the entrance, along Newport Way, an area that was not previously landscaped.

Priority 13 (and 13a) – Storage Shed and Electrical Vault: After some investigation, Judy Atherton reported that the shed was still secure and dry. Kenn Gennari secured the electrical vault in April.

Several of the priority items are still in process, but most have been completed during a busy year – a year which included ongoing membership, website, and CRC work. Thanks to all the Board members for their time and energy. Our volunteers continue to keep Somerset a community of “Neighbors Helping Neighbors”.

- Gayle Niendorff, SCA Vice President 2013

Somerset PRIDE - Catch It!

The wind and rain have arrived, and I’m reminded what a nuisance some trees and shrubs can be or can become if left unattended.

Perhaps like many of you, I’ve been raking a lot of leaves and entertaining some decidedly anti-environmentalist thoughts about deciduous trees. An associated thought has occurred to me. As we grow older our trees and shrubs begin to take over and grow out of scale with the house and our landscape plan and just look old and tired.

Indeed, it can get so bad that some of our newest residents have thankfully decided to do complete make-overs of their landscapes and update the old look.

Part of the challenge of our dear Somerset is that as we grow older, a regrettable condition, with no acceptable cure, but one that we should struggle against, is that some yards get neglected over time.

Perhaps keeping our landscapes looking fresh and trimming our overgrown trees and shrubs will somehow allow us to practice age denial. Similarly it is a good thing to buy a new shirt occasionally, if for no other reason then a decla-

ration that there is some life ahead yet to be lived. I add these seemingly irrelevant thoughts as a means of struggling against the march of aging, because one cannot obtain adequate satisfaction in the struggle against aging solely by trimming your shrubs, though in so doing you reduce the appearance that we old codgers live behind all those shrubs and trees. So, if you reactivate yourself, buy some new clothes, get rid of the old car, stop wearing shirts with food spots on them, and stop obsessing about things out of our control, then tackling the yard and the shrubs will fit right in with your new and youthful vibrancy.

I’m happy to report this month that a high-end home referred to in last month’s SUN, one which seemed to be suffering landscape neglect, is no longer a problem to its neighbors, but with new landscaping work, is now an asset to the neighborhood. How nice it is to have great neighbors. And neighbors willing to help neighbors. Thank You Somerset!

- Robert Swegle, PRIDE Committee Chair
THANK YOU!

December 2013 marks my 25th Anniversary in Real Estate.

I am so grateful to my past clients and supporters. You make what can sometimes be a stressful job, a lot more fun. Thank you for your continued trust and confidence.

I am thrilled to be part of the Somerset Community. My involvement has given me the opportunity to get to know so many wonderful people who help make this a great place to live. There is so much work that goes on behind the scenes at our schools, the neighborhood association, the Rec Club, and our local block watch groups. We are lucky to be in a community that cares.

So thanks for all you do. There are lots of exciting things happening that are going to continue to keep Somerset at the top of everyone’s list. I’m looking forward to it.
Covenant Corner

Roof Replacements and Tree Pruning

The CRC would like to wish you and your families a wonderful holiday season! I would like to thank the other CRC members and Somerset Community Association members for giving their time to help keep the Somerset Community one of the best places to live. I appreciate the hard work my fellow CRC members, Kathy Judkins, Gale Niendorff, Samir Rustagi and Benson Zhang have done for the community this year.

As families move into this community, the CRC has tried to ensure all home owners are aware that we have covenants to keep the community a beautiful and vibrant place to live but also protect the property values of one of our major assets in our portfolio. For those families that weren’t aware of the covenants, please understand that we are trying to educate and bring attention to the covenants and we must abide by them.

As our homes age, our responsibility to maintain our homes increases. One CRC responsibility is reviewing roofing materials. Recently a few homes have required new roofs. The CRC does not allow white materials because of reflectivity. The optimal material for flat type roofs is PVC (polyvinyl chloride). In past reviews, the CRC has approved the use of PVC in a gray color, which varied slightly depending on the manufacturer. However, once installed the gray PVC appeared lighter than expected. The CRC is researching alternative colors. I am confident the CRC will find a darker gray color and will provide a list of roofing companies that offer and install a darker colored product. There is an informative article discussing materials for flat or low slope roofs at this web site: www.rtnroofing.com/articles/511.htm.

Another common issue for the CRC is landscape maintenance and tree pruning. A common misconception is that trees in steep slope designated areas require a permit. Michael Paine, the Environmental Planning Manager for the City of Bellevue has stated, “If pruning is conducted in accordance with our pruning standards for crown thinning, crown raising and crown reduction (see link below) no critical area land use permit or vegetation management plan is required so long as no NGPE (Native Growth Protection Easement) or NGPA (Native Growth Protection Area) exists on the property. You will need a grading permit if you remove more than 25% of the live crown, so please recommend that these individuals stay under this threshold as failure to do so may result in an enforcement action, work stoppage and require expensive delay and permitting.” NGPE or NGPA designations are listed in the title critical area land use permit or vegetation management plan is required, see link below. Homeowners can find pruning standards in the City of Bellevue document: www.ci.bellevue.wa.us/pdf/Development%20Services/Treepruning_Guidelines.pdf.

Please consider volunteering to be a CRC member. We are on a rotating basis and require new volunteers to help the CRC a diverse group of members to help resolve issues in the community. My transition was made easy by the more experienced members in the committee. I have served three years as a CRC Somerset Community Association Board member and two years as the CRC Chair. Hopefully some of you will consider volunteering. It is an important position and provides the opportunity to discover all areas of the Somerset community and meet your neighbors.

- Tom Campbell, CRC Chair

Wildlife in Somerset

This is a photo taken in the backyard of Somerset neighbors Paul and Mari Olsen on SE 47th Place. They saw what looks like bobcats around 6:00 in the evening in September.

happy holidays

Lynn Eng-Lei, Broker

John L Scott 206-234-5966
lynne@johnlscott.com
Speaks Chinese

This is to certify that recently Ms. Lynn Eng-Lei of John L Scott Company acted as our agent in two real estate transactions: purchase and sale of our home in Bellevue. In both the transactions Ms. Lynn Eng-Lei acted in a very professional manner and took the 2 transactions to closure in a very efficient and timely manner. Lynn not only brought her vast experience to bear but also extended valuable assistance to us in getting the inspection items fixed in a timely manner. She handled the 2 assignments in a very friendly manner which made us feel very confident and comfortable. We have no hesitation to recommend Ms. Lynn Eng-Lei to any person who is intending to buy or sell a property in Bellevue.

~ Mr. & Mrs. Velamoor

SOLD
Sept. 30, 2013
14120 Se 61st Pl.
Emergency Preparedness and Safety

Emergency Checklist - Take Winter by Storm

Build an emergency kit with at least three days of essentials (seven to ten days preferred) for family and pets. Kits should be portable and ready to go in the case of evacuation.

- **Water** – one gallon of water per person, per day, for at least three days (for drinking and sanitation)
- Non-perishable food – at least a three-day supply of non-perishable, ready-to-eat food and a manual can opener
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Emergency Contact Card
- Multi-purpose tool
- Whistle to signal for help
- Antiseptic towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Dust mask, to help filter contaminated air
- Cell phone with chargers (car charger recommended in the event of power outages)
- Thermal emergency blankets
- Rain ponchos for each family member
- Personal hygiene supplies (toothbrush, paste, sanitary napkins, soap, towel…)
- Copies of important documents, placed in a water proof container/bag
- Copy of your driver’s license and/or birth certificate
- Bank account information
- Insurance cards/policy numbers/insurer contact information
- Cash (bank machines may not be functional, small bills are best)
- Extra set of house keys
- **Prescription medications (seven-day supply suggested)**
- Pet supplies (food, water, blanket, medications)
- Children/baby supplies (coloring book/crayons, diapers/wipes, formula, baby food)

*Always double-check expiration dates and update your emergency preparedness kit every 6 months. Use daylight savings dates as a reminder to double-check your kit.*

Make a family communication plan

- Discuss with your family and/or friends how to prepare for and respond to emergencies that are most likely to happen where you live, learn, work and play. Identify responsibilities for each member of your household and plan to work together as a team.
- Identify an out-of-area contact. After a disaster, long distance phone lines may be more reliable than local lines. Ask a friend or relative who lives outside of Washington state to be your “family contact.” After a disaster, your family contact becomes a communication point to share information with all household members. Your plan depends on everyone knowing your contact’s phone number.
- Complete a Family Communication Plan and post in places your family spends most of their time. Download plans at TakeWinterByStorm.org.
- Program all emergency contact numbers into all of your phones, or keep a list with you. Make sure to tell your family and friends that you’ve listed them as emergency contacts.
- Use text messaging if network disruptions are causing phone calls not to go through. Wireless phones will not work if the electricity is out. Corded (also known as land line) phones are the most reliable.
- Stay informed. Tune in to local media channels for important updates and directives. Go to TakeWinterByStorm.org for links on how to register for emergency alert systems in your area.

*Let your family and friends know about TakeWinterByStorm.org. This Internet-based resource and educational tool should be integrated into your emergency preparedness and communication plans.*

- Dave Mickelson,
  Safety & Emergency Preparedness Chair

Tips on How to Avoid Identity Theft

Our Bellevue Police Department provides crime prevention tips throughout the year.

**Here are a few ways to guard against identity theft:**

* Use a locking mailbox or post office box.
* Never leave outgoing mail in an unsecured container. A mailbox with a red flag up is an invitation to thieves.
* Keep your credit cards or checks with you at all times and secure your wallet or purse at work.
* When withdrawing money from an ATM, be aware of your surroundings.
* When you dispose of your old computer, get the hard drive wiped or destroy it.
* If you use Wi-Fi, secure your network, and be careful of unsecured hot spots.
* Check you credit report twice a year for fraudulent activity.
* Stop pre-approved credit offers. Contact your bank or credit union.
Kohtoku Enterprise Inc. is a licensed Washington State real estate broker and a member of the Northwest Multiple Listing Service. Through the network system we share with other agencies, we can introduce you to any property on the market and guide you through buying & selling procedures from listing through closing.

Website renewed!

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www.kohtoku.com
On November 12 at approximately 11:30 pm, there was an accident at the Somerset entrance. There were three occupants in a VW Bug that failed to negotiate the turn from heading eastbound on Newport Way turning right onto Somerset Blvd. at our main entrance. The young man driving the car was 19 years old. He is insured. Police were called to the scene and a police report was generated. We don't know if the driver was cited. Damage to the center island was minimal, fortunately no one was injured, but some plants will have to be replaced, the curb repaired, and a light replaced. We will be getting bids and then submitting them to the driver's insurance company, State Farm.

Fire Prevention Tips

Every October is Fire Prevention Month, and the Bellevue Fire Department opened the doors to our fire stations and offered helpful presentations.

They offered many tips. Here are some words to live by:

* Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove when children are present.

* Keep children and pets at least three feet from a stove while cooking.

* Open containers slowly after removing them from a microwave to avoid painful burns from escaping steam.

* Maintain smoke alarms in good working order and annually refresh the batteries and create a family fire escape plan.

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Patricia and Jerry Magnani's Block Watch party in August in the 134th PL SE cul resulted in a great turnout! Thank you to Terry Brandli for spearheading our group's emergency preparedness efforts and to Alan and Renata Akalin for providing the grill. A fire truck paid a visit and firefighters handed out emergency preparedness CDs. Detective Chinn gave out lots of crime safety tips and SCA President Steve O'Donnell was on hand with emergency preparedness packs for sale. It was wonderful to see old friends and meet new neighbors!

If you want to start a Block Watch group with your neighbors, contact Dave Mickelson, our SCA Safety/Emergency Preparedness Chair, at DaveMickelson@comcast.net.

August 2013 Block Watch on 154th Pl. SE

Isabella Akalin and friend visit the fire truck up close.

Don’t be in The Dark! - Reflections Can Light You Up!

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Serving the City a Labor of Love

The “silly season” is now over and although votes are still being counted as I write, it looks like the voters re-elected two Council members - Kevin Wallace and Conrad Lee - and we gained one new Council member - Lynne Robinson. I look forward to serving with our new and returning Council members in the years ahead as we work together to do good things for the City of Bellevue.

Service on the Council is definitely a “calling,” and whether the candidates win or lose, the campaign process is a labor of love for Bellevue. I truly appreciate the efforts of every candidate who ran for office this year. If you were closely watching the races (as I was) you will have observed that we were lucky to draw so many talented individuals to our City. My thanks go out to candidates Vandana Slatter, Steve Kasner and Lyndon Heywood for having the fortitude to run for office. An extra-special thanks is also owed to retiring Council member Don Davidson (“Dr. Duck”) for his more than two decades of service to the City of Bellevue.

Don, an expert on water and fish issues, accomplished a lot for Bellevue, including ensuring that we have a water source for our future growth. Securing this water source created the added benefit of keeping our water rates down for many years into the future. His good humor, studied intelligence and genuine commitment to public service will be missed.

As we close out 2013 and look forward to 2014, I send to each of you and your families my wish for a very joyous holiday season and a happy new year!

-Jennifer Robertson

Jennifer Robertson is a member of the Bellevue City Council and is the Bellevue Deputy Mayor. She lives with her husband and three children in Somerset.

City Growing at Steady Pace

Dear Somerset Neighbors,

I have lived in Somerset for 46 years and served on the Bellevue City Council for 20 years. Thank you for your continued support that I have just been elected to serve you and our City for another four years. I appreciate your commitment to our shared vision. In the next four years we can make Bellevue an even better place for all of us.

During my tenure on the City Council, I have consistently voted against new taxes and wasteful spending. I believe that government should stay out of the way of businesses. This philosophy has served Bellevue well. The City has maintained AAA bond rating, weathered economic downturns and grown. Many small companies and multinationals alike call Bellevue home because of our great schools, excellent quality of life, safe and business-friendly environment. Our future continues to be bright.

Despite the bright future ahead of us, we have to be vigilant. There is much to do to keep ahead of competition. My goal is to make Bellevue a regional hub of commerce without sacrificing our quality of life.

The timing is now. With the City becoming more global and international, we stand to benefit from our multicultural population to attract investments to our City creating jobs and economic prosperity.

As Mayor, I am working hard to see that we can grow while maintaining a small-city feel and preserving our unique neighborhood characteristics and balance.

Your continued support of this vision is important. Your commitment will help Bellevue to remain a beacon of government responsibility.

I welcome and appreciate any contribution you can make toward this goal. There are boards and commissions you can volunteer to serve and other committees that your input and involvement can make a big difference. Thank you again and best wishes.

Sincerely,

Conrad Lee, Bellevue Mayor

Winter Yard Care, City News, Holiday Lights, and More!

During windstorms, power outages in particular can be the source of much danger. What should you do in a power outage?

- Report power outages or downed power lines as soon as they occur by calling Puget Sound Energy 888-225-5773.
- If your power goes out, use flashlights. Avoid candles, oil lamps or anything with an open flame.
- Use light sticks or small flashlights as landing strips for trip-prone areas in your home. Pick up clutter from floors to avoid stubbed toes.
- Keep your contact devices (cellphones, smartphones, and laptops) fully charged in case of a power outage or prior to heading out into the elements for an extended length of time. To ensure backup, bring chargers for contact devices with you. The best form of communication during a power outage is a land line with a corded phone. It doesn’t need to be charged!
- Keep one or more power outage go-to places in your home stocked with a small flashlight, extra batteries and utility contact information (Puget Sound Energy 888-225-5773). If the power goes out, go to that place first. Home communication centers, junk drawers, bedside tables, etc., make great locations.

Dave Mickelson, Safety & Emergency Preparedness Chair
WA State K-12 Public Education Funding

Washington State continuously underfunds Basic Education. Fortunately, Bellevue voters consistently approve local levies vital to making up the difference. There are two expiring levies and a Phase III Capital Construction Bond appearing on the February, 2014 ballot.

The first levy, set to expire in 2014, is the Renewal of the Educational Programs and Operations Levy. This levy covers 25% of the Bellevue School District’s annual operating expenses and fills the gap between what the state funds and what our schools need to prepare students for college and 21st century careers. This levy pays for additional classroom teachers and support staff, textbooks, advanced placement courses, gifted and special education, art and music classes in elementary school, smaller class sizes, and a 7th period at middle and high schools.

The second levy, set to expire in 2015, is the Renewal of the Technology and Capital Projects Levy. This levy funds “upgrades of computers and classroom technology used for instruction, the repair and replacement of athletic fields, and major capital and building maintenance projects including new roofs, floors and mechanical systems.” This levy helps “prepare students for the 21st Century by making technology an integral part of their learning process.”

Because of funding from the first levy, the Bellevue School District offers middle and high school students 7 periods a day, providing its students with a college preparatory education. Seven periods allow Bellevue students to meet the requirements for entry into our state colleges, and the additional requirements necessary for entry into highly selective colleges and universities. The State Board of Education (SBE) requires 20 high school credits to graduate while the Bellevue School District requires 23.5 high school credits. Right now, students across the state can graduate from high school without earning the minimum requirements necessary for entry into our own state’s public colleges and universities.

The SBE, after extensive research in how to prepare students for success in postsecondary education and careers, approved in 2010 the 24 credit Career-and College-Ready Graduation Requirements – but schools are not required to implement the 24 credit requirements because there is not adequate state funding. However, starting with the Class of 2016, the SBE changed the 20 credit graduation requirements by increasing its number of required math, English, science and social studies credits so that high school graduates statewide in the future will be more college ready. In Bellevue, our high school graduates already meet the Career-and College-Ready Graduation Requirements and are college-ready today - because of local levy funding.

Washington State does not require high school students to take a foreign language to graduate, yet our 4-year state colleges and universities require entering students to have at least two years of foreign language, and highly selective colleges and universities require 3-4 years of foreign language. In addition to foreign language, 7 periods allow Bellevue students to take advanced placement and Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses that equip them with 21st Century knowledge and skills. The District is also placing on the ballot a Phase III Capital Construction Bond to rebuild older schools that have not already been rebuilt, and to support the District’s Growth and Planning efforts by adding capacity district-wide to support student enrollment growth. For example, the Bond will include funding to add classrooms to Newport High School to accommodate future growth.

Less than 10% of school funding comes from the federal government, mostly from Title 1 and IDEA grants. Title 1 funding goes to individual schools where at least 35% of the children are low-income; in order to be eligible for Title 1 funds, high-poverty schools have to show measurable improvements in the academic achievement of their at-risk, low performing students. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) provides some federal funding for special education.

Information for this article came from the Bellevue School District, The WA State Board of Education, and The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

- Patricia Magnani, Somerset Neighbor

Newport Way Sidewalk and Bike Lane Update from entrance of Somerset to 150th Ave

As you read in the last issue of the Somerset Sun, Deputy Mayor Jennifer Robertson with the help of other councilmembers moved this project into environmental review for potential inclusion in the 12-year Transportation Facilities Plan (TFP). Inclusion in TFP is critical as in December of 2014 the council will choose projects from TFP for the 7-Year Capital Budget.

We are excited to report that the sidewalk/bike lane project is now included in the design phase of TFP and funding for the design phase has been included in the mid-biennium budget! Next year there will be public hearings at City Council as well as an Open House on the proposed design for the project. Watch for the dates and try to attend. We want the Newport Way sidewalk/bike lanes to get a high priority in the 7-year capital budget so continue to send your comments to the Council at Council@bellevuewa.gov. Right now the Council deserves thanks for the attention it has given to the critical need for sidewalks and bike lanes on Newport Way from Somerset entrance to 150th Ave SE.

To help us understand the process more, the City is planning a January presentation “Life of a Transportation Capital Investment Plan (CIP) Project” as an educational offering for the Eastgate/Somerset neighborhood. Watch the local paper for time and date. Try to attend.

- Kristi Weir, Somerset resident and member of Newport Way Library Association; Jan Medley, Somerset resident; and Barbara Spindel, President, Newport Way Library Association
Raising Healthy Families

By Dr. Bob Cummins & Anna Cummins

Raising healthy families is the goal of every parent. Moms and Dads innately want the best for their beloved. With the right health philosophy and action steps, you and your loved ones can enjoy an excellent quality of life together. Here’s a super healthy philosophy with some common sense to back it up.

Health comes from within. The moment you were conceived, one cell from your mother and one from your father united to form a unique and magnificent you. This united cell multiplied over and over again during the next nine months into 80 quadrillion cells without any help. Your heart, lungs, fingers and toes, were all positioned by an innate intelligence to develop and function properly.

As long as there is no interference to this process, everything can develop perfectly and you are prepared to be delivered into this world. This innate intelligence stays with you after birth. An awareness and trust in this inborn, innate ability to create health can strengthen you. It keeps you mindful to care for your body through good nutrition, exercise, and rest so your innate intelligence can be fully expressed. If you teach this philosophy to your children you will raise them as strong, confident individuals who trust their body, their immune system, and their genetic potential. This is an inside-out health approach. Create fertile soil, plant good seeds, water, provide sunshine and warm temperatures, and health is the natural result.

On the other hand, teaching our children an outside-in approach, where every solution to their health challenge is found outside of themselves, with a pill, in the hope it will make their problem go away, can lead to a drug-dependent adult. Too many people buy into this philosophy. While drugs and surgery are useful in cases of extreme pain, sickness and disease, they are not a healthy option as an overall lifestyle.

Have you considered the message constantly sent to a child under these “drug first” conditions? That they should take a drug every time they do not feel good? This drug-first behavior can become conditioned. Would it be any wonder that when this child has a minor ailment, does not make the team, or has a social conflict that they turn to drugs to “feel better”?

Think about the impact of a “drug first” philosophy. When your child gets sick, you have a choice. If you do not have confidence in your child’s natural immune system, you might immediately panic and give your child a drug, and perhaps never ask yourself, why did my child get sick in the first place? How have they been eating? How have they been sleeping? Are their relationships healthy? Are my relationships healthy? Is my stress affecting my child? Is their body being worn down? Are there lifestyle factors that could be involved?

Your health care philosophy is your choice. Consider trusting your body, caring for it, listening to it, and allowing your innate intelligence to fully express itself.

Dr. Bob Cummins and his wife Anna, Somerset’s Olympic gold medalist in rowing, operate Cummins Chiropractic and Wellness, a 100 Year Lifestyle Affiliate Office, in Factoria.

Possible Forest Ridge and Somerset Rec Club Partnership Reaps Many Benefits

At the Forest Ridge Open House recently, a conceptual proposal for Somerset Rec Club was discussed. The idea is that Forest Ridge would sign a 99-year lease with the Somerset Rec Club for the land and then would work with the SRC to build an improved year-round facility that would benefit Forest Ridge and ultimately the Somerset community. Information about donations and funding will be available soon. And a feasibility study and soil samples for engineering need to happen to determine if the concept can be carried out. More details will be forthcoming.

THE FACILITY CONCEPT

Forest Ridge has had conceptual drawings completed that would include:

The Parking:
- The proposal would be for 26 or 28 parking spaces (no loss of current parking).
- They are also looking into overflow parking by working with other facilities at the bottom of the hill and running shuttles for events if need be.

The Pool:
- 6 lane (currently have 4) 25-meter pool
- There would be a spa pool
- There would be no "baby pool" Underwater "risers" can be added to the bottom of the pool to accommodate swim lesson, water exercise classes, a temporary pseudo "shallow end"
- Feedback requested from community and SRC for a level deep pool (no shallow end) that would accommodate a water polo team
- Retractable roof - to ensure year-round use and still able to take advantage of the sun during the summer.

The Tennis Courts:
- They would like to get 4 tennis courts on site where there are currently 2.

The building:
- They would have approximately 1,800 sq feet of community room(s)
- Details of 1 large great room or multiple smaller rooms, if it would include kitchen facilities, a work out room w/ equipment, etc. are all still to be determined.

- Tanya Franzen-Garrett, Neighbor
Tutoring: An Investment Worth Making

A skilled tutor can make a crucial difference in a child’s life by building skills for academic success and fostering self-confidence. One of our greatest tools in promoting academic success for our kids is in being able to provide timely feedback. With classroom sizes exceeding 30 children, the teacher’s task of personal feedback is often limited, and a struggling student often lacks the assertiveness to pursue further assistance. Tutoring is powerful because the tutor can constantly assess and give immediate feedback, moving ahead when the student is ready. This can be an efficient way of correcting mistakes and perfecting skills, providing the student with a greater chance to succeed.

If you have a student struggling academically, a tutor may provide the following benefits:
- A comfortable environment for them to ask questions
- Extra study time that is both focused and on-task
- The opportunity to learn new study skills and to apply those skills directly to the subject at hand
- Help navigating how to talk with their teacher
- Reduction of test anxiety
- Grade improvement

Here are a few helpful questions to ask potential tutors:
- What types of teaching experience do you have?
- Are you familiar with the curriculum the school uses?
- How many clients have you tutored in this particular subject area?
- Are there any assessments prior to beginning and how much do they cost?
- Do you have references I could contact?
- Where will the sessions take place?

One local high school’s PTSA has provided a list of local tutors that is quite extensive.* For more information go to http://www.bellevuehighptsa.com/wp/misc/academic-tutors

Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding chemistry or biology tutoring at helpwithscience@gmail.com or www.helpwithscience.org.

Good Luck!

- Cindy Palmer, Somerset Neighbor
Biology and Chemistry Tutor, helpwithscience.org

Note: The Bellevue PTSA does not promote or endorse the work of these tutors.

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Stop in the next time you're in the neighborhood and enjoy an old favorite. Either way, we'll treat you to a dining experience that's unparalleled.

www.bombayhousewa.com
With the approach of the cold and flu season, it is important to be prepared to keep your immune system as strong as possible. What better way to do it than with natural remedies that contain no toxic side effects? Here are some ways to boost your immune system naturally this winter.

**Hand hygiene** – The most effective measure in preventing the spread of microorganisms that cause infections is good hand hygiene. Washing your hands with soap and water as soon as you come home and before you eat greatly reduces your exposure to bacterial and viral infections.

**Walking and physical activity** – Regular exercise and physical activity strengthens your immune system. Three 10-minute workout sessions during the day are just as effective as one 30-minute workout.

**Get adjusted regularly** – Many of my patients suffer fewer colds, avoid the flu, or simply recover from illness more quickly, since starting chiropractic care. There are scientific reasons for their experiences, as regular chiropractic adjustments restore proper spine function, which allows your nervous system - which is housed in your spinal canal - to perform optimally. Your nervous system controls every physiologic function of your body, including the immune system. Thus, regular adjustments are part of maintaining strong defenses against illness.

And since we all can use a few more ways to boost our immune system, here are a few more to consider:

- Get plenty of Vitamin C
- Fuel up on Vitamin D
- Get enough Fish Oil
- Discover the benefits of Probiotics
- Eat your fruits and vegetables
  - **Antioxidants** - pumpkin, sweet potatoes, carrots, kale, grapefruit (red and pink), blueberries, strawberries, watermelon, cantaloupe, oranges, peppers (red and green), tomatoes, broccoli, sunflower seeds, almonds and olive oil.
  - **Omega-3 Fatty Acids** - ground flax seeds, walnuts, soybeans and pumpkin seeds.

Folate - dark green leafy vegetables (turnip greens, mustard greens, spinach, romaine lettuce, collard greens, etc.), beans, legumes, asparagus, Brussels sprouts, beets and okra.

Reduce sugar and caffeine amounts

Get plenty of sleep – at least 8 hrs a night

Drink plenty of water

And don’t forget, these ideas should be applied to your kids to help them better enjoy this winter and holiday season.

This year I’m inviting my Somerset neighbors to come support our clinic’s annual toy drive. For the third year our toy drive will support Treehouse, a local organization that helps foster children in our community. If you have been wondering if chiropractic can help you move well and live better, come see us in December and bring a toy. You’ll be helping yourself and a local foster child. For the donation of a quality, new, unwrapped gift for a child the first five Somerset residents (new patients only) seen in December will receive a consult, exam and all necessary X-Rays (a $400.00 value) free of charge. Offer ends December 19, 2011.

- Dr. Matt Brown-Ruegg, Somerset neighbor and owner of Hillclimb Chiropractic Clinic in Seattle

www.hillclimbclinic.com
Remodeling Strategies for Mid-Century Homes — Part Two

In the last issue of the Somerset Sun, I described how Somerset is quite a unique neighborhood with its large housing stock of mid-century homes. Mid-Century homes are enjoying a great surge of renewed appreciation these days; many home-owners are remodeling in a very contemporary manner, but keeping the mid-century “bones” intact for the inherent architectural appeal. This is the second article of four that will discuss strategies for remodeling a Mid-Century home in ways that respect the original architectural intention, yet refresh the home in ways befitting today’s lifestyle, giving your home another 50 great years!

Last issue I gave a brief architectural history behind this radically different housing style, and an overview of typical architectural features; then offered suggestions for appropriate exterior improvements. This issue will offer general interior remodel strategies. The last two issues will focus on kitchens, bathrooms and storage; nowadays these areas are the problem zones with homes built back then!

So what is it about these houses that made them so popular in the 50’s and 60’s, and again today?! Well, back then for the first time in housing design, the floor plan was “opened up”. Interiors were suddenly more spacious and allowed for a completely different way of inhabiting a home. No longer did separate enclosed rooms divide the house up into small spaces; now living/dining/kitchen areas were more connected, which encouraged a more communal family culture. That was a HUGE shift that had repercussions in many other arenas within our culture. Other features: large windows allowed for more light and views from the interior; a simple palette of materials and lack of ornament meant less maintenance and allowed for more personalization of a home; less expensive building details meant the cost of a home was less, or you could achieve more square footage.

The same benefits are being rediscovered today!

In our last 10 years of remodeling mid-century homes, the design challenges we receive from our clients are similar in nature: kitchens too small, bathrooms too few and too small, entry too tight, not enough storage. And of course, the need for basic overall refreshing.

Usually a typical strategy is to remove a wall or two to open a kitchen up to the living/dining area and make it even more of a “great room” — often enlarging the kitchen and incorporating an island or bar counter. These houses typically are well built so removing walls is often very easily accomplished.

W look for opportunities to add more windows or openings to the outside in an effort to increase connection between indoors and outdoors. And getting more light into the house is always a good thing!

In our remodels we strive to simplify the architecture and express the structure wherever possible. We suggest keeping the selection of materials & finishes to a minimum, as this will enhance the feeling of continuity throughout the house. In a house where there is lots of open, contiguous space, this goes for color palettes as well.

There’s lots more I can say about all this; we invite you to attend our talk at January’s Somerset Community meeting when I’ll give a more detailed talk covering Remodeling Strategies for your Mid-Century Home. And look for Part 3 in your spring issue of the Somerset Sun!

- Julie Campbell is an architect and partner at CTA Design-Builders Inc – a local architect and contracting firm. Julie has a personal interest in Mid-Century architectural history and design, and has taught and given lectures on this topic around the region. www.ctabuilds.com

Wash Cars, Not Fish!

Wash your car at a commercial car wash because they send the dirt water to the sewer for treatment. Dirty runoff water from car washes flow directly into our local streams, lakes, and wetlands without treatment. Soaps dissolve the protective mucous layer on fish and natural oils in the gills making fish more susceptible to diseases. Still want to wash your car in the driveway? Google “waterless car wash” to find car washing products that do not require water. This is fantastic fish friendly way to wash your car if you’re trying to wash away everyday road grime and prevent pollution.

Holding a fundraising car wash? The most fish friendly option, and a great way to earn a lot of money, is to sell car wash coupons. You can get them from Brown Bear www.brownbear.com/charity or the Puget Sound Car Wash Association www.charitycarwash.org. Contact Stream Team with your car washing questions at streamteam@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-5200.

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Local Businesses Advertise in the SUN!

An excellent way to promote a business and create awareness throughout the Somerset and Forest Hill communities is to advertise in the Somerset Community Association’s quarterly SUN newsletter and annual Membership Directory. All publications provide great exposure for local businesses. Competitive advertising rates per issue are as follows:

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<tr>
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To advertise, please contact SUN Editor and Ad Manager Diane Kehm at ddamelle@yahoo.com, and please cc Steve O'Donnell at sdofour@aol.com.
Somerset Community Interest Groups

Do you want to start a Somerset Group? Send an email to the SUN Editor Diane Kehm at d dumelle@yahoo.com to place an ad (no charge) in the SUN. Want to participate in an existing Group or Club? Contact the Club/Group Chair listed below and start having more fun with your Neighbors!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Club</th>
<th>Chair</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tr>
<td>50 and Over Singles</td>
<td>Kathy Judkins</td>
<td>641-0494</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Skiers</td>
<td>Bob Miller</td>
<td>641-7414</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walkers</td>
<td>Seeking Chair</td>
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<td>Quilters</td>
<td>Seeking Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chinese Club</td>
<td>Lynn Eng-Lei</td>
<td>206-234-5966</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bridge</td>
<td>Seeking Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Babysitting Co-Op</td>
<td>Tammy Alford</td>
<td>746-2454</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garden Club</td>
<td>Fran Robinson</td>
<td>747-2953</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunshine Committee</td>
<td>Kathleen Sherman</td>
<td>401-9058</td>
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<tr>
<td>Welcoming Committee</td>
<td>Lynn Eng-Lei</td>
<td>206-234-5966</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Committee</td>
<td>Seeking Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book Club</td>
<td>Becky Mills</td>
<td>614-1171</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bible Study (non-denominational)</td>
<td>Carrie Myers</td>
<td>643-6655</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classical Music Concerts</td>
<td>Seeking Chair</td>
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<td>Somerset Woods</td>
<td>Aileen Wu</td>
<td>497-2477</td>
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<td>Somerset Playgroup</td>
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<td>SomersetMoms</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sylvia.vasilik@gmail.com">sylvia.vasilik@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Somerset Women for Medic One</td>
<td>Diane Woods</td>
<td>746-5930</td>
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Babysitter Listing

The Somerset community is fortunate to have many youth interested in babysitting. Please respect their privacy and do not distribute this list beyond the neighborhood. If you know of someone who would like to be added to or deleted from the list, please contact Sun Editor Diane Kehm at d dumelle@yahoo.com.

“Shelly impressed us with her knowledge of our neighborhood, with a willingness to give advice, with her friendly warmth, and with her broad connection with buyers. After we gave the home listing to Shelly, we sold it within 6 days! Throughout the sale process, she was there for us: open houses, phone calls, personal visits, sometimes late at night, the ultimate customer service. I would highly recommend Shelly Zhou to anyone who wants superb support through what can be an emotional time.”

~ Jan Johnson, Somerset resident ~

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