



SOMERSET SUN

Neighborhood news from the Somerset Community Association

Summer 2020

BSD Update

Council Corner

Internet Safety

Congratulations, Grads!

4th of July Parade Cancelled

**Somerset
Sun Cover
Contest!**

SOMERSET COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS - RESPONSIBILITIES

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Maggie Yeh	yehmargaret@gmail.com	Secretary

The Somerset Community Association bylaws provide for a Board consisting of 12 to 15 Directors who are elected at our annual meetings and each serve a 3-year term. Our officers of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer are chosen following election to the Board. If you are interested in possibly filing the vacancies we have on the Board or the Covenant Review Committee, or aren't sure who to contact with a question, please see our website or send an email to somerset98006@gmail.com.

SOMERSET SUN ADVERTISING DEADLINES:

August 7, 2020 – Fall issue
November 6, 2020 - Winter Issue
February 5, 2021 – Spring issue

Sizes and Rates (same for color or black & white):

Business Card (3"w x 2"h)	\$25
Quarter Page (4"w x 5¼"h)	\$140
Half Page Horizontal (8"w x 5¼"h)	\$300
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Full Page (8"w x 10½" h)	\$550

There is a 10% discount for Somerset residents, OR for committing to the next three issues.

Thank you for your interest in advertising in the Somerset Sun.

Together, we are neighbors helping neighbors.



SOMERSET98006.ORG

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR WELCOMED

Do you have a question or comment about the Sun newsletter or about what's going on in the Somerset community? Ideas for a topic you'd like us to cover? Submit your thoughts today! The SCA welcomes Letters to the Editor. Share your ideas, questions, and concerns with those around you. Send your email to us at somerset98006@gmail.com.



**BELLEVUE
COUNTS**
2020 Census

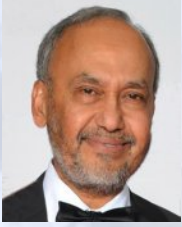
We only get a chance every 10 years to participate in the United States census count. The census is a population count of every person living in the U.S. as of April 1st and for the first time you can respond online. The online questionnaire is available in English and 12 other languages. Translators are also available by phone. The accuracy of the census data drives the amount of funding and government representatives allocated to each community. If you have not responded, a census taker may knock on your door through July to collect information. Everyone in Somerset counts, and together we thrive! Go to www.2020census.gov to learn more.



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DEAR NEIGHBORS,



We are almost through the Spring of 2020, with Summer starting on the not too distant date of June 20th! What an unusual and unforgettable year 2020 is turning into ... so far not so good. My heart also goes out to our Somerset students who have been denied their graduation ceremonies and the opportunity to celebrate this earned and major milestone in their lives. There is plenty I can complain about in relation to the COVID-19 virus, but I have decided to stay with the positive. I am proud of our Emergency Preparedness and Website/Social Media Chairs who developed ways by which one can either seek or provide help related to the virus; please go to the COVID-19 link on our website, Somerset98006.org, for more information.

SCA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Somerset has a long standing reputation as a premiere community to call **home**, thanks to our excellent schools, location, splendid views of lakes and mountains, and our high value residences. We are a strong community with over 1,500 single family homes within the Somerset boundaries. However, at last checking, only 580 of those households are paid SCA members. Our family moved to Somerset in 1992, and much has changed since then, especially demographics. It seems our goal to increase membership must focus on these issues.

As your incoming Association President, I would like to focus on reinvigorating our "Somerset Brand." I would like to find ways to builds bridges to the new homeowners in Somerset, so that they feel welcome and are eager to participate in community activities; I would like to find ways by which community members continue to help each other to beautify their homes and properties; I would like to ensure that we continue to support our schools, police and fire departments, for safety and paths to excellence for our children; I would like that we continue to find more ways to know each other, given the fulsome diversity of our community ... sharing experiences, stories, recipes, culture.

Please note that we have open positions on our Board of Directors and Committees; these need to be filled. I look forward to your thoughts and feedback on the proposition to reinvigorate our "Somerset Brand." I can be reached at somerset98006@gmail.com. Our effort is akin to a communal "tent raising" effort; this will not be possible without collective participation and excitement.

For starters, I invite (a few of) you to join our "Somerset Pride" Committee. This Committee will function under the Covenant Review Committee (CRC) headed by Diane Fern. Somerset Pride works with residents on maintaining and improving the exterior of their properties.

All the very best from the Board and me.

Francis Brito
SCA President

COVID-19 RESPONSE EFFORTS

You probably have seen these signs as you enter the neighborhood. The Somerset Community Association, with input from community members, has created a webpage dedicated to informing and helping our neighbors during the current pandemic. Please click "COVID-19 Response Efforts" on the SCA website, Somerset98006.org, to find trusted links to current information and guidance for staying safe. You can also sign up to help a neighbor in need. If you need help, you can find people who can help there. We're all about neighbors helping neighbors!





By Councilmember Jennifer Robertson

Even during the COVID-19 emergency, life and the work of the City goes on

COUNCIL CORNER

This is an unprecedented time. With the introduction of the COVID-19 virus into our community, life has changed. We have gone from the best economy in my lifetime to 20 percent national unemployment in a period of weeks. Governor Inslee has ordered most people to stay home and has ordered many businesses to close in order to slow the spread of this disease. This is a time of suffering for many, and not just because we cannot go to restaurants, but because people are out of work and people are ill. Kids came home from school on March 13th and will not go back until the fall. Parents are overwhelmed, people are lonely, and people who are out of work are worried about their futures. It is a hard time for many, but I am confident that together we will get through this.

The City has been doing everything it can to help people and keep them safe. Shortly after the Governor's stay home order was implemented, the City provided \$450,000 in rental and food assistance funding to prevent people from becoming homeless. In May, we appropriated approximately \$1 million in Federal Community Development Block Grant funds to help people who are suffering in our community, including people who may not be able to pay next month's rent, people who

are hungry or homeless, and people suffering from domestic violence (which has increased during this time). The needs are significant. If you can afford to help, please consider making a donation to one or more of the worthy non-profits in Bellevue, such as Congregations for the Homeless, Hopelink, Lifewire, The Sophia Way, or Lifespring.

In addition to working to address the immediate emergency, Bellevue will be passing its biennial budget this year. We will adopt the operating budget for 2021-2022 and establish the capital budget for 2021-2027. The COVID-19 emergency will have a significant impact on Bellevue's budget. Right now, the City is projecting a \$31 million shortfall in revenues as a result of COVID-19. We will be looking at our budget very closely and determining how we can tighten our collective belt. As a Councilmember since 2009, I have helped the City through this before during the Great Recession. The City cut expenses with an eye to maintaining public service. It was hard but necessary then and it will be hard but necessary now. The fundamentals of the economy were very strong, so I am hopeful that once the threat of COVID-19 has passed, the economy will come back quickly.

Although it has been difficult, there has been some grace in the stay home period. Every day, I see families out walking together, talking, and enjoying the beauty of spring. People are cooking more, walking more, and scaling down the pace of life. Time with my kids who are nearly "grown and flown" has been a gift. And many of our gardens have never looked better. Together, we can work our way through this crisis and come out stronger. Sending health and peace to you and yours.

Jennifer Robertson is a 4-term member of the Bellevue City Council and a municipal attorney. She lives with her husband and three daughters in Somerset.



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How's the Market?

COVID-19 has undoubtedly changed our everyday life, but that doesn't mean that your real estate endeavors have to change with it. Our market remains extremely steady with homes going pending faster than they can be listed! If you'd like more information about how you can still achieve your buying and selling goals in a safe, comfortable manner, I'd love to help! Stay safe and stay well!

CONTACT ME TODAY TO LEARN MORE
ABOUT OUR INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION



**Tanya
Franzen-Garrett**
SOMERSET RESOURCE
206-226-3723
TANYA@SOUND-PROPERTIES.COM



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Do you have a child who will be five years old on or before August 31? Please register your child as soon as possible so that the school knows how many students to expect. The Bellevue School District offers free full-day Kindergarten in every elementary school, including Somerset. Kindergarten registration: bsd405.org/schools/kindergarten/.

SOMERSET DIRECTORY COMING SOON

The 2020 Somerset Directory (now published biennially) is going to print soon and will be distributed only to paid members of the Somerset Community Association. Please pay your annual dues if you haven't already, then look for your directory in your mailbox this Fall.

SOMERSET COMMUNITY INTEREST GROUPS

Are you interested in getting together with other Somerset residents with common interests? Here is the contact information for these established Community Interest Groups in case you'd like to get more information or join.

50 and Over Singles

Kathy Judkins (425) 260.4324

Hill 'n' Dale Garden Club

Joan Waldeck (425) 747.6605

Somerset Adult Choir

Sonia Tanielian (425) 641-5824

Somerset Moms

Sylvia Vasilik, sylvia.vasilik@gmail.com

Somerset Women for Medic One

Evelyn Bateman (425) 747-7775

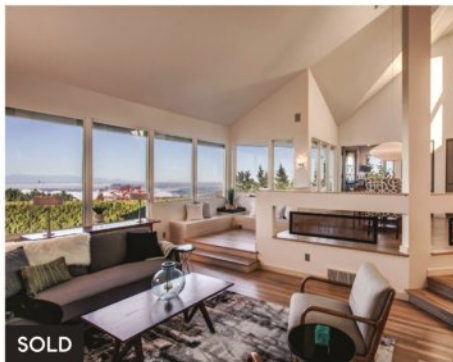
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COMPASS



By School Board Member Dr. Francine Wiest

Learning Continues Despite Closed School Buildings

The COVID-19 pandemic forced drastic changes in education with the closure of school buildings. Fortunately, the Bellevue School District (BSD) is well positioned to meet the challenges of continuing essential services and providing remote learning for students.

When schools closed, BSD had to maintain access to essential services, provide technology support, and assist educators to deliver remote learning. Despite initial limited guidance from the state, BSD held true to guiding principles that students, including those with special needs, would be able to continue learning. As the closure continued, BSD and educator associations negotiated a schedule and expectations for delivery of services through the Spring to sustain instruction and ensure that students, including graduating seniors, would be prepared for their next steps.

Schools play a vital role in providing nutrition and childcare for many students. After closure of other food sources in the community, BSD expanded its nutrition services. BSD



increased the number of Grab & Go meal sites as well as used school buses to deliver preordered meals for pick-up to three dozen

sites around Bellevue to any child under age 18 who requested one, resulting in 2000+ meals provided per weekday. Generous donations from community partners, including the Bellevue Schools Foundation, help supply food to district family connections centers. BSD also provides childcare for essential workers, first responders, and children of families experiencing homelessness.

The next step in ensuring kids were ready to learn remotely involved providing access to learning materials and educators through electronic communication. Thanks to our community supporting our levies, BSD has robust technology for students and educators. All secondary students (grades 6-12) are loaned a laptop computer that they use regularly in class and at home. During closure, elementary students were able to check out a computer as well, and any student could request a hotspot to provide internet access. As of May, BSD distributed over 3000 additional laptops and nearly 500 hotspots and fielded more than 5000 requests for tech support. Educators received additional training and worked together to adapt lesson plans and identify key learning objectives and standards for each subject.

On a typical day of remote learning students login to Microsoft Teams with their teacher and classmates. Elementary students engage in a welcome lesson to support social-emotional well-being, learn daily math and literacy skills, alternate science and social studies lessons, and round

BELLEVUE SCHOOL DISTRICT UPDATE

out time with art/music/library/coding/or physical education through a combination of electronic and other resources. Secondary students follow a schedule of two periods per day, plus time for learning labs to get additional support, and occasionally small group virtual sessions. Students with

special needs receive additional supports, counseling services continue, some clubs find ways to meet



virtually, and athletes can videocall with their teammates and coaches. Families are contacted directly if students do not check-in to determine if there are barriers to accessing learning, and educators, families, and students are surveyed regularly to monitor progress with these new systems. There is also an emphasis on providing flexibility, recognizing that the impact of the pandemic and/or the home environment can bring additional challenges. Students, families, and educators have been able to transition with varying degrees of ease; there has been continual refining of processes and adding supports, which in turn will guide future learning plans.

For those who would like to support our BSD students and educators and learn more about the transformation of education, please visit bsd405.org/corona-virus-covid-19/. There you can see how high school seniors chose to celebrate their milestones, view examples of remote learning plans, donate to community partner organizations who have also had to turn to virtual fundraising, find COVID-19 resources in multiple languages, follow progress for Fall 2020, and more. Now, more than ever, your community partnership helps BSD provide the solid foundation on which to build an adaptive educational model for student success.

Francine lives in Somerset with her husband and 3 children. She is Vice President of the Bellevue School Board and can be reached at WiestF@bsd405.org.

INTERNET SAFETY AS WE SOCIAL DISTANCE

Cooped up at home, we've all probably increased time spent accessing the internet in various ways. For better or worse, we are beckoned by websites, emails, social apps, or streaming entertainment. Unfortunately, the information communicated cannot always be trusted; some of it can be dangerous or harmful. Improving personal internet safety involves maintaining awareness of how the unscrupulous try to gain access to your private information. Several tips for what to look out for are listed below. Additional background information can be found on the internet or through guidelines published by your internet service provider (Comcast/Xfinity, Century Link or others).

INTERNET BROWSING SAFETY TIPS

Be smart about your browsing. Browsing on the internet can be an enjoyable way to learn about the world. So much information is available, but we need to be careful. The tips below will help you avoid some of the most common problems encountered.

Avoid questionable websites. Refer to the settings on your browser to disable popups and do not click on links that appear unannounced on your screen. Be wary of sensational "news" sites that are full of misinformation and often are infested with viruses. Only download software from sites that you trust and search for recommendations from reputable reviewers to ensure the software is legitimate.

Increase your web browser security settings and update your operating system regularly. Set security and privacy settings on your browser as high as possible. When your operating system announces that updates are available, take the time to perform the update.

Use only one computer for sensitive communications. If you have more than one computer, dedicate one for sensitive communications (logging into financial institutions, paying bills, etc.) and use the other for general web browsing or playing games. Use different passwords on each. This will help keep critical personal information secure. Always remember to log or sign out of websites and never use a public computer, such as at the library or an Internet cafe, for sensitive communications.

Use antivirus software. Install and maintain good and well-respected anti-virus software on your computer to prevent infection. Scan all email attachments with a virus program before downloading or executing any, even if they come from someone you know. Your internet service provider will have information on this.

Password Security. It seems a password is required for everything these days. Here are some related tips to help maintain security:

- **Do not share your password with anyone.**
- **Make your passwords hard to guess.** Use a mix of letters and numbers, as those passwords are harder to break.
- **Make passwords unique.** Don't use the same password for everything.
- **Use a password manager.** Password managers help you maintain unique complex passwords for each service you use. Both iPhone and Android have built-in password managers. There are also for-fee password managers such as LastPass or 1Password which you may find helpful.
- **Use two-factor authentication.** Most sites now offer or require two-factor authentication when you log in. An example is signing in with your password and then receiving a text message with a code to be entered on their site before you can continue. With this method, even if your password is guessed, your information is still secure.



Password Tip: A good trick is to think of an easily remembered phrase and then create an abbreviated acronym-like password out of it using special characters, numbers and mix of upper- and lower-case letters. For example: "Somerset is a great place to live" might become "\$is@gr8P2L". Or just use the phrase itself as your password. The longer the better.

EMAIL SAFETY TIPS

Avoid “phishing” and viruses. Common scams employ email messages that look official but are in fact attempts to steal your identity to commit fraud. Others include links that launch a virus program which accesses your address book and sends itself to your contacts. Sensitive information such as passwords, bank account numbers and social security numbers should never be sent via email. No reputable business would ever ask for this sort of personal information in an email.

- **Don't open emails from someone you don't know or trust.**
- **Never open an attachment within an email** from a company or person you don't know or that you were not expecting. Attachments may contain viruses which can seriously damage your computer.
- **Be careful even with emails from someone you know.** If the sender does not address you by name in the body of the email or if the content is very brief and suggests you click on a link “that you will enjoy...”, this is likely an email with an email virus embedded in the link.
- **If you receive any email notifying you of an issue with some account you have, DO NOT click any link on the email.** Instead delete it and log into that account or call the company’s customer service number separately using your normal credentials to determine if the notice is valid.

Spam/Junk Emails. “Spam” emails are irrelevant or unsolicited messages sent to large numbers of users for purposes of advertising, phishing, spreading malware, etc. You can avoid exposure to viruses and scams by taking some precautions:

- **Never reply to or click on links inside spam emails.**
- **Use a spam filter.** Check with your mail or internet service provider for options.
- **Avoid unsolicited bulk mail.** Don't give your email addresses to internet sites and don't post your email address to public places like message boards.



WHEN CHILDREN HAVE ACCESS TO THE COMPUTER

The world wide web is completely wild; there are no controls over content or range of materials you might come across. For that reason, it is up to parents to set up controls on devices their children can access (this includes PCs and cell phones). There is a lot of information about this on the web. Here are some tips we found:

Use parental controls to limit access to only the specific websites your child needs to access and possibly to limit time on the computer and other web-connected devices.

Coach your child on safe practices. Remind them on a regular basis:

- Never give out personal information (name, email address, phone number, home address, age, gender, photos or school name) in emails or to people you are chatting with online.
- Never plan to meet someone you have only met online unless a parent is present.
- Don't open emails, instant messages, files, pictures or texts from people you don't know.
- Lots of information on the internet isn't true. People lie about others as a form of bullying. Verify what is stated before simply believing it.
- Be sure to tell your parent or teacher if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable or worried, or if you feel someone you know is being bullied online.



These tips are just the main points to remember when interacting with the internet. Practicing and monitoring safe internet usage is something we must always be mindful of, just as we will need to be mindful of social distancing for the foreseeable future. The internet is full of good and reliable information related to both challenges. Just be sure the information you are reading and hearing about represents the best information experts can provide.

We appreciate any feedback on this article. If there are topics related to community safety and preparedness let us know. Please address to somersetprepares@gmail.com For information on how Somerset is responding to COVID-19 please go to www.somerset98006.org.

Covenant Goals

As the SCA turns our focus for the year to nurturing the “Somerset Brand,” we find the Covenant Review Committee

COVENANT CORNER

(“CRC”) is often asked to explain and interpret the Covenants which we rely on to protect this brand. Although everyone who purchases a home in Somerset is provided with a copy of the Protective Covenants, Conditions & Restrictions (“Covenants”) which apply to their new property, very few take the time to read and understand them. This leads to unnecessary surprise and frustration when homeowners are told that they have a responsibility to prune back a tree that they love, or that they cannot paint a fence their favorite shade of lavender. We thought it might be helpful to explain why we are so lucky in Somerset to have the Covenants.

The original developers of Somerset hill had the goal of building a high quality neighborhood, one that would maintain its property values in years to come. They recognized that Somerset needed to have a “brand” that was consistent with excellence. As each division was developed, they recorded Covenants that function as a set of rules, which included things they felt homeowners must or must not do in order to maintain that quality. From the early days, they controlled what type and size of homes were built on each lot by approval of a “Building Committee.” This committee (now

the CRC) also approves any modifications to the exterior of a property, such as paint color, decks or other additions. A palette of “Northwestern” paint colors was composed so that houses would blend into the colors of nature on the hillside. The developers realized that the views from Somerset hill were magnificent, and that property values would be affected if the view from a home changed. They therefore included restrictions on changing rooflines or allowing trees to grow into neighbor views. These and many other issues addressed in the Covenants have helped Somerset properties maintain their high property values.

Through time, the CRC has developed more detailed guidelines to help homeowners understand the Covenants and their responsibilities contained therein. We have worked with many Somerset homeowners to attain their goals of enlarging their homes or updating their gardens while still staying within the restrictions in the Covenants. Ultimately, we know that the small frustrations of working within these parameters is justified in maintaining the neighborhood as a whole.

If you would like to learn more about the Covenants, please visit our website at somerset98006.org and click on the “Covenants” tab. There, you will find a neighborhood map, the Covenants for each Division within Somerset, the forms to apply for CRC approval of your project, and detailed guidelines relating to views, paint colors, view-friendly plants, solar panels, and more. Feel free to contact me or other members of the Covenant Review Committee if you should have any additional questions.

Diane Fern, Chair
Covenant Review Committee

UPDATE ON NEWPORT WAY SIDEWALK/BIKE LANE PROJECT

As we all know construction began in April. There is a 24-hour/7day a week closure of eastbound SE Newport Way, which is anticipated to end by November. See the map for several detour routes. The 24/7 closure (originally it was only from 9 am-4pm) allows completion of important retaining walls before the rainy season and may speed up completion time for the project. More project information is available at BellevueWA.gov/Newport-way.

Kristi Weir,
Somerset resident and member of
Newport Way Sidewalk Committee





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If there is a need for additional work, I have preferred providers and will help manage every aspect of preparing your home. Additionally, the **Windermere Market Ready Program** can provide up to \$50,000 to offset expenses until closing, without any upfront costs to you. My goal is to help your home look its best, while creating a stress-free way to sell your home faster and for top dollar.

Call me today and see how we can help!



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We hope this message finds you healthy. We are counting down the days until we can see our Club family in person again! Per Governor Inslee's reopening plan, we are excited to be opening our doors in Phase 3 (hopefully in late June/early July) at reduced capacity levels.

Midlakes continues to monitor the state's phase plan as well and adjust accordingly in planning for a possible swim team season. It is unclear at this moment what that will look like, whether it's a full season, an abbreviated season with some limitations, or a number of other possible scenarios. We will continue to update you as soon as any new information becomes available.

We will reach out immediately once we have a firm date for reopening, but in the meantime, we wanted to let you know about some of the protocols and measures we are putting in place that will ensure you have a clean, safe club to return to when you're ready. These new protocols and measures may include but are not limited to:

- Hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes conveniently located throughout SRC
- Intensive, regular cleaning of equipment and facility with disinfectant
- Limited number of members in the club at one time, as directed by the government (anticipate 50% capacity)
- Modified deck seating to ensure adequate social distancing
- Wellness checks of club employees and potentially members entering the pool (we will follow government's guidance)
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for employees
- Potentially, PPE for members (we will follow the government's guidelines in terms of whether masks are mandatory)
- Staff education and training on prevention, in accordance with the CDC guidelines

SRC has continued its efforts to make substantive improvements to the place many of us call our "summer home". These include:

- The entire pool deck area has been resurfaced. This cost-effective pool deck resurface project has brought some new life into the deck and we can't wait for members to enjoy it.
- Although sidelined for a few months, the new SRC slide project is just starting to get kicked into motion and we hope to have a slide for kids of all ages to enjoy.
- SRC just received an automatic pool vacuum/cleaner generously donated by Woodswim! We are super excited about the impact on the cleanliness of the pool that this will have in coming years! Thank you Woodswim!
- With construction projects being greenlighted by the state, the demo of the lower clubhouse has been completed!

For latest news and updates on the 2020 summer SRC membership and swim team season please check out our FB page or somerstetrec.org. As always, if you have questions please contact SRC at somerstetrecclub@gmail.com.



The lower clubhouse has been removed.

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"We have enjoyed working with Jeff for many years. This year he and his Reflections team completed two additional projects. First, they replaced the exterior and mantle of the fireplace in our master bedroom. Then he undertook an ambitious redesign of an indoor/outdoor patio space, adding a gas fire pit and two movable glass walls. The results exceed our highest expectations. Working with Jeff has been a pleasure as well as a great investment in our home". -- Don & Ruth Marsh



Reflections Landscape & Construction completed a transformation of our yard. The end result exceeded our expectations. The team from Reflections was not only hard working, punctual, and friendly, but their customer service really differentiated them from other landscape companies. They have innovative ideas delivered in a professional and timely manner. We couldn't be more pleased with our project!" -- Steve & Linda Reichenbach



www.facebook.com/reflectionsLC ~ www.reflectionslandscaping.com
(425)891-0747 ~ jeff@reflectionslandscaping.com



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ENG-LEI



JUST SAY WHOA TO HORSETAILS

Weeds are the nemesis of gardeners everywhere, but none is more hated and tenacious as horsetail. Horsetail is a perennial weed with an extensive creeping root system that can grow down into the soil at incredible depths. Though some types of horsetail are native to the Pacific Northwest, this weed is invasive as it is quick to spread and difficult to kill once it has taken root. *PLEASE* do not plant horsetail in your Somerset landscaping, and *PLEASE* make every effort to eradicate it should it appear. Local gardening expert Ciscoe Morris calls horsetail the worst weed ever. In a recent interview, he warned, "You can't get rid of it no matter what you do. The only solution is to sell your house and move!"

Local neighbors have shared numerous creative methods of dealing with horsetail:

- treat it carefully with an herbicide
- spray it with a mixture of vinegar and bleach
- inject herbicide directly into the stem with a hypodermic needle
- pulling is useless, it just multiplies
- use Casoron (a chemical herbicide) in early Spring and again in late Fall
- Increase lime to raise the soil's PH level
- dig deep to get out the roots

One of the most widely-shared methods is to mix one gallon of white vinegar, 2-3 cups Epsom salt and 2 Tbsp Dawn dishwashing liquid (which helps the mixture hold onto leaves better) and spray the mixture directly on the plants. Keep in mind that vinegar will also kill any nearby plants, so be careful in your application. With patience and regular treatments, you can be successful in eliminating horsetail from your garden.

Please help us keep Somerset from being overrun by this aggressive weed, and choose other ornamental grasses for your landscaping!

SOMERSET SUN COVER CONTEST!

Do you have a budding artist at your house? We believe in encouraging children's creativity and supporting young artists in our Somerset community. Art offers children a unique means of expression, capturing their passion and emotions and fostering the exploration of new ideas, subject matter, and cultures.

We are inviting our Somerset children to share their creative talents by entering our cover contest. The winning entry will be featured on the cover of the Fall issue of the Somerset Sun. Other entries may be included inside the same issue. (We reserve the right to use another cover should we not receive a sufficient number of appropriate submissions.)

Guidelines:

- Artwork can be of any subject but preference may be given to identifiable Somerset or PNW themes (e.g., skyline, fountain, totem pole, etc.)
- Participants should create their color or black-and-white artwork on 8-1/2" x 11" unlined paper.
- Participants must be residents of Somerset between the ages of 5 and 12.
- Artwork should be scanned in PDF or JPG format and sent by email to the SCA at Somerset98006@gmail.com. If you don't have scanning ability, contact us at the same email address and we can arrange for submission in person.
- All entries must include name and age of artist, and the email must be sent by the entrant's parent/guardian.
- By submitting, parents grant permission for their children's artwork and first name to be put online or printed in the magazine.
- All entries must be the entrant's original, unpublished and previously unproduced work.
- We only allow one entry per person.
- Deadline for entries is August 31, 2020.



NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

4th of July News

It is with heavy hearts that we must announce the cancellation of the annual Somerset 4th of July Parade and Picnic. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Washington's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order, we unfortunately cannot go forward with this neighborhood favorite. Our Board and Parade Committee discussed possible modifications to our usual event, but none would have resulted in an event that was appropriate within the expected size limitations for July. The City of Bellevue has also cancelled the annual 4th of July fireworks celebration traditionally held in Downtown Park.

The safety of our Somerset residents is our first priority. We continue to explore some sort of community commemoration of Independence Day. Please check our website and Facebook page for updates on any replacement celebrations that are planned. We hope you have a wonderful (small group) 4th of July!

Membership Reminder

Please pay your 2020 annual dues to the Somerset Community Association! **Only paid members will receive our biennial DIRECTORY which will be sent this Fall.** Look for a second invoice in your mailbox if our records show that you haven't paid yet. Better yet, go to our website and pay right now: somerset98006.org/join. We rely on member dues to provide the services YOU enjoy as a Somerset homeowner: maintenance of common areas, this newsletter, an updated website, and our Emergency Preparedness and Block Watch safety programs. We sincerely hope that you will make this small investment to keep our neighborhood safe, attractive, and connected!



The SCA Needs YOU!

The Covenant Review Committee (CRC) and the Somerset Community Association (SCA) are looking for Somerset resident volunteers to serve on the Somerset PRIDE Committee. Volunteers would work with other residents to communicate and remind our neighbors of their responsibilities to maintain the appearance of their homes and yards. Please contact the SCA at somerset98006@gmail.com if you are interested in helping out with Somerset PRIDE. Thanks!

Your Email Address, Please!

The Somerset Community Association is gathering email addresses from Somerset residents so that we can conveniently disseminate important and timely information directly to our community. You can be confident that this will be a PRIVATE list, and your email address will never be shared. Simply send an email to the SCA at somerset98006@gmail.com from the email address you prefer, and include your name and address within the email. Or go directly to our website at somerset98006.org to sign up for the mailing list.

Summer Watermelon Salad

6 cups watermelon, cubed

1/2 cup feta, cubed or crumbled

2 cups arugula

2 Tbsp balsamic glaze

Arrange the arugula in a large bowl, top with the watermelon and feta. Drizzle with the balsamic glaze and serve. (If you don't have balsamic glaze, you can make a balsamic reduction at home by boiling good quality balsamic vinegar until it thickens).

CENSE in Superior Court

On May 22, CENSE attorney Rick Aramburu presented opening arguments in King County Superior Court. The court will decide whether the City of Bellevue correctly issued a permit to Puget Sound Energy to build “Energize Eastside,” which would install 50% taller poles and heavier wires for the

CENSE UPDATE

high-voltage transmission line that runs through Somerset and dozens of other Eastside neighborhoods.

CENSE argues three points:

1. In violation of Bellevue’s land use code, PSE failed to provide evidence that demand for electricity is actually increasing on the Eastside. In other venues, PSE reports declining demand across its service territory due to advancing technology and conservation efforts.
2. PSE illegally divided the project into two permit applications and filed only the application to build the south segment, hoping to fracture previously united opposition in Bellevue.
3. The Environmental Impact Statement is incomplete because it did not evaluate the impacts of the shorter south segment being permitted. There was no assessment of the impacts of alternatives that could serve the needs of the smaller project.



Citizens fight excessive energy infrastructure (photo from Renton)

If you would like to read the legal briefs submitted by CENSE, PSE, and the City of Bellevue, they can be downloaded at our website, CENSE.org. The full court hearing will occur on August 14, and you can listen in. Details will be published on our website.

Newcastle hearing delayed

Land use hearings for Energize Eastside were held last year in Bellevue and Renton. The third and final hearing will be held in Newcastle, but no date has been set due to the virus outbreak. CENSE expects the hearing will occur sometime in the fall.

The CENSE case will be stronger than ever in Newcastle. New evidence shows that there is no need for Energize Eastside in winter, the primary concern PSE used to justify the project. If there is any need in the summer, it can be mitigated using solar panels and other clean technologies. Solar panels were mentioned as a potential solution in the Environmental Impact Statement, but not actually evaluated. This is yet another deficiency in PSE’s case that must be corrected.

During the outbreak, CENSE has experienced a slowdown of donations. We also had to increase expenditures to prepare for both the Newcastle hearing and the court case. If you would consider a mid-year donation at CENSE.org, our all-volunteer group would be most grateful. After almost seven years, we see a light at the end of the tunnel. Now is the time to secure a better outcome for our neighborhoods, the environment, and future generations.

Pondering Bellevue’s future

With lighter traffic volumes during the state’s “stay home, stay safe” order, PSE cut down 300 trees on 148th Avenue in record time. Soon poles and wires will zigzag over this beautiful street, completing the new Lake Hills Transmission Line.

A CENSE partner organization, 300trees.org, submitted a plan to PSE and the City of Bellevue to place the new power line underground. The proposal included cost estimates from three companies that use modern directional drilling techniques to place conduit underground with little disturbance of streets or tree roots. For a relatively small incremental cost (worst-case cost would be 41 cents per Bellevue resident per month for ten years), reliability would be better than an overhead power line, and new full-size trees could be replanted. Our city would enjoy at least 50 years of continued beauty along this central commuting corridor. Unfortunately, neither PSE nor the Bellevue City Council has acknowledged the group’s proposal (read it at 300trees.org).

Our “City in a Park” will bear a permanent scar. CENSE will continue our fight to avoid a similar outcome for Energize Eastside.

Don Marsh, *President, CENSE.org*



PSE removed hundreds of trees on 148th Ave.

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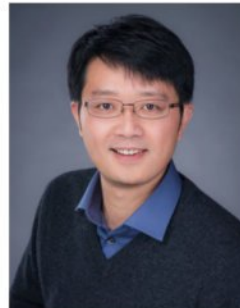
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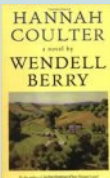
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GOOD READS

Hannah Coulter by Wendell Berry
208 pages (2004)



Hannah Coulter is one of Wendell Berry's ten novels which tell the story of fictional Port Williams, Kentucky. As the 20th Century ends, elderly yet fiercely self-sufficient narrator Hannah reflects on the love she has for the land and for her community. She reminisces about each of her lost husbands and expresses nostalgia for the small, family-owned farm life that seems to be threatened by twentieth-century technologies. Hope is redeemed when her wayward and once lost grandson, Virgil, returns to his rural home to work the farm.

I loved this book. It harkens back to when we helped our neighbors and communities with heart, when we were all part of "the membership," as described in the book. Given the COVID19 world we live in today, we see this "membership" alive and well as we are reaching out to our neighbors for help and to be helped.

The Count of Monte Cristo by Alexander Dumas
1,243 pages (1844)



Thrown in prison for a crime he did not commit, Edmond Dantès is confined to the grim fortress of If. There he learns of a hoard of treasure hidden on the Isle of Monte Cristo and becomes determined not only to escape, but also to use the treasure to plot the destruction of the three men responsible for his incarceration. Dumas' epic tale of suffering and retribution, inspired by a real-life case of wrongful imprisonment, was a huge popular success when it was first serialized in the 1840s.

We have lots of time on our hands, how about trying this historic tale? The Count is far more than merely a tale of adventure and revenge, but also a labyrinth of characters that maintains your interest to the end.

Please let me know (edwardsbd@q.com) if you have any "Good Reads" you'd like to recommend for the rest of us!

Bev Edwards, Somerset Resident



Rhona Lord
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RECYCLING ETIQUETTE

As you place your bins at curbside every week, please remember that recycling is an important part of taking care of our environment. Placing contaminated items in your recycling bin can lead to the entire lot being rejected for contamination and sent to landfill. Here is a summary of Bellevue's basic guidelines of WHAT IS RECYCLABLE from their website:

PAPER must be clean and unsoiled, single material, dry (NOT wet), larger than a business card (or it will jam up the processing equipment). Do NOT include hardback books, metallic paper, tissue paper or paper towels.

METAL must be empty, clean, and dry, lids of 5" diameter minimum, scrap metals smaller than 2 ft x 2 ft x 2 ft, and with no other material attached. Foil is not allowed. Push lids into can and squeeze so they don't fall out.

GLASS must be empty, clean, rinsed, and dry. Remove lids and caps and place in garbage.

PLASTIC must be empty, clean, and dry. Only shapes allowed are bottle, jug, or tub. No plastic bags allowed.

Additional Details: Please wipe, scrape, or rinse food residue out of containers (such as cans, jars, or tubs). If an item is too oily or dirty, please throw it in the garbage so as to not contaminate clean recyclables in the blue cart. Animal waste should be double-bagged and placed into the garbage, NOT in the organics cart. Shredded paper does not go in recycling but in yard waste (without a plastic bag). Stack organic materials below and above shredded paper. Don't overfill your carts; open lids can attract wildlife who make a mess.

Lastly, please do not use your neighbor's disposal bins without their permission. It's just not neighborly!

For more information, please check Republic Services' website at republicservices.com/municipality/Bellevue-wa#transbro or the City of Bellevue recycling guidelines at bellevuewa.gov/city-government/departments/utilities/manage-your-utility-services/solid-waste/recycle-right.

LANDSCAPING UPDATE

So far, 2020 has been drier and warmer than normal, and our summer is projected to have hotter days and periodic rain, which will make us experience a "muggy" summer. However, both the heat and rainfall will continue to enhance the growth and beauty of the plants and trees in our Somerset yards and across the region. Rhododendrons, azaleas, lavender, heather, and dogwood trees are blossoming as we go to print. Since we are all staying home due to COVID19, please walk/bike around the neighborhood, say hi to your friends (from an appropriate distance), and enjoy this special time with your family.

Our landscape contractor (Tom Copestake of Dusk Till Dawn Landscapes, LLC) continues to maintain our entrance island and common areas. Tom planted Sunny Impatiens at the entrance and when available will add New Guinea Impatiens, so that we will have flowers in front of the fountain through the fall. Also, both the fountain at the entrance and the irrigation system have been turned on for the summer. We need to again thank Gary Albert, who was able to partner with Tom to turn on the irrigation system and fix some problems with the fountain, so it is now looking beautiful and the water is flowing. Gary has been an incredible supporter of our community and we appreciate his ever-present support and help!

Since we are all spending more time at home these days, it is a great time to enjoy being outside. We encourage you to maintain your yards by mowing the grass, trimming plants,

and pruning trees before they get too big. Try not to cut down trees, because they improve the appearance of your yard, increase the value of your home, reduce the level of heat on the exterior of your home, and attract beautiful birds that will reduce bugs, too. It is also a great time to plant pots that can be placed in entrances or on decks. McLendon's in Renton has great plants and pots and have incredibly low prices too. In addition, you can plant seeds to grow vegetables and fruit in your yard or pots too. Lastly, I hope that you will please use organic fertilizers whenever possible and just spread bark (rather than herbicides) to minimize weeds. An easy recipe for homemade insecticide that is safe for you, your pets, and birds requires only three ingredients: Dawn dish soap, vegetable oil and water. Mix 2.5 tablespoons of the dish soap and 2.5 tablespoons of vegetable oil with 1 gallon of warm water. The Dawn dish soap used in the recipe must not contain bleach, which could harm the plants.

As we progress through these challenging times, the SCA is dedicated to supporting you and your family, making our community look great, and being supportive of our environment. If you have other questions regarding trimming/cutting trees or landscaping issues, or need any help with your family, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you, take care and stay safe/healthy.

Sue Sander
Landscaping Chair



Somerset Community Association
PO Box 40531
Bellevue, WA 98015

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Congratulations to Our Somerset 2020 Graduates!

The Somerset Community Association offers our sincere congratulations to the Class of 2020. In these unprecedented times, students of many ages not only had to adapt to learning online, but also to deal with the loss of traditional proms, award presentations and graduation ceremonies.

We would like to help you honor your graduate by posting a free graduation announcement on our SCA website which you can share with friends and family.

These announcements can be for a transition from kindergarten, elementary or middle school, or graduation from high school, college, and technical/trade schools. Just go to Somerset98006.org/AnnounceSomersetSun by July 31st to read the details and submit the information requested (Somerset residents only).

Thank you for sharing your announcement with us and the community. And all good wishes to our Somerset grads as they head on to their next phase of life!



You may have noticed this banner on the corner of Somerset Ave and Somerset Blvd. Somerset resident Lynn Sage Espinoza came up with the idea and saw through getting it made. She had decorating help from neighbor Linda Miyauchi and banner hanging assistance from their husbands Chris and Dale.