



SOMERSET SUN

Winter 2017

Neighborhood news from the Somerset Community Association

Energize Eastside Update

Thank You Gary and Kenn

Your Covenants,
Your Responsibility

Somerset Holiday
Traditions

Council Corner

Young Neighbors

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CENSE Liaison	Steve O'Donnell	sdofour@aol.com

SOMERSET COMMUNITY INTEREST GROUPS

Group	Contact Person	Telephone/Email
50 and Over Singles	Kathy Judkins	(425) 260.4324
Bible Study (non-denominational)	Carrie Myers	(425) 643.6655
Book Club	Becky Mills	(425) 223.6520
Hill 'n Dale Garden Club	Jean Waldeck	(425) 747.6605 HillnDaleGardenClubBellevue@gmail.com
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
Somerset Woods	Aileen Wu	(206) 890.1717



SOMERSET98006.ORG



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HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

It is the time of year that we gather with our family, friends, community and loved ones to share in each other's joy and companionship. It is a time to be grateful, reflective of the past year and think about what the New Year will bring and what we would like to accomplish.

I'd like to take a moment to recognize the Somerset Community Association and all of its volunteers who truly do help to make our community a well-recognized and desirable community. This is a group who continuously strives to make each position better and refuses to maintain the status quo. The goal is always to improve our community while also remaining fiscally responsible with the dues that you, our community members, contribute. Some of the accomplishments we have seen over the last two years include:

Updated Website. Check it out if you have not already:

www.Somerset98006.org

Somerset Community Facebook site. Pushing out tidbits of community and local information for our area. Look for it, like it, and follow at: www.facebook.com/somersetcommunityassociation/

Ability to Pay Dues Online. A modernization convenience for many of our residents via the website

Earth Day on Somerset. Organized by our Landscape Committee to work on areas in need of some pride work

Updated Somerset Sun. New format and more community involvement in the newsletter

Digitizing of the Somerset Sun newsletter. Read it on your tablet in larger font or on the bus on the way to work. You can also access archived copies of previous Somerset Sun newsletters (see website).

These are just a FEW of the things the Board has been working diligently on improving ... and this is not even to mention the work that has been done MAINTAINING the normal responsibilities such as logging dues, paying bills, updating our membership records, managing our landscaping during a summer with extreme heat and a broken irrigation system, repairing/replacing that irrigation system, and welcoming new members into our community. Your time, effort, enthusiasm and willingness to serve others does not go without notice! THANK YOU!

Please mark your calendars for the **SCA Annual General Membership Meeting on Thursday, January 18, 2018** at Forest Ridge school, south end of campus, in the Ackerly Room. Doors open at 6:30pm. Please stop by and meet the incoming Board members and the new President of the SCA, Dana Knorr. Dana has proven to be an incredible asset to this community already with her leadership skills as VP and incredible involvement and willingness to jump in and get things done. I am confident and thrilled to be leaving this post in such great hands.

As 2018 approaches, make one of your resolutions to get involved in our community in some small way. Become a Board member, join a committee, offer your expertise and take part in making YOUR community the place YOU want it to be.

On that note, all there is left to say is thank you, it was a pleasure serving you. I wish you all a Happy Holiday Season and a Healthy, Happy 2018!

Tanya Franzen-Garrett,
2017 Somerset Community Association President

SCA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ENERGIZE EASTSIDE POSES RISKS FOR TYEE

Lurking less than 170 feet from Tyee Middle School, the Olympic Pipeline carries up to 13 million gallons of high-pressure jet fuel and gasoline through Eastside neighborhoods each day. For 1,000+ students who attend Tyee, and approximately 12,000 other children who attend

schools and day care centers within 600 feet of the pipeline,

the proximity of large quantities of highly flammable fuels is a significant concern for parents.

CENSE UPDATE



Tyee Middle School is only 170 feet downhill from the pipeline.

How dangerous is it? In 1999, this pipeline exploded in Bellingham, Washington, claiming the lives of three boys. The cause was related to a minor construction accident involving a city-approved contractor that had happened years earlier. Although it was deadly, the fireball was mostly confined to a streambed in a park that was some distance from homes and schools. A similar incident in a densely populated Eastside neighborhood would destroy more lives and property.

The Bellevue Fire Department describes the severity of a pipeline fire as “catastrophic” and “beyond the response and mitigation abilities of the jurisdiction.” (Google “Bellevue Fire Department Standards of Response Coverage” and see pages 64-66.) To extinguish the fire, an emergency response team would deliver large quantities of special firefighting foam from SeaTac airport. Even in the best case, the fire would burn for at least half an hour before these resources were mobilized. PSE’s Energize



Bellingham pipeline fire, 1999

Eastside project increases the risk of a devastating accident in several ways.

Construction risk. The Texas School Safety Center notes, “Any digging activity, large or small, performed by a professional contractor or simply a homeowner, poses a risk to underground pipelines and utilities and in turn could create a school emergency.” Texas has the largest pipeline infrastructure in the nation, containing about 1/6 the total pipeline mileage in the United States, so they should know. Texas state codes require extra reporting and evacuation procedures for schools within 1,000 feet of a pipeline. Washington code is strangely silent about pipeline safety and schools.

Arcing risk. In 2006, less than a mile from Somerset, one of PSE’s transmission lines fell and started a fire. That’s not as rare as you might think. In 2014, a similar incident occurred in North Bellevue. But in the 2006 incident, electricity from the downed wire arced through the soil into the Olympic Pipeline. Although the pipeline was not breached, the damage was so severe that the pipeline operator had to shut down the 400-mile pipeline so this section could be replaced. If the transmission line voltage were doubled, as PSE proposes to do, it is more likely that a breach would occur before the electricity is shut off. The electricity would ignite the erupting fountain of fuel, creating a burning river of fire flowing downhill and consuming everything in its path. It’s difficult to visualize the scope of the destruction that would be unleashed on our community.

Installing 230,000-volt power lines within feet of half-century-old pipelines in a heavily populated urban area is unprecedented. We have found no similar project

proposed in the U.S. during the past few decades. California state codes provide protections that Washington lacks. In California, no school can be sited within 1,500 feet of a pipeline like the one lying only 170 feet from Tyee. Our children spend a lot of time in classrooms close to a life-threatening risk. We should be taking steps to reduce that risk, rather than accepting increased danger posed by PSE’s Energize Eastside proposal. PSE has proposed construction of poles and wires to increase electrical reliability in a very rare winter scenario. The benefit will be so small it’s difficult to measure. CENSE

proposes alternative solutions that would increase year-round reliability in a larger number of outage scenarios. Rapid advancements in battery technology make the CENSE solution cheaper, safer, and better for the environment. For example, batteries can store excess electricity generated by renewable resources like wind and

Continued on page 4.

Your Local Somerset Resource

Commitment to Community

Somerset Resident—15 Years / Realtor—10 Years

PTSA Boards (various positions) - 11+ years

Involved in Somerset Elementary School Auctions - 3

Somerset Community Association—Pres (2 yr) + Welcoming and VP (2 yrs)

Tyee PTSA, Newport Knights Football Board, Newport Fastpitch Softball Board, supporter of the Bellevue Thunderbird Little League Division.

Past Somerset sales...



Listed & Sold
141st Court SE



Represented Buyer
134th Ave SE



Listed and Sold
SE 65th Street

Through the years I have enjoyed being involved in this community in variety of ways. As a few of my volunteer positions come to an end, I believe it is still important to continue to give back to our community.

Through 2018, I am committed to donating \$2500 to the Somerset Recreation Club for every Somerset home sold, in which I represent the buyer or the seller.



If you are thinking of selling or know someone wanting to buy, call me. **Together we can make a difference.**

THE SOUND PROPERTIES TEAM

Marketplace

Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Tanya Franzen-Garrett

206.226.3723

Tanya@sound-properties.com

REAL ESTATE MARKET UPDATE



What does Somerset have that makes it so desirable?

- ♦ Great Commute to key business centers such as DT Seattle, DT Bellevue & Redmond.
- ♦ Great Schools and a Nationally recognized School District. (Plus Bellevue Schools Foundation!)
- ♦ Great Views of Lake Washington, DT Seattle, DT Bellevue, Olympic Mountains + more!
- ♦ Great Neighborhood where residents take pride in their homes and Properties!

2018 is projected to be another strong Real Estate Year!

~ Tanya Franzen-Garrett, 206-226-3723

Tanya@SoundProperties.com

www.Sound-Properties.com

Let's look at Year over Year Comparison:

2016	2017	
Active Listings		
4	4	For Sale
65	36	Avg Days on Market
\$1,377,250	\$1,146,975	Avg List Price
Pending Sales		
7	11	Pending Sales
18	7	Avg Day on Mkt
\$1,080,000	\$1,287,866	Avg List Price
Homes Sold to date (as over Nov 1st)		
93	85	Closed Sales
13	12	Avg Days on Market
\$1,083,188	\$1,234,317	Final Sales price
5%	8%	Avg % over list price
53	54	# Homes sold over \$1M
57%	64%	of homes sold for over \$1M
Cash Sales		
27	27	Homes purchased with cash
29%	31%	% of Homes purchased w cash
\$1,099,000	\$1,264,329	Average Case Sale

GARY ALBERT AND KENN GENNARI:

A Note of Gratitude to Our Longtime Somerset Landscape Maintenance Team

Kenn joined the SCA Board in 2009 and, assisted by Gary Albert (2008), they have provided our Landscape Maintenance services ever since. Both members held various positions on the Board and Committees since joining and have

SOMERSET PRIDE

decided it is time for retiring from their duties in January 2018. During their tenure, they have seen the “ponds” at the entrance replaced in 2009 by the current waterfall feature, a city Neighborhood Enhancement Project (NEP), and experienced several irrigation system changes and challenges.

The original irrigation system fed the “ponds” in the main island and the sides of the main entrance off SE Newport Way and back wall off Somerset Blvd. Two city Match Grants extended the irrigation up Somerset Blvd for the planting of new shrubs. Unfortunately for Kenn and Gary, the plans for the original entrance, built by Evergreen Land Developers, and the irrigation systems were not archived. Troubleshooting problems have been a challenge at times. However, with Kenn's experience as a facilities maintenance manager, the problems have not been too difficult to solve ... until now.

There was this sneaky irrigation leak to contend with in 2015. A diaphragm leaked and resulted in the water department shutting off our water meter when abnormal usage was notice at billing time. Sneaky because even

though the leak was near the surface, in an irrigation housing, the water never showed up on the surface. Somehow it found a fissure in the hillside and disappeared into a homeowners’ backyard on SE Newport Way as was later discovered and fixed.

Now another leak.

You probably have seen the activity at the main entrance, some digging and a lot of standing around trying to figure out how and where this new water disappeared.

Once again, no indication at the surface or in backyards.

Unfortunately, we had a dry summer and some shrubs were stressed a little without irrigation after July 20th.

The good news is it is raining (and snowing) now and within a few weeks after the water was shut off, we were at least able to determine the leak wasn't in the irrigation system for the main island and waterfall feature, and it was returned on quickly.

Two leak detection services were brought in to investigate the leak and five irrigation system companies to look over our system, all without being able to provide a definitive answer. Despite this lack of help, original plans from Evergreen, or “as built” plans from the NEP, Kenn and Gary were able to narrow the leak down to one of two lines.

Now Mother Nature will be doing our watering and allowing us time for an irrigation company to dig, find and repair the leak.

Thank you, Gary and Kenn, for your dedication and years of service to keep Somerset a great place to live. Without volunteers like them we would not be where we are today!

Eastside Energize continued from page 2

solar, then release that energy when we need it most. This is a solution preferred by environmental groups such as the Sierra Club, 350 Eastside, and Protectors of the Salish Sea. Some of the most attractive batteries are designed and manufactured by a Puget Sound company located in Mukilteo (CENSE has no relationship with this company or



Olympic pipeline repair after 2006 arcing accident

any energy company). The batteries are non-flammable and do not wear out. Investing in these batteries would support good local jobs and support our region’s burgeoning clean-tech economy.

Your donations help CENSE achieve the future our children will be proud of. For more information, go to CENSE.org.

CELEBRATING 29 YEARS IN REAL ESTATE

... GOOD THING
I STARTED AT SUCH
A YOUNG AGE!

In 1988, I moved to Seattle and started my career in real estate. A lot has changed over the years but one thing remains true; who you work with matters.

Technology today gives you so much information in the palm of your hand. But the key to success in this market is knowing what to do with that information. Experience matters.

I work hard to help my clients prepare their property and eliminate surprises. My listings average 6 days on market, 7% over list price with contingencies waived.

I'd love the opportunity to talk to you about the market. Spring is just around the corner and it's never too early to start planning. Hope to hear from you soon!



STEPHANIE KRISTEN

SHEKNOWSREALESTATE.COM
stephaniek@windermere.com

206-200-0222


Windermere
REAL ESTATE

COUNCIL CORNER

By Jennifer Robertson



The election is finally over and we have two new Council Members and two returning Council Members. The new Council Members are Janice Zahn and Jared Nieuwenhuis. Janice will be seated in early December because she was elected to a seat with an appointed incumbent (who did not run). Jared will be seated

on January 1, 2018. Re-elected were Conrad Lee (who lives in Somerset) and Lynne Robinson. Janice will be sworn in at the December 4th Council Meeting, Jared, Conrad and Lynne will be sworn in at the December 11th Council Meeting. I am looking forward to working with all of my colleagues on the Council for the best interests of the residents of Bellevue.

It has been a long and productive year and I hope each of you will have some time over the coming holidays to relax with family and friends and enjoy some of the splendor our region has to offer. The always-popular Snowflake Lane runs November 24th – December 24th at 7 pm each night. Garden D'Lights runs November 25th – December 31st each night. For more information on Bellevue holiday events, please visit the BDA "Magic Season" website at the following link: www.bellevuedowntown.com/events/magic-season or visit bellevue.com/holidays.php. All year long you can find local community events on the "Visit Bellevue" website at www.visitbellevuewashington.com/events/. We live in an amazing community where there is always something interesting or joyful to do.

My family and I wish you all a restful and happy holiday season and a bright new year in 2018.

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

NEWPORT WAY SIDEWALK AND BIKE LANE UPDATE

Paul Krawczyk, project manager, reports the City is in final design for the sidewalk and bike lane along Newport Way. The project is approximately 4,600-feet long and is located between 150th Ave SE and Somerset Blvd (near the fountain). City Council is considering a significant budget increase from \$8.1 million to \$9.7 million to fund both pedestrian and bicycle facilities along the roadway. If approved, the project will include a 10-foot wide multi-use path on the north side of Newport Way and the bike lane along the south side. The project is scheduled to go to bid in the spring of 2018 with construction starting in the summer of 2018, pending approval of the revised project budget and all environmental permits.

Preliminary construction activities along Newport Way will begin in early 2018 and include the relocation of Puget Sound Energy (PSE) power poles, installation of street lighting, and the removal of some trees to accommodate the new facilities.

For updates, visit www.newportwaysidewalk.org. If you would like to receive occasional email updates on this project, drop a note to newportwaysidewalk@gmail.com and we'll add you to the list.

Kristi Weir
Somerset Resident
Member of Newport Way Sidewalk Committee

SCHOOL CLOSURE INFORMATION

Stay informed on school closures or delays.

BSD Homepage: bsd405.org/

Facebook: [facebook.com/bsd405](https://www.facebook.com/bsd405)

Twitter: twitter.com/thebsd405

FlashAlert: flashalert.net/id/BellevueSD

BSD Newsline: (425) 456-4111

Local TV/Radio Stations

YOUR COVENANTS, YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

“Covenants” is a term we use to describe the Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions which apply to the residential lots in the Somerset neighborhood. As Somerset was developed, these documents were prepared and recorded for each separate Division. They vary slightly but generally include a description of the developer's plan such as "Single Family Residences," building size and quality requirements, and restrictions on fences, garbage, parking, view obstruction, and many other issues. They are designed not only to protect the values of the real estate involved, but also to provide assurance that all owners within the area will abide by the same conditions in order to create and maintain a compatible and attractive group of individualized, quality homes.

Covenants run with the land and apply to all present and subsequent owners. A copy of the Covenants that apply to your property was included with your closing documents and escrow papers. It is each homeowner's responsibility to be familiar with the Covenants that apply to their property and to abide by them. If you cannot locate your copy, please visit the SCA website at Somerset98006.org and review the “Covenants” tab. It includes a map to locate which Division your property is within, and copies of each Division's Covenants.

Many of the original Covenants refer to a Building or Architectural Control Committee that will oversee and approve of any requested building alterations, or rule on neighbor disputes. Once the hill was completely developed, these committees ceased to exist and the Covenants Review Committee (“CRC”) has taken their place. Most of the Divisions have officially adopted an Amendment to their Covenants which approves the CRC's authority. This information is also included in the Covenants section of the SCA website.

Please take the time to become familiar with the Covenants that apply to your property. If you believe that a neighbor is in violation of the Covenants, please talk with them about it and try to come to some compromise and agreement. If you cannot, you may

COVENANT CORNER

then want to take the step of filing a formal complaint. However, the CRC is not a policing body. We are a committee made up of neighborhood volunteers which has the responsibility to consider and rule on formal complaints filed by homeowners. Our rulings are based on our interpretation of the Covenants which apply to each property. We attempt to consider all sides to an issue and often mediate between the parties, though that is not our responsibility. Once a CRC decision is issued, we have no authority to enforce it. The property owner may choose to use a CRC decision to negotiate with a neighbor, or to support a lawsuit, but the role of the CRC is complete at that point.

We hope that any and all disputes can be handled between the parties in an adult and calm manner. If it seems one cannot, please consider contacting the Bellevue Neighborhood Mediation Program, which is available free to all Bellevue residents (425) 452-4091.

Diane Fern, Chair
Covenant Review Committee

Somerset98006.org



HOME

SOMERSET COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

COVENANTS

GET INVOLVED

LOCAL LINKS

SOMERSET SUN

MORE...

CART (0)



SOMERSET RECREATION CENTER ROOF UPDATE

Thanks to all the wonderful donations the Somerset Rec Club received this year, the SRC board was able to plan and make nearly \$30,000 in much-needed repairs to the facility after the club closed for the season. If you have driven by the SRC over the past few weeks, you may have

SOMERSET RECREATION

noticed some activity taking place at the club and we are

pleased to let you know of two important improvements:

NEW Roof

We are pleased to let everyone know, weather permitting, the roof will be finished by mid-November. As expected, we had a few rot issues, including finding rot in 90% of the existing plywood underlayment. All of the plywood exposed beams and posts that had rot have now been replaced and everything was managed within budget! Now the inside of clubhouse is protected by a new roof and things will be dry for many years to come! In addition, the SRC will be getting new gutters and downspouts. Once this project is completed, the

contractor that installed the roof will be working with a few board members to determine if there is any roof budget remaining to do a few cosmetic eave repairs to improve the clubhouse's appearance.



Pump Room Improvements

In addition to the new roof, there were some major upgrades made to the pump room to improve the flow of pool water through the filtration system to improve water clarity. Initial testing has shown that everything is working well and the upgrades have improved circulation through the filtration system and improved the overall water clarity. We will be excited to turn on the new pump system at the beginning of next season and see how much of an impact it makes to water clarity! Questions about this project? Please contact the SRC at somersetreclub@gmail.com.

SCA ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, January 18, 2018

Forest Ridge School

Ackerly Room (south end of campus)

Doors open at 6:30pm

Please stop by and meet the incoming Board members and the new President of the SCA, Dana Knorr.

SCA COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

Greetings, Somerset neighbors and welcome to the last issue of 2017. The year has flown by!

I want to call your attention to a couple of things ...

We are excited to launch our new feature – a youth page with original content from the young people of Somerset. We hope this will inspire our 18 and under community members to submit stories, artwork, photography, poetry, interviews, recipes or whatever else they want to share.

Check out the newly updated Somerset Community Association website at www.somerset98006.org. You will find useful information and resources, digitized copies of this newsletter and an easy way to pay annual SCA dues online.

Wishing you all a very happy and healthy holiday season and a joyful new year!

Melissa Katherine Davis, Communications

Your 'Somerset Team' — Helping People On The Move!



SOLD 9/28/17—\$1,885,000
13945 SE 47th Street



SOLD 9/07/17—\$1,377,000
13900 Somerset Lane SE



SOLD 8/16/17—\$1,225,000
4740 133rd Avenue SE



SOLD 8/04/17—\$1,125,000
14130 SE 49th Place



SOLD 8/02/17—\$1,253,000
13900 SE 42nd Place



SOLD 3/24/17—\$1,530,000
4457 140th Avenue SE



where the future takes shape



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MEMBER



Defining and promoting professional excellence

We have sold 193 homes in Somerset!

Call us for expert knowledge about the market, award-winning service, and our exclusive marketing plan that gets results!

Mary & Jeff



MARY LEE & ASSOCIATES
A New Level of Service & Results

What You Need To Know About Off-Market Sales...

The Somerset market is doing very well right now, due to high demand and continued low inventory. Desperate agents are sending out 'I Have A Buyer' letters and some buyers and agents are going door-to-door trying to find off-market listings. The reason for this is that in the seller's market that we are experiencing, savvy sellers use an 'Offer-Review' strategy where the home is on the market for 5-7 days before reviewing offers. This makes sure that all interested buyers have an opportunity to see the home and make an offer. This typically results in multiple offers and a 'bidding war', which gives sellers their choice of buyers, price and terms. This is how prices are driven up and sellers can receive **significant** extra profits.

Buyers and buyer agents are looking to avoid this scenario, so they are searching for sellers who are willing to sell their home before ever putting it on the market. Thus sellers work directly with a buyer (or just a buyer's agent) and in doing so lose tens of thousands of dollars in profit because there were no competing offers and the home wasn't fully exposed to the marketplace. The fees sellers *think* they are saving by not working with a listing agent are really lost due to the lack of multiple offers and leveraging those offers to bid the price up.

We have been through many markets in our 30+ year career and a great agent will always bring **more value** than the investment a seller makes in their fee. You should hire an agent based on their track record (sales price to list price ratio), market knowledge and ability to create the **best response** from the market, which will increase your net profit.



KELLER WILLIAMS® REALTY

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SOMERSET RESIDENTS REFLECT ON HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

Compiled by Kiran Mascarenhas

The generosity and quality of the responses to this call for stories of holiday traditions, and the rich cultural diversity captured here, is characteristic of this community. School board member My-Linh Thai, though busy with election season, took time to share how for her, the holidays mean spending time with relatives, telling stories which help the kids understand their roots. "Since our daily life is so hectic," My-Linh wrote, "the extended time together is so precious. There is no gathering without food. The holidays are when we get to cook together the most. That is when the best food is served, when we are not in any hurry to make our food. Kids use this time to make hand-made gifts and cards for the elders. One of (daughter) Mira's teachers at Tyee still remembers her hand-made ornament! It wasn't anything fancy ... we find ways to think of those who impact our lives positively and be grateful for them."

Tradition binds us to communities we've lost and left behind, and to those with whom we share a common culture. As Shabri Kelkar's account of celebrating Diwali with her neighbors shows, exchanging traditions and celebrating in new ways with new people also helps forge new communities.

Then there are those who, like Ellen Weidner and Diane Fern, invent new traditions, based on what is most meaningful, and most fun, for their families. Ellen and her family resist the impulse to shop and decorate, choosing instead to spend what would have been a holiday budget on essentials for those in need. Diane and her family celebrate Hanukkah, but they also have a fun modern tradition - Escape Rooms.

This article concludes with an essay written by Josh Snow Coopersmith, now a Freshman at Duke, when he was in elementary school. His essay is about "The Perfect Christmas Tree." Josh hypothesizes that perfection isn't about the way something looks. You don't need

perfect symmetry to have perfect harmony. His essay is descriptive of the way many of us experience the holidays. Nobody's celebration is "perfect" in the sense of every hair staying in place and every cookie being the same size – but that's not what matters. What matters is the community, the memories, the love. I transcribed Josh's essay without editing it, because it is, in its own way, perfect.

Lucy Regan: For us, the holiday season starts with pumpkin carving to celebrate Halloween. The pumpkin on the right in the picture is carved by my son, Nathan.



We always have classic turkey dinner for Thanksgiving with friends and family if we are in town. We visit church on Christmas Eve for the special celebration service. Finally, the lights at the Bellevue Botanical Garden are our holiday delight.

Andrea Wohlan: In Germany, on December 5, the night before Saint Nikolaus comes to your house, kids of all ages make a real effort to clean their shoes nicely, and place them in front of their bedroom door. During the night Saint Nikolaus comes and gives out presents. But only if the child has been good. Children often pick boots to make as much space as possible for the treats, which are typically small - mostly chocolate and nuts, sometimes a few little toys. The legend is that if you haven't behaved well he will come with a rod ... that's to scare the children.



Jane Kim: My parents immigrated to the U.S. in 1971 from South Korea, so as I grew up, we did not celebrate Christmas with a tree and gifts. I was always a little envious of my friends who received many presents over the Christmas holiday. My envy was short lived, however, because on New Year's Day my family practiced the Korean tradition of sebae, during which we visited our relatives and the children paid respects to their elders. We would perform a deep bow—starting in a standing position and ending up on the floor—and say: Sae hae bok man hee ba doe say yo, which translates to: Wishing you lots of good luck. In return, relatives would wish us a happy new year with words of wisdom and encouragement, and then give us the best present ever: cold hard CASH. My husband and I continue this tradition with our children, but we also include the Christmas tree and gifts. In this photo, my girls are wearing traditional Korean dresses called hanbok.



Selma Staigt: Getting a Christmas tree, baking cookies, Christmas Eve church and annual family Christmas party are the norm for us. This year I plan to try making a Lebanese sweet called qtayif. It's a yeast-dough, fried and filled with ricotta cheese or walnuts, served with rose-water syrup. Qtayif is traditionally enjoyed for Christmas breakfast, or anytime during the Christmas season.



Ellen Weidner: We started a tradition when (daughter) Morgan was in high school to avoid the commercialization of the holidays. We take a family trip every year to Costco and buy a large



amount of food to donate to Hopelink. The money that we don't spend on gifts and commercializing the holidays we choose rather to donate to people in need in our community.

Kate Ng: During the winter holiday, my family and I love making cookies for Santa Claus. Making cookies and listening to holiday music gets us all into the holiday spirit!



Diane Fern: Our winter holiday celebrations always include travel out of state, either to California or the East Coast. They are busy and fun-filled trips as we try to fit a year's worth of "cousin-bonding" into a long weekend. One thing we have started to do as a family is visit Escape Rooms. Escape Rooms are physical adventure games where players complete a series of puzzles and riddles to solve a mystery. Our group of players ranges in age from 7 to 50 and there is always something that each age level is best suited for. (In fact, I've found those youngest eyes to be the sharpest at discovering hidden clues!) We laugh a lot as we rush around, trying to collect clues before the time runs out. There are numerous Escape Rooms



here in the Seattle area, and we highly recommend you try one out. They are great for family bonding at all levels!

Shabri Kelkar: We love sharing our Indian holidays like Diwali (festival of lights) and Holi (festival of colors) with our friends from different cultures!



Aya Ishihara: On Christmas Day we visit family in Olympia and enjoy my Grandma's roast beef dinner.



Lynn Eng-Lei: For winter celebrations we normally get together with families and friends have dinner at our home. For example we have special tradition for Chinese New Year. We give out red envelopes to kids and have special Chinese food. Special dishes include chicken, fish, long noodles, roast pork, tangerines and many sweets.



The Perfect Christmas Tree

From Josh Snow Coopersmith

Yes we were finally going to North Bend to cut down our Christmas tree, doing that is one of my all time most enjoyable things to do. We have been going to the same vast forest of Christmas trees for the last five years.

One of the really good things about it is that the people there are extremely kind to everybody and they have the best apple cider ever. Every time my family has gone there we have all gotten the apple cider with the perfect flavor and the perfect taste. I always get one of the free delicious candy canes and put it in my already good cider but the candy cane gives it a little bit of peppermint flavor which makes it ten times better. I just adore that wonderful taste.

After we drink the cider we go hunting for the perfect tree. One of the funniest things about it is that my mom is very picky about our Christmas tree she always wants it to have the "perfect shape" which in her mind means a cone with no differences in the tree at all. Well trees don't grow that way so we always have to convince her to get a tree that doesn't have the "perfect shape" but is always relatively close.

When we cut the tree down and it falls we all yell, "Timber!" Then we go home and put it up. It always looks perfect and Christmassy in our house because the walls are red and the tree is green. I hope we can do this for many more years to come.

THE TROUBLE WITH THE BUBBLES

“Soaping” the Somerset fountain has been an ongoing tradition for years among celebrating neighborhood teens. It’s easy to think of this as a “rite of passage” or a harmless prank since most of the perpetrators are not malicious — just a little ornery.

HOWEVER ... Each time soap is poured into our fountain, it costs somebody time and all of us in Somerset money to clean the water and the fountain. When soap overflows the fountain and spills into the landscaping, plants must

be replaced. If too much soap is used, the fountain itself has to be emptied and repeatedly washed, and the electronics of the fountain may be damaged resulting in expensive repairs. SO ... the next time you hear someone hatching a plan or see your son or daughter with dish soap that’s not for washing dishes at your house, please consider redirecting their youthful enthusiasm. It really is a costly “prank” for our neighborhood.

KING COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM NEWSLETTERS

King County Library System branches offer monthly e-newsletters with information about upcoming library events in the neighborhoods they serve. Interested in what’s going on at our Newport Way branch? For more information or to subscribe to a newsletter, please visit kcls.org/newsletters/.

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I'm a life-long Bellevue, Washington-area resident with over 26 years of experience with Windows® computers and networking technologies. I will come to your home for hardware or software consulting, tutoring, or other support. I have extensive home and small business experience and tremendously enjoy working with individuals or small groups. I was an instructor with a local Microsoft certification training facility for nearly two years, as well as a frequent instructor for over seven years with SeniorNet, an all-volunteer charitable organization with nearly 100 Learning Centers in 37 states, aimed at providing beginning to intermediate computer instruction to seniors. I can help you with a broad range of software and hardware issues. I really love this stuff!



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michael@lagris.com



SMART WATER METERS

Starting next year, Bellevue Utilities will update our city's outdated, manually-read water meters to a new, wireless-read technology, called Smart Water Meters. Smart Water Meters will provide you with near real-time data about your water usage.

Using a new online portal, you'll be able to manage your account, learn about your water usage patterns, identify ways to save water and save money, and have the ability to spot potential leaks quickly before they become a big problem. Customers don't have to be present for their Smart Water Meter installation. The average installation will take around 15 minutes - limiting the time you will be without water.

Smart Water Meters are the first of many new Smart Cities initiatives, which will implement citywide technologies that make use of near real-time data and integrate systems to make better use of existing data. Bellevue Utilities looks forward to sharing more exciting details about Smart Water Meters and installation in your neighborhood, coming in 2018! For more information visit bellevuewa.gov/SmartWaterMeter.

Winter Jokes

Compiled by
Jack & Claire Molinari
(age 12)

Knock, knock
Who's there?
Snow
Snow who?
Snow use. I forgot
my name again!

What did the big, furry
hat say to the warm,
wooly scarf?
"You hang around,
while I go on ahead."

What do snowmen like to do on the weekend?
Chill out

What do snowmen call their kids?
Chill-dren

YOUNG NEIGHBORS

How does a penguin
build a house?
Igloos it together.

Why don't mountains get
cold in the winter?
They wear snowcaps.

One winter, Joe and Peter built a skating rink in the middle of a field. A shepherd leading his flock decided to take a shortcut across the rink. The sheep, however, were afraid of the ice and wouldn't cross it. Desperate, the shepherd began tugging them to the other side. "Look at that," remarked Peter to Joe. "That guy is trying to pull the wool over our ice!"

What do you have in Decem-
ber that you don't have in
any other month?
The letter 'D'

What did the gingerbread man put
on his bed to keep warm at night?
A cookie sheet

Where did the
snowman hide
his money?
A snowbank



Art by Allie Chung (age 12)



Art by Allison Saw (age 14)

Recipe: **EASIEST CHOCOLATE COOKIE RECIPE EVER**
From the Kitchen of: **PETER VASILIK (age 10)**

1 package chocolate cake mix
1/2 cup vegetable oil
1/2 cup chocolate chips
2 eggs

Set oven temperature to 375°.

1. Get a big bowl and put all the ingredients in (the order doesn't matter).
2. Mix it all up, then get out two baking pans.
3. Spread aluminum foil so it completely covers each pan.
4. Roll dough into balls and place them onto foil-covered pans (3 rows of 5 cookies).
5. Bake for 12 minutes.

Enjoy!

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Contact Information

If you are 18 or under and would like to submit an item to be printed in the Sun — artwork, poetry, photography, cartoon, interview, essay, opinion piece, fiction, news article, recipe, joke, how-to instructions, etc. — please email Julie Molinari at molinari.julie@gmail.com.

'TIS THE SEASON TO CONNECT AND GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS

Hello from your SCA preparedness and neighborhood block group co-chairs!

The recent news is full of natural and human caused tragedies. We hear of a lot about hostility, aggression, bullying, harassment, violence, tragedy and generally bad

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

behavior in the world today on a human-to-human level and larger scale. Despite the profound loss and sadness, heroes have emerged in all of these tragedies with first responders and every day courageous every day people coming together to save lives and help those in need.

“Be the change that you want to see in the world”
by Mahatma Ghandi

I am a true believer that we each possess the power to create positive change in our world and impact others to make the world a better place. From an emergency preparedness and block group perspective, I invite you to connect with your neighbors.



Neighbors annually meet to socialize and share information, treats and good company.

As we take pride in our community, we make a difference when we come together for support, inclusion and commonality. We live in a community that is rich in diversity, young and old, many cultures, languages, ethnicities and more. Perhaps, instead of building walls and focusing on our differences, we can respect our individual differences and can come together in the commonality we all share as neighbors.



Bellevue firefighters visit block groups and talk about personal and fire safety

The SCA preparedness and neighborhood block groups serve a myriad of purposes:

1. Social connectivity and community building;
2. Safety and crime prevention through the formation of block watch groups; and
3. Preparedness for emergencies through SPAN, MYN and CERT* and more.

*SPAN (Strengthening Preparedness Amongst Neighbors), MYN (Mapping your Neighborhood), CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) groups.

Our SCA neighborhood preparedness and block groups come in all shapes and sizes. Neighbors have come together for a variety of purposes that continue to evolve over time. The average neighborhood block group of neighbors is comprised of roughly 15-30 homes. Some neighborhood groups within Somerset started smaller and organically grew larger or connected with adjacent neighboring groups for varying purposes.

The majority of groups have come together for primarily social purposes. However, we have blocks where neighbors have prioritized individual and family



Neighbors re-connect for a BBQ to socialize and discuss preparedness efforts as a neighborhood block group.

preparedness and/or have self-organized their block groups and may even have discussed roles and participated in emergency exercises. Even block groups that seek to maintain a primarily social purpose reap the benefits of being more prepared to weather a storm or respond or recover from an incident because they know one another.

The strength of our community can be measured by our connectivity with one another and ability to communicate, exchange information, share human and other resources and/or the potential to mobilize efforts for a shared purpose.

The SCA and the SCA preparedness committee support efforts to build community connections and encourage neighbors to connect with and help neighbors. The SCA:

1. Offers up to \$100 reimbursement for hosting and organizing SCA neighborhood block gatherings; and
2. Offers up to an additional \$100 reimbursement for organized SCA neighborhood block groups to supplement funds to build their community cache of approved safety and preparedness supplies, e.g., hardhats, gas meter multi-tools, walkie-talkies, first aid supplies, tarps, duct tape, water filters, etc.

For more information on this, to get ideas of how to get connected, help with getting started on organizing your block, ideas for hosting a get together, or becoming more involved in community building or safety and preparedness in Somerset, please contact your Preparedness Co-chairs, Angela Cheung at avcheung@msn.com or Sean Cox at sean.ozel.cox@gmail.com to start connecting and become better prepared. We are here to help!



Neighbors self-organize and help each other build emergency preparedness supplies.

BABYSITTERS IN SOMERSET

For safety reasons, please do not distribute this list beyond our community. Thank you.

Name	Grad Year	Phone
Baylee Bartels	2018	(425) 518.9839
Cooper Brandli	2022	(425) 766.8736
Maddi Brooks	2018	(425) 802.2412
Lailey Khatibloo	2018	(425) 372.8731
Kiara Prabhu	2021	(724) 565-4272
Simone Ray	2014	(425) 652.5216
Erin Stepka	2015	(206) 693.9429

2018 ADVERTISING RATES AND DUE DATES

Rates

- Business Card (3" w x 2" h): \$25 First listing free!
- Quarter Page (4" w x 5¹/₄" h): \$140
- Half Page Vertical (4" w x 10¹/₂" h): \$300
- Half Page Horizontal (8" w x 5¹/₄" h): \$450
- Full Page (8" w x 10¹/₂" h): \$550
- A 10% discount is available for Somerset residents.

2018 Deadlines

- February 2, 2018 – Spring/March SUN
- May 4, 2018 – Summer/June SUN
- August 3, 2018 – Autumn/September SUN
- November 2, 2018 – Winter/December SUN

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

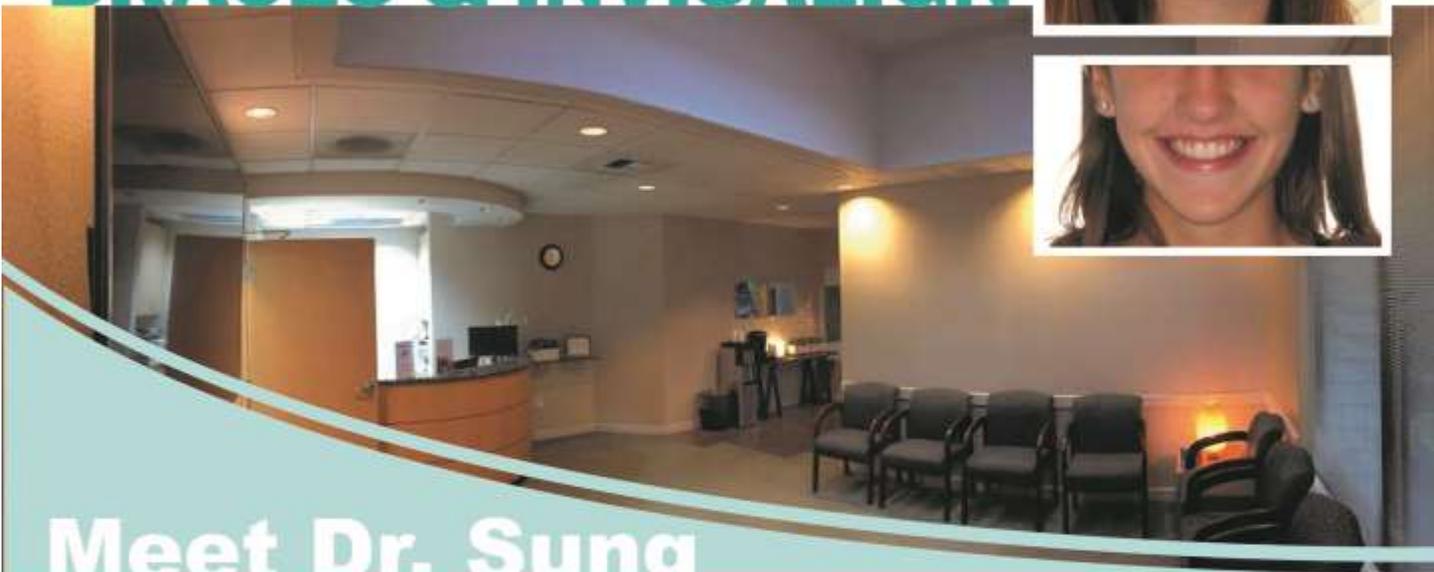
Together, we are neighbors helping neighbors.

WASHINGTON ORTHODONTICS

Dr. Jay Sung | happysmilewashington.com | 425.222.1234
Washington Orthodontics, 4140 Factoria Blvd SE, Suite 1A Bellevue, WA 98006



QUALITY OF CARE FOR **BRACES & INVISALIGN**



Meet Dr. Sung



Jay Sung, DDS MS
Board Certified Orthodontist
American Association of Orthodontics
Angle Society of Orthodontists
Invisalign Certified Orthodontist

Dr. Sung spent his early childhood growing up in Ashland, Ohio until his family moved back to South Korea where he spent most of his school years. Dr. Sung was offered a scholarship for physics after winning a national high school contest.

While working as an engineer affiliated with the military for three years, Dr. Sung frequently volunteered at a catholic medical facility located in a remote rural area of Korea. He quickly realized that his true passion lied in treating people and serving the need of the community.

After several busy years in Southern California for academics, research, and teaching dentistry and orthodontics, Dr. Sung and his family finally decided to move to this beautiful state of Washington, where he met some of the nicest people in the world. Everyday is a joy for Dr. Sung; meeting new people and making their life brighter and healthier with a beautiful smile.

Being an author of a case study in one of the most respected journals in Orthodontics, Dr.Sung is proud to be one of the doctors leading the newest technology. His exemplary treatment of a case was also published and shared with other specialists in the Pacific Coast Society of Orthodontists. As an active member of the professional society, he has presented numerous cases that he treated.

SOMERSET COMMUNITY INTEREST GROUPS

If you've been reading the Somerset Sun for a while, you've probably noticed the list of Community Interest Groups and wondered what they were all about. Here's a little info on each one, in case that's all you needed to join in!

50 and Over Singles

Kathy Judkins (425) 260.4324

Somerset's 50 and Over Singles is a group of men and women aged 50 and up who are single, widowed, or divorced and meet frequently for social gatherings and events. The 50 and Over Singles group is not about dating, but about community, fun, and social connection. The group meets in the early evenings on Mondays and Thursdays in the Factoria and Eastgate areas. On occasion, they also head out to the movies and on other social outings—four of the women in the group even shared a cabin on a cruise together. So, if you're single, aged 50+, and would like to make some new friends in the neighborhood, this is your group!

Book Club

Becky Mills (425) 223.6520

Somerset's co-ed book club usually reads more fiction than nonfiction, but that really depends on the makeup of the club, since members recommend books and then vote on what they will read. With about 13 current members, the club is always accepting more. They meet for about two hours starting at 7:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month (except December) at a member's home. Some books they'll be discussing in 2018 include *Al Franken*, *Giant of The Senate* by Al Franken, *The Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka, *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann, *Bad Feminist* by Roxane Gay, *You Don't Have to Say You Love Me* by Sherman Alexie, *Our Souls at Night* by Kent Haruf, and *The Beekeeper's Apprentice* by Laurie R. King.

Hill 'n' Dale Garden Club

Joan Waldeck (425) 747.6605

HillnDaleGardenClubBellevue@gmail.com

Having started as the Somerset Garden Club in 1956, and with a current member who joined over 50 years ago, the Hill 'n' Dale Garden Club has been helping our hilly neighborhood stay gorgeous and green for over half a century. The currently 15-member club meets at 6:30 p.m. on the first Monday of each month at Newport Library. Each meeting lasts approximately two hours, beginning with a speaker covering one of three gardening topics—horticulture, design, or conservation—and ending with some discussion and social time. Meeting info and speakers' topics are listed on the Newport Library website; all are welcome.

Somerset Moms

Sylvia Vasilik, sylvia.vasilik@gmail.com

Sylvia Vasilik created the online forum Somerset Moms about ten years ago to give moms in the neighborhood an easy way to communicate and gain quick access to their community. With about 50 current members, the forum is very active and is a terrific way to organize events and playgroups. Recent posts cover topics ranging from babysitter recommendations to free furniture listings to wild animal sightings. With great potential and large membership, Somerset Moms is a wonderful resource for all parents in our neighborhood. Contact Sylvia if you'd like to join, or if you have fresh energy and ideas on how the group might develop.

Somerset Women for Medic One

Evelyn Bateman (425) 747-7775

Somerset Women for Medic One was founded in 1974 by a group of neighborhood women in Somerset to support the newly formed Bellevue Fire Department Medic One. Made up of approximately 30 members, Somerset Women for Medic One is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that continues its support today by handling public and private donations and memorials sent to Bellevue Medic One, as well as hosting fundraisers and private events. The group meets six times a year, plus two-to-three times for social events, and always welcomes new members who would like to support Bellevue Fire Department Medic One.

Somerset Adult Choir

Sonia Tanielian (425) 641-5824,

IMBgonia@comcast.net

This is a laid-back group of singers who are currently working on Christmas carols and who plan to perform at nursing homes and wherever a "just for fun" choir is welcome. Most of the songs will be older musicals and pop. The choir meet on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in lower Somerset (Horizon Highlands). Currently, we could use a few more sopranos, as well as tenors, basses and/or baritones. Sound like fun? If you can sing in tune, please call or email Sonia. You do not need to be able to read music but would, however, need to be able to learn your part if it's not the melody. Hope to hear from you!



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WINTER CONTAINER GARDENS

Winter is a perfect time to consider adding brightness to your home with a colorful container garden. They can perk up a bleak winter landscape. I enjoy having one on my porch by the front door. To find appropriate plants at nurseries, look for winter-hardy plants. To add interest to your container, look for plants with a contrasting range of textures, colors, heights and forms, such as grasses, euphorbias and heucheras, and small shrubs like nandina and conifers. Hellebores are a good addition, as they have very attractive leaves and flowers. In December, these perennials begin to bloom and continue well into early spring, depending on the variety. Cyclamen and winter pansies can add a splash of color to a container. I have found that some varieties of cyclamen are hardier than others. It is best to check the plant tag for hardiness information.



Tips for keeping your containers looking good throughout the winter.

Soil: Use a good potting soil. Drainage is important for plants that will be under the assault of heavy rain. Fill the entire pot with the potting soil rather than adding gravel or bits of broken pots to the bottom. They could hamper proper drainage. A paper coffee filter over the drainage hole will help prevent the loss of soil.

Containers: It is best to use a large container at least 12-18 inches tall and 18 inches across. You will be able to include more plants and also the room will help protect roots from the cold. Set containers on planter feet or bricks rather than on saucers, so that they will adequately drain.

Hardiness concerns: If temperatures drop into the 20s, shelter the container in a garage or cover it to protect from freezing. There are a variety of frost protection fabrics available to cover pots during extreme weather.