



# SOMERSET SUN

Neighborhood news from the Somerset Community Association

Spring 2019

**SRC MEMBERSHIP AND NEWS**

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*Neighbors Helping Neighbors*

[www.Somerset98006.org](http://www.Somerset98006.org)

# SOMERSET COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 for each year are chosen following election to the Board. If you are interested in possibly filling the vacancy we have on the Board, or aren't sure who to contact with a question, please see our website or send an email to [somerset98006@gmail.com](mailto:somerset98006@gmail.com).

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## 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 Moms	Sylvia Vasilik	sylvia.vasilik@gmail.com
Somerset Women for Medic One	Evelyn Bateman	(425) 747.7775
Somerset Woods	Aileen Wu	(206) 890.1717

## 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](mailto:somerset98006@gmail.com).



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# HELLO NEIGHBORS,

I hope you all have weathered our surprise “snowmageddon” in February and are looking forward to a lovely spring. The Somerset Community Association is excited to begin 2019 with a fantastic board of directors. Our returning members will be joined by Bozhong Lin and Marilyn Hancock, who were elected at our annual meeting on January 17th. Around 40 neighbors attended the meeting at Forest Ridge, helping us to review the past year’s activities and plan for 2019. Our proposed budget was approved, which includes an increase in landscaping maintenance services, and donations to CENSE and the Somerset Rec Club. Our plans this year include studying the demographics of our membership, improving communication through social media, and investigating alternate methods of distributing information. We still have one vacancy on the board, and many committee positions available, so if you are interested in getting involved (even just occasionally), please contact me or any of the other board members.

You all should have received an invoice for your 2019 membership dues – thank you to those who have paid so far. If you’ve misplaced the invoice, a duplicate is included in this newsletter for your use. Or, you could pay by credit card on our website – [somerset98006.org](http://somerset98006.org) (this will include an additional \$5 fee to cover the costs we are charged for this convenient service). Last year, we had just over half of the Somerset households join our community association, and I think we can do better. All Somerset homeowners benefit from the services the SCA provides – landscape maintenance of our common areas, and support to maintain our Covenant-protected views, both of which help to maintain the high values of our properties. Please join as soon as you can.

We welcome your input and feedback, so email or call to share your ideas with us. Whatever your talents or time you have available, there’s a place for you in the SCA. We invite you and your family to get involved. It’s a wonderful way to get to know your neighbors and experience a real sense of pride and belonging in this wonderful neighborhood.

All the best for a great 2019 from me and the Board!

Diane Fern  
SCA President

## SCA PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

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Tanya Franzen-Garrett  
[Tanya@Sound-Properties.com](mailto:Tanya@Sound-Properties.com)  
206-226-3723



## Francine Wiest Appointed to School Board

The Bellevue School District and School Board of Directors recently announced that Dr. Francine Wiest has accepted an appointment to the position of School Board Director for District Area 5. She fills the board position vacated by My-Linh Thai.

# BELLEVUE SCHOOL DISTRICT UPDATE



Dr. Wiest brings extensive involvement in the BSD to the Board. She is active in the PTSA, including having served as president at Somerset Elementary, as well as starting and chairing numerous committees across several schools. Her efforts have been recognized with a PTA Golden Acorn and two Outstanding Advocate awards. She has also

served on two school district committees: Strategic Planning and the Gifted Advisory Committee, and has created a partnership between the City of Bellevue Neighborhood Enhancement Project and the BSD to install additional elementary school playground equipment.

Eight applications were submitted for the vacancy. "We were fortunate to have an exceptional group of candidates who were all passionate about serving each and every student in our community," Board President Christine Chew said. "With multiple candidates so well qualified to fill the position, it was a very difficult choice to make. We believe with Dr. Wiest's demonstrated commitment to our school community that she will serve our students, staff, and families well." Dr. Wiest was to be sworn in at the February 12th board meeting.

Dr. Wiest and her family have lived in Somerset for 15 years. We are so fortunate to once again have our neighborhood represented on the School Board and to have such involved representatives in our community – thank you, Francine!

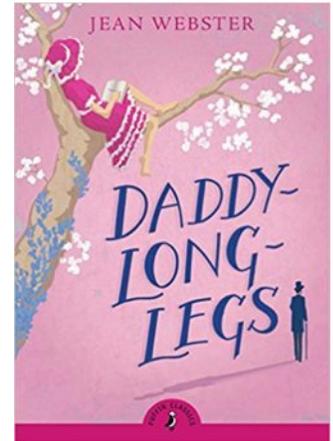


## GOODREADS

### Daddy-Long-Legs

by Jean Webster (192 pages)

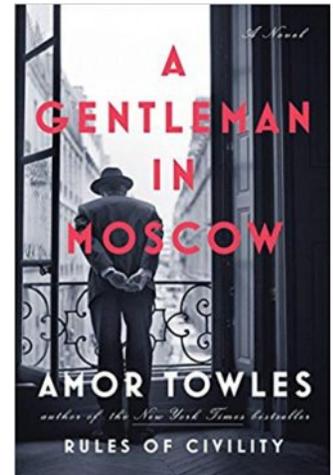
Originally published in 1912, this timeless classic tells the story of an orphaned girl named Judy Abbott and an unknown, unseen benefactor who sends her to college and whom she refers to as "Daddy-Long-Legs". Told through Judy's letters to her benefactor and illustrated by her own quaint drawings, *Daddy-Long-Legs* pre-dated the contemporary view of adolescence and was unusual for its time. While the book's themes reflect the author's interests in social work and women's suffrage, it is also a profound and tender homage to the power of awakening love. Probably one of my favorite reads in 2018!



### A Gentleman in Moscow

by Amor Towles (468 pages)

*A Gentleman in Moscow* immerses us in another elegantly drawn era with the story of Count Alexander Rostov. When, in 1922, he is deemed an unrepentant aristocrat by a Bolshevik tribunal, the count is sentenced to house arrest in the Metropol, a grand hotel across the street from the Kremlin. Rostov, an indomitable man of erudition and wit, has never worked a day in his life, and must now live in an attic room while some of the most tumultuous decades in Russian history are unfolding outside the hotel's doors. Unexpectedly, his reduced circumstances provide him a doorway into a much larger world of emotional discovery.



Profound, humorous and heartwarming.

I welcome your "Good Reads" too. Email them to me at [edwardsbd517@gmail.com](mailto:edwardsbd517@gmail.com)

Bev Edwards  
Somerset Resident

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## By Council Member Conrad Lee

### The American Creed and Civic Engagement

Creed is defined in Webster’s Dictionary as “a set of fundamental beliefs; a guiding principle.”

## COUNCIL CORNER

Our nation’s citizens have never been more polarized. As reflected by our political parties and the politicians whom we elect to govern, our government is dysfunctional because those in power and responsible to govern cannot work together to solve our problems: witness our recent Federal government shutdown. The Right does not agree with the Left; the Blue hates the Red. Everyone has a label. Everyone talks at each other but not with each other. It has become “me, me” instead of “us, us”. We are divided.

The situation has worsened as this country and its citizens have become more global and our culture and values more universal. Our children are no longer learning civics in school and they are not taught to think critically about problem solving. Affluence and technology have made life easy and values blurred. Whether with the help of parents, society or government, we have a ready crutch to lean on. When there is a problem, someone else will take care of it.

It was not like this before. When I came to this country sixty years ago, I had to struggle to get a college degree, worked hard to get a job and lived responsibly to become a U.S. citizen. It took over a dozen years. It did not come easy. It came with a purpose, and took strong motivation. It happened because of my belief in the American Creed – the set of fundamental beliefs and principles that makes America the “shining city on the hill” for the rest of the world. We were all pulling together, helping one another to achieve everybody’s dream - the American Dream.

Unfortunately, the increasing noises, squabbles and fights have dimmed these beliefs and principles. Common purpose is drowned out by self-interest, and the American Creed is lost on our kids and citizens. Our elected representatives are not working together to solve our problems. New immigrants coming in unprecedented numbers are not finding the “beacon on the hill” they are seeking. Instead, they find divisiveness and confusion which have become the order of the day. These immigrants do not know what fundamental beliefs and guiding principles they should live by. With the ever-increasing multi-cultural population coming to this country, to our region, to our city, this is a big concern. How can we tackle and manage the challenges we face in order to preserve our quality of life if we cannot work together?

The prospect is grim. If we cannot solve our problems, and our well-being threatened, we will be looking for scapegoats. The easiest targets are the immigrants. They are the most vulnerable because they are the last to learn and practice the American Way.

Bellevue is becoming very diverse and multi-cultural, largely from immigration. As of 2015, 39% of our population was born in a foreign country, 42% spoke a language other than English at home, and 50% was of a minority race or ethnicity. Asians comprised over 34% of the city’s population. The rate of increase is startling, with foreign-born population rising 20% since 1990. We are in the thick of this pending identity crisis.

That’s why this is our most important and immediate challenge – to engage, teach and educate ourselves, our kids and our neighbors (especially the new immigrants) about our American Creed. We are facing many challenges that we must work together, using the fundamental beliefs, guiding principles and common goals, to solve.

Note: please see [www.pathwayus.org](http://www.pathwayus.org) if you are interested in learning more about the American Creed and Civic Engagement.

*Born in China, Conrad grew up in Hong Kong and has lived in Bellevue since 1967. He and his wife Winnie live in Somerset where they raised their two children, Christopher and Jennifer. He can be reached at [clee@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:clee@bellevuewa.gov).*



## SOMERSET ELEMENTARY PTSA AUCTION

Hope you all have your tickets to the Somerset Elementary School PTSA 2019 Auction! All are invited to a child-free evening of fun, fantastic food, and fundraising benefiting Somerset Elementary School and the Superstars! **Saturday, March 23rd, 2019**, at the Bellevue Hilton, check-in beginning at 5:30 pm, and ticket price \$85 per person. For registration or to see if tickets are still available, please visit [somersetptsa.org](http://somersetptsa.org).



**Rhona Lord**  
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# 2019 SUMMER SEASON REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Everyone is welcome to join the SRC – you do not have to live in Somerset to join – so please refer friends who live in neighboring communities. Beat the rush! Only 225 memberships available. Sign up today!



Sign up at [www.somersetrec.org](http://www.somersetrec.org) for summer memberships, summer swim team (great for kids 7-18) or Sharkies, our pre-swim team program for kids ages 5-7 or group summer swim lessons.

The Somerset Rec Club features a 4-lane outdoor, heated swimming pool, summer swim team, summer swim lessons, toddler pool, as well as fun social events for the whole family, including pizza/bingo nights, outdoor movies, etc. Poolside decks and grills available to members to enjoy the amazing views.

And make sure to like us on FaceBook [www.facebook.com/somersetrecclub/](http://www.facebook.com/somersetrecclub/) to keep updated on SRC news!

## Mark Your Calendar:

### SRC Opening Day

**Saturday May 11, 2019 1 - 4:00pm**

Join Somerset Rec Club for its annual Open House and Opening Day of the Pool! Everyone is welcome to join in the opening day festivities so bring your swim suit, come check out our 4-lane outdoor pool and enjoy the amazing views from the pool deck. Also enjoy FREE hamburgers while supplies last. Come and learn about SRC summer membership, summer swim team, swim lessons and our pre-swim team called Sharkies designed for 5-7 year old as well as our summer tennis and summer social programs. See you there!

### Pre-season Maintenance Work Parties for Returning Members

Returning Members can choose to attend a maintenance work party to reduce the cost of membership. No need to RSVP, just show up (except for the 4/13 date). Questions? Call Jim at (206) 601-3492.

- Saturday 4/13, 9am - 1pm: *RSVP required/4 people only; must bring own pressure washer*
- Saturday 4/20, 9am - 1pm
- Saturday 4/28, 9am - 1pm

## Important Dates

**February 1** – SRC 2019 Summer Membership & Summer Group Swim Team Registration Opens

**Mid-February** – Swim Team and Sharkies Registration Opens\* (Sharkies: pre-swim team program for kids ages 5-7. Only 20 available spots. Sign up early!)  
\*SRC membership required for swim team and sharkies program

**Saturday April 13** – SRC Maintenance Work Party #1

**Saturday April 20** – SRC Maintenance Work Party #2

**Sunday April 28** – SRC Maintenance Work Party #3

**Saturday May 11** – SRC Opening Day 1 - 4pm

**Monday May 13** – Swim Team Assessments (for all new swimmers and previous Sharkies)

**Tuesday May 14** – 1st Day of Summer Swim Team Afternoon Practices Begin

**Tuesday May 28** – Last Day to Register for Summer Swim Team and Sharkies

**Monday June 24** - Summer Group Swim Lessons Begin  
Two week swim lesson sessions start June 24

**Saturday July 13** – Annual Dinner & Auction at SRC  
Early pool closure at 4pm

## Social Events

As always we will have lots of fun social events planned for all age groups in the upcoming 2019 season such as Movie Nights, Pizza & Bingo, and more! Do you have an idea for a new social event for our members? Run it past our Social Coordinator, Emilie Castle, at [emiliecastle@gmail.com](mailto:emiliecastle@gmail.com).

## Future Club Updates

During the next few months and once final costs for the upper deck renovation are in, the SRC board will review survey feedback to determine what additional enhancements can be made to the club before we open for the Summer 2019 season. Stay tuned for updates in future news.



# Aquatics

## Summer Swim Team:

Registration for our Summer Swim Team Division II Somerset Stingrays will start mid-February. Deadline for registration is May 28, 2019.

## Swim Team - Ages 7-18

The Somerset Stingrays team looks forward to another competitive, yet fun, season for boys and girls ages 7-18. The SRC summer swim team is a spirited, family-based swim team committed to providing a well-rounded swim experience balancing community, sportsmanship, and overall enjoyment with high quality instruction, individual skill development, and a competitive team-oriented environment. So if you have a 7-18 interested in summer swim team, keep an eye out on our Facebook page for updates for when registration for swim team starts. SRC membership required to participate in Somerset Stingrays. Find out more at [www.somersetrec.org/swimteam](http://www.somersetrec.org/swimteam)



**Important Swim Team Dates**

- May 13** – Swim Team Assessments (for all new swimmers and previous Sharkies)
- May 14** – 1st Day of Summer Swim Team: afternoon practices begin
- May 28** – Last day to register for Summer Swim Team and Sharkies (league rules)
- June 18** – 1st swim meet
- July 20** – B Champs
- July 28** – A Champs

## Sharkies Pre-Swim Team - Ages 5-7

If you have kids ages 5-7 who aren't quite ready for summer swim team, checkout our Sharkies Program! Sharkies is a fun program designed specifically for boys and girls ages 5-7 to introduce them to the SRC Stingrays, our fantastic summer swim team. Registration opens mid-February and we only take 20 Sharkies, so make sure to register early! Last year we had to turn people away due to high demand. Keep a look out on our FB page for updates for when registration opens. Registration cut off for Sharkies is May 28. SRC membership and coach assessment required to participate in Sharkies. Learn more about the program at: [www.somersetrec.org/sharkies](http://www.somersetrec.org/sharkies)

For the full schedule of swim team dates including practice times and swim meets please check out check the Aquatics section at [www.somersetrec.org](http://www.somersetrec.org)

Questions about Swim Team or Sharkies? Please contact our Swim Team Coordinators with any team questions: Shannon Gregory-Lowe and Megan Reed [SRCswimteam@gmail.com](mailto:SRCswimteam@gmail.com).



## Summer Group Swim Lessons at SRC:

The 2019 Summer Group Swim lesson schedule is now posted at [www.somersetrec.org](http://www.somersetrec.org) Lessons begin the week of June 24 - sign up for your preferred dates now as spots are limited! Ideal for children ages 5-12.

Group lessons are on weekdays for 30 minutes. Kids will be grouped according to ability and SRC ratio of coach to student is very low for new swimmers and goes up slightly as kids become water safe. For more information check out: [www.somersetrec.org/swimlessons](http://www.somersetrec.org/swimlessons)

## 2019 Group Swim Lesson Schedule and Costs

Week	Dates	Times	Cost
Weeks 1 & 2:	June 24th–July 5th (10 classes)	12–12:30pm / 12:30–1pm	Member: \$150 Nonmember: \$200
Weeks 3 & 4:	July 8th–July 19th (10 classes)	12–12:30pm / 12:30–1pm	Member: \$150 Nonmember: \$200
Weeks 5 & 6:	July 22nd–Aug 2nd (10 classes)	12–12:30pm / 12:30–1pm	Member: \$150 Nonmember: \$200



# REAL ESTATE MARKET UPDATE



### Active Listings

3	Homes Currently For Sale
2,573	Average Square Feet
55	Average Days of Market
\$1,356,667	Average List Price

### Pending Listings

0	Current Pending Sales
0	Average Sq Ft
0	Average Days on Market before going under contract
\$0	Average List Price when home went under contract

~ Provided by Tanya Franzen-Garrett  
 Sound Properties Team  
 Marketplace Sotheby's International Realty  
 206-226-3723  
[Tanya@Sound-Properties.com](mailto:Tanya@Sound-Properties.com)

### Sold

6	Closed Sales within last 90 days
3,010	Average Sq Ft
53	Average Days on Market
\$1,144,481	Average Final Sales price **
96.42%	Average % of sale price / list price
3	# of homes hold over \$1M
50%	of Homes that sold over \$1M

### Cash Sales

1	Homes Purchased with Cash
17%	of total sales purchased with cash
\$951,000	Average Cash Sale **

\* Data based on NWMLS 90 Day Reports Dated 02/01/19\*



## PLANNING TO REMODEL?

## ADDING A DECK?

## PAINTING YOUR HOME?

Contact the SCA Covenant Review Committee **before** you begin.

We can help!

[www.somerset98006.org/contactus](http://www.somerset98006.org/contactus)

## SOMERSET SUN ADVERTISING DEADLINES:

May 3, 2019 (for Summer Issue)  
 August 2, 2019 (for Fall Issue)  
 November 1, 2019 (for Winter Issue)

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

Business Card (3"w x 2"h)	\$25
Quarter Page (4"w x 5½"h)	\$140
Half Page Horizontal (8"w x 5¼"h)	\$300
Half Page Vertical (4"w x 10½"h)	\$300
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.*

# IT TAKES A VILLAGE: ROTARY CLUB ADOPTION PARTIES

By Kiran Mascarenhas

Every year, at Woodridge Elementary school, the Bellevue Breakfast Rotary Club hosts adoption parties. There, amid the board games, foosball, scavenger hunts, and crafts, children from the foster care system meet with prospective adoptive families in a low-pressure environment. Because they're having fun, the kids, especially younger ones, are relaxed and able to simply be themselves.



This October will mark the 12th year of the event. Tanya Franzen-Garrett, a Somerset mom and Rotarian, was drawn to this cause because she and her husband raised their niece, Kendra, from the age of 7. Kendra is now 28 and soon to be a mom herself. They both know firsthand the extent to which BOTH of their lives were made better, together.

When Tanya volunteered at the annual adoption party for the first time six years ago, the first child who came in was an 18-month-old baby. A little while later a five-year-old ran in and began to play with the baby. Tanya realized they were siblings, who were being fostered in different families. Their nine-year-old sister then joined them. The three siblings were meeting after being separated for months and the party was an opportunity to play together and hopefully be adopted by the same prospective family.

We don't know what happened to these three children; for privacy reasons, details of adoptions are not always disclosed to volunteers. The statistics look great though: at each party, around 70% of the children are adopted. But there are also those kids who come back year after year, and that, Tanya says, is heartbreaking.



One year, a lesbian couple hoping to adopt a young child had to wait their turn, as the child they were interested in was interacting with a different family. While they were waiting, they struck up a conversation with an African-American boy in his teens. It soon became clear that they were talking to their son. They wanted to be his family and give him a good education. They got some help with that: their adoptive son went on to win a basketball scholarship and helped put himself through college. All he needed was a little support. The beauty of these parties, Tanya says, is that families come with an idea in mind of what their ideal family would look like, but they're often surprised by the connection they feel with the child who is meant to be theirs.

The adoption parties are one of the most effective events hosted by the Rotary Club, because at a relatively low cost they have a huge impact. These are also among the best-attended events, because even people who have no personal experience with adoption or fostering tend to want to help children. This is a local cause in which people can make a difference with a simple donation of time. Volunteering at the adoption parties, Tanya says, is a very gratifying experience.

There are opportunities to volunteer for anyone who clears a background check. Another way to help is by donating items, like prizes for the scavenger hunt, or items for goodie bags. At the end of each party, the kids get goodie bags with hats, blankets, toiletries, stuffed animals and so forth; little things that they can take from foster home to foster home until they find their forever families.

For more information on adoption parties and what you can do to help, contact Tanya Franzen-Garrett at [tanya@sound-properties.com](mailto:tanya@sound-properties.com).



# LANDSCAPING UPDATE

This winter was feeling warmer and sunnier than usual, but then Somerset received between a 1-2 feet of snow in February! It was great to go on walks, enjoy the beautiful snow all over our trees, and see folks sledding at Somerset Elementary School and on our hills. We hope that the weather will be back to normal in March and that our plants and trees survived the cold weather and are starting to grow and blossom. Prior to the snow, our main entrance was looking great, thanks to Carol Robl, Kathy Judkins, and others for planting daffodils/tulips in the center fountain area – they will be beautiful this spring. Our holiday lights were up through January, and will be removed and reinstalled later this year for next winter. Our dedicated and longstanding Somerset Landscape Maintenance Team Gary Albert and Kenn Gennari helped with the lighting, as well as picking up storm tree debris. Our Somerset Boulevard entrance irrigation/planting areas have all been restored after the 2018 events.

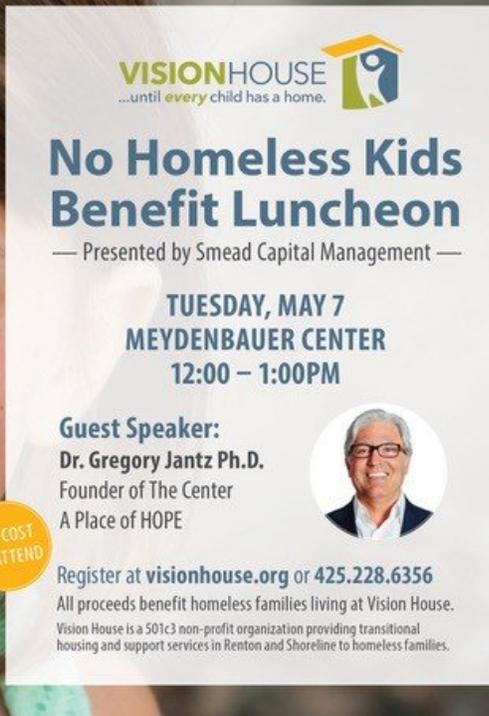
In January we hired a new contractor, Dawn 'till Dusk Landscapes, owned by Tom Copestake, (425) 736-8028 or email [dawntilldusklandscapes@gmail.com](mailto:dawntilldusklandscapes@gmail.com), who will be maintaining our entrances, other planted areas, and managing the irrigation systems. This firm has extensive experience in our area and they are currently helping many residents in Somerset and Newcastle. Tom has already started to service our areas and recently weeded and removed debris that fell during the winter storms. He also removed snow on many of our plants and trees in all of our areas.

The first day of spring is March 20th, and as the days continue to lengthen it will be a perfect time to start trimming your plants and trees. It's a great idea to start planting bulbs and perennials to bring color to your yard early this year. There are numerous stores (McLendon's, Home Depot, Lowe's) that are already selling flowering plants including roses, primroses, violets, lilies, etc. When you buy new plants, please select plants that are local, drought resistant, and have colorful flowers. Later in the spring planting rhododendrons, azaleas, lavender, heather, and dogwood, cherry, plum or apple trees are good choices for this region. (Buy a dwarf variety or check the SCA website for a list of plants that will stay "view friendly.") It is also a great time to start pulling weeds and adding bark, since this helps eliminate the use of herbicides (weed killers). Also, please reduce the use of pesticides, since they can kill bees and birds too.

We would like to encourage you all to volunteer at one of the region's annual Earth Day events (April 20-22). If you are a member of the Somerset Recreation Club or just want to help as an Earth Day Volunteer, they have their annual work parties in April in preparation for their opening in May. The Somerset Community Association is committed to everyone in our community and works to preserve, protect, and enhance our environment. I hope all of you and your families will try to maintain your yards, retain trees, and make our neighborhood look great this spring.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [suesander10@hotmail.com](mailto:suesander10@hotmail.com). Enjoy the spring and remember to always be green! Thank you!

Sue Sander  
*Landscape Chair*



**VISIONHOUSE**  
...until every child has a home.

## No Homeless Kids Benefit Luncheon

— Presented by Smead Capital Management —

**TUESDAY, MAY 7**  
**MEYDENBAUER CENTER**  
**12:00 – 1:00PM**

**Guest Speaker:**  
**Dr. Gregory Jantz Ph.D.**  
Founder of The Center  
A Place of HOPE



**Register at [visionhouse.org](http://visionhouse.org) or 425.228.6356**

All proceeds benefit homeless families living at Vision House.  
Vision House is a 501c3 non-profit organization providing transitional housing and support services in Renton and Shoreline to homeless families.

**NO COST TO ATTEND**



# Ann Pierson Understands Somerset



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- 
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# GREENER LIVING AND CLEANING

The City of Bellevue Utilities Department website provides information and services to help all of us have safer and healthier homes. The following is a list of healthy housekeeping methods to help reduce the use of hazardous cleaners in your home:

1. **Read the label** before you buy. Buy and use the least hazardous product that does the job. Avoid products labeled DANGER or POISON. Clean efficiently using common, less-hazardous, and inexpensive products.
2. **Never mix** household cleaners. Do not mix bleach with other cleaners or soaps, especially ammonia products. These mixtures create hazardous gases.
3. **Reduce** your use of germ-killing cleaners. The overuse of antibacterial or antimicrobial products may create resistant germs. Simple soap and water are effective. Find more tips from the Washington Toxics Coalition at [www.watoxics.org](http://www.watoxics.org).
4. Choose a product with little or **no scent** and avoid aerosols. Perfume chemicals may be irritants for children and people with respiratory ailments or sensitive skin. Aerosol overspray may contain propellants or solvents. Typically, pump sprayers or wipe-on liquids use less product.
5. **Avoid air fresheners** and fabric softeners. These products add particles and perfume chemicals to indoor and outdoor air, which may trigger asthma and skin ailments.
6. **Open windows** occasionally to air out your home with a fresh breeze. Outdoor air is cleaner than indoor air. We spend almost all our time indoors where air is almost 100 times more polluted from gases and particles than outside.

7. **Cleaning Products** - The City of Bellevue website also recommends trying to use cleaning solutions that can be produced at home that will clean, shine, polish, and unclog your toilet/pipes in a "safe and healthy way." Here are a couple of cleaners and sprays that you can produce at home:

### Ant/Bug Spray for Plants

Put 1-2 tsp of peppermint-scented castile soap in a spray bottle that is filled with water. After you add the soap into the bottle, shake and then spray directly on the bugs that are on your plants.

**Sink, Shower & Tub Cleaner** - Sprinkle baking soda on porcelain fixtures and rub with a moist cloth. Add castile soap to the cloth for more cleaning power and rinse well.

**All-Purpose Cleaner** - add a drop of castile liquid soap to a wet cloth and rub spot briskly. Rinse with plain water.

These were just a few of the "Green Cleaning" recipes that can be obtained through the Greener Living Classes which have been offered through the City of Bellevue. Please contact them at [recycle@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:recycle@bellevuewa.gov) or call (425) 452-6932 to find out about future programs. We hope that you can start to be greener every day!



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Childcare  
you can trust  
like family

Contact Local Childcare  
Consultant, **Andrea Wohlan**  
Phone: **(425) 943-1831**  
Website: **chooseaupair.com**

Cultural Care  
Au Pair

# HIGH QUALITY CHILDCARE WITH AN AU PAIR

by Andrea Wohlan, Somerset Resident & Childcare Consultant



Andrea and her family

We all know finding childcare can sometimes be tricky. As parents, we want a high-quality solution we can trust that also provides flexibility and enrichment. Local Childcare Consultant (LCC) and au pair expert Andrea

Wohlan says hosting an au pair is a childcare option that hundreds of thousands of American families have been turning to for the past 30 years. We'll let Andrea tell you about au pairs:

An au pair is a young adult between the ages of 18-26 from another country who lives with an American family for up to two years on a J-1 visa as part of a cultural exchange. The au pair provides childcare while learning about American culture, and truly becomes a part of the family. The program is overseen by the Department of State, meaning there are regulations in place designed to protect both families and au pairs during the exchange year.

The au pair program also allows for more flexibility than most childcare options. An au pair can provide up to 45 hours per week of childcare on a schedule you decide, including early morning, evening and some weekend coverage. Au pairs can also care for your children when they are sick, out of school on snow days, on teacher days or during school vacations. Because an au pair lives with you as a member of your family, mutual trust forms faster than with a daycare provider or live-out nanny. After an initial period of adjustment, host parents describe feeling a deep sense of comfort knowing their

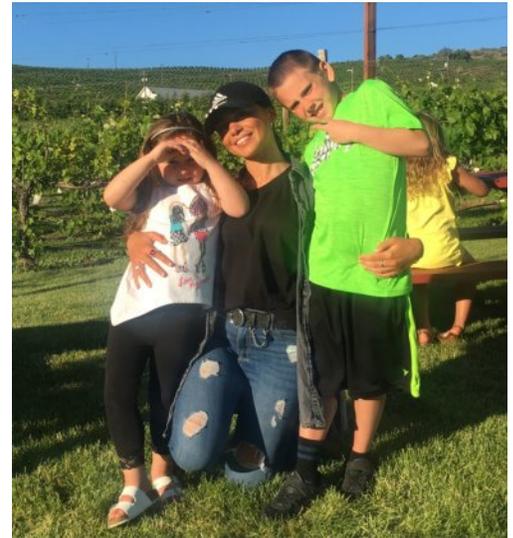


Au Pair Sofia with her host family

children are cared for in their own home by someone who knows their children and their routines so well. Au pairs can expose your entire family to their language and culture, and help children gain a renewed appreciation for their own environment and a desire to see more of the world.

We have a wonderful group of au pairs here in Somerset and surrounding neighborhoods from countries around the world—Thailand, Italy, Brazil, Germany, Colombia, and Sweden, just to name a few. Au pair Claudia from Italy shared her perspective on living in Bellevue: “I am so glad and blessed I had the opportunity to live in this beautiful state for 15 months.

Being an au pair here is really exciting—you get the opportunity to be outdoorsy and explore this beautiful evergreen state, while at the same time being so close to the magical Seattle, which I really love.



Au Pair Claudia and her kids

After 15 months here I can say that this au pair experience changed me. Discovering new places, sharing my culture with my host family, and making new friends from all over the world has been a great experience.”

I have lived in Bellevue (Somerset) for over 8 years after moving here from Germany for my husband's work. We were expats for 4 years and then decided to raise our 3 children here. I grew up in a diverse family (father German, mother Indonesian) and in 1992, I participated in a similar cultural exchange where I lived with a family in England and helped with their children for 3 months, so I can relate to the au pairs as well as to the host families!

I have been an LCC for Cultural Care au pair for the past 3 years and I love living in the community where I provide support to host families and au pairs. Not only am I there to support local host families, but I also serve as a mentor to all the local au pairs throughout the year. Cultural Care is the largest of the 15 designated au pair agencies in the USA, and one of the reasons we are the industry leader is because we support families and au pairs every step of the way.

If you are interested in learning more about hosting an au pair, please visit [www.choosauPAIR.com](http://www.choosauPAIR.com) or [www.culturalcare.com/awohlan](http://www.culturalcare.com/awohlan) or contact Andrea Wohlan at (425) 943-1831.



# REFLECTIONS LANDSCAPE & CONSTRUCTION

Creating homes reflective of our Somerset clients' dreams



“ 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 result exceeds our highest expectations. We enjoy chats around the fire, and kids love roasting marshmallows. Working with Jeff has been a pleasure as well as a great investment in our home.

*Don & Ruth Marsh*



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[jeff@reflectionslandscaping.com](mailto:jeff@reflectionslandscaping.com)

# ENERGIZE EASTSIDE: FINAL HEARING!

Five years have passed since Puget Sound Energy announced the "Energize Eastside" power line upgrade that threatens to blight our beautiful neighborhood with taller poles, thicker wires, and the destruction of many trees.

On March 28, the City of Bellevue will hold the **final public hearing on PSE's application** for part of the project that passes through south Bellevue. Your comments, written or oral, can influence the Hearing Examiner's decision to approve or reject PSE's permit, and will become part of the permanent record for future appeals and court cases. Go to [cense.org/comment](http://cense.org/comment) for some tips on effective comments and how to submit them online.

## Bellevue Public Hearing for Energize Eastside

March 28, 2019, 6 – 10:00pm  
Bellevue City Hall 450 110th Ave NE, Bellevue  
(to receive late-breaking news sign up at [cense.org/newsletter](http://cense.org/newsletter))

**Please come to the hearing, and bring your friends and family!** Even if you don't speak, robust attendance will demonstrate how much we care about our neighborhoods and smart energy for our future. (There is no need to wear orange this time.)

## CENSE Asks For Delay

Because PSE has not yet applied for a permit to build the northern Bellevue segment, CENSE has asked the hearing examiner to delay the hearing until all Bellevue construction permits have been submitted.

As the Somerset Sun goes to press, CENSE doesn't know if our request for delay will be granted. If it is, the public hearing could be delayed for many months. For the latest updates, sign up for the CENSE email newsletter at [cense.org/newsletter](http://cense.org/newsletter).

## The CENSE Argument

Here's a quick recap of the CENSE case against Energize Eastside.

First, the project is not necessary. Even though the Eastside is growing quickly, consumption of electricity is not. Efficient

## CENSE UPDATE

devices and LED lightbulbs are saving electricity even faster than the population is growing. PSE relies on an outdated forecast that has been disproven during the past five years.

Second, technology has improved dramatically during the past five years. Many US utilities are using batteries and other smart solutions to avoid building more transmission lines. These technologies reduce carbon emissions and benefit the environment.

Third, PSE tries to justify the project using a worst-case scenario that can't actually happen. The company is using the fear of hypothetical blackouts to justify an expensive solution and raise our electricity rates. With Energize Eastside, the company would earn a billion dollars of extra revenue in coming decades through higher energy prices. Yes, that's BILLION with a B!

Finally, besides pinching our wallets and destroying thousands of trees, the project increases risk of a catastrophic fire due to the proximity of high-pressure petroleum pipelines. An accident could destroy homes and innocent lives. A fire close to a school like Tye Middle School or Chestnut Hill Academy would be a national tragedy.

CENSE uses your donations to engage an attorney and experts who will show that the project is not needed and there are better energy solutions for our community and future generations.

*"Lynn is Professional, Personable, Likeable, and a good Listener. An agent who swiftly initiates detailed state-required documents, keeps abreast of market changes, and helps sellers determine a fair price. She is quick to do follow-ups, obtaining feedback from all visitors and other agents. Quick to prepare a Home Sale Success Plan outlining both pre- and post-sale work to be done, if any. She communicates daily and provides referrals to professional home-improvement contractors (negotiating for immediate, satisfactory work at a reasonable cost). Evaluates all financial offers to identify best ones. Negotiates seller-favorable contract changes at closing. Works to expedite completion of all paperwork. Pitches in to help one maintain the home after owners move out. The bottom line: Lynn Eng-Lei's Experience SELLS!" – Morris and Sharon H.*

206.234.5966 | [lynne@johnlscott.com](mailto:lynne@johnlscott.com) | [www.lynne.johnlscott.com](http://www.lynne.johnlscott.com)

Serving Clients  
Since 1998



John L. Scott  
FOUNDATION

Since the year 2000, I have contributed each month to the JLS foundation.



REAL ESTATE  
John L. Scott  
REAL ESTATE

Lynn  
ENG-LEI

# BE PREPARED!

What a winter we have ended up having here in Somerset and throughout the Pacific Northwest! Fortunately, the power stayed on for almost everyone and most weren't stuck at home for more than a couple of days. It also reminded us of the value of being prepared. If you stopped by the grocery store or watched the news, it is evident that as a society, we

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

don't tend to prepare in advance. We still wait until the last minute and then rush to prepare when the warning goes out that an event is going to happen. What happens when we don't get a warning? Just some food for thought.

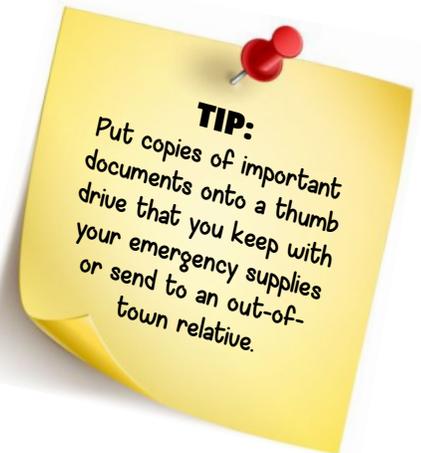
One of the nice aspects of living in Somerset is our community and how we watch out for each other. We help our neighbors when their water pipes break, check to see whose car is parked in front of our house, and verify that our neighbors are all OK after a storm. Within Somerset, the Emergency Preparedness block teams help facilitate this through various activities such as gathering neighbor contact information, holding summer block parties, and conducting

exercises. I encourage everyone to attend these and get to know your neighbors better, not only to promote emergency preparedness but also to increase the safety of our community. Just like when you are traveling: **if you see something, say something**.

Give your neighbors a call to check on any unusual activity or, if you feel strongly that something isn't right, reach out to the Bellevue Police Department.

As the days continue to get longer, I encourage you to get out and around in your neighborhood. Stay safe and reach out if you want additional information on your blocks or to get more involved: [sean.ozel.cox@gmail.com](mailto:sean.ozel.cox@gmail.com).

Sean Cox  
Emergency Preparedness



# Your Somerset Dream Team

If now is the **RIGHT TIME TO SELL**, we'd like to introduce ourselves as a team specially made for you!

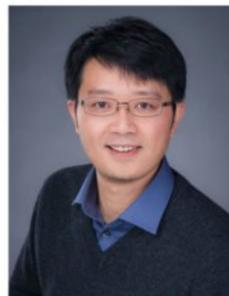


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Alvin Lai | Windermere

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# SUMMER EXPERIENCE

## FOREST RIDGE

THE SACRED HEART SCHOOL OF SEATTLE



### Classes

for girls and boys entering grades 2-8

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Session 3 July 22-26

Session 4 July 29-August 2

Robotics, jewelry making, rocket science, theater, coding, website design, digital storytelling, clay and printmaking and more!

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[www.forestridge.org/summerexp](http://www.forestridge.org/summerexp)

CREATE • COLLABORATE • EXPLORE

## GOOD MORNING, WELCOME HOME, GOOD EVENING!

This was the friendly message offered by the colorful SUN sign which greeted all of us when Somerset was a new and growing community. When the entrance island landscaping was redone and a new fountain installed in 2009, a new SUN sign was designed and the original sign retired.



Though retired, many did not want it to be lost, and a new home at Somerset Elementary School was selected to greet teachers, students, families, and visitors to continue a legacy of service. This was a joint effort among many with the foresight to preserve the retired "SOMERSET SUN" sign and relocate it to Somerset Elementary School. Thanks are owed to the Somerset Community Association Board at the time, and members Gary Albert, Kenn Gennari, Steve O'Donnell, Sue Sander (and her family), Muriel Mittelstrass (Somerset Elementary Office Manager), Nancy Larson (BSD Facilities and Maintenance Manager), and the Bellevue School District Carpentry Department.

The Sun now hangs proudly at the entrance of Somerset Elementary School. It is a daily reminder that our neighborhood school personifies a welcoming community of warmth, friendliness and excellence.



# LOOKING FOR 5-7 YEAR OLDS TO BECOME A SRC \*SHARKIE!



## SRC Pre-Swim Team Program (ages 5-7)

Limited to 20 spots! Register Early!

Registration Deadline May 28, 2019

\*SRC membership and coach assessment required to participate in Sharkies

30-minutes of swim instruction 4 to 5 days a week

High-quality instruction on all 4 strokes

Preparation & exposure to swim team & race day fun

[www.somersetrec.org](http://www.somersetrec.org)  
Swim. Compete. Fun.



## THERE IS NO POOP FAIRY

"So please clean up after your pets."

~ Callie, longtime Somerset resident and avid walker



The SCA Board has seen an increase in complaints about dogs and their waste. Remember not to allow your pet to enter onto someone's private property to "do their business". Please curb your dog – take it to the curb to urinate or defecate rather than allowing it to soil lawns or sidewalks. In addition, dog owners are reminded that they are responsible for cleaning up after their dog. No one wants to step into dog

waste. Not only can waste transmit illness to humans, it is a poor reflection on the owners of other dogs and our neighborhood.

We have listed the Bellevue City Code on this issue for your convenience:

**8.05.040 Animal waste removal.** It shall be unlawful for anyone with custody of an animal to fail to remove any fecal matter deposited by the animal on public property or private property of another before the custodian leaves the immediate area where the fecal matter was deposited. In addition to the manager of the regional animal services section and the animal care and control officers being authorized to take such lawful action as may be required to enforce this section, the police and code enforcement officers are authorized to enforce this section. Penalty for violation of this section is \$50. (Ord. 5957 § 3, 2010.)

Thank you,  
The Somerset Community Association Board



## NEIGHBORHOOD TIP:

We often receive complaints about vehicles that are parked partially on the sidewalk (usually where there is a rolled curb). Some car owners think they should park this way to get more of their vehicle off of the street. Here's what the City of Bellevue has to say about this practice: *It is illegal at any time for a vehicle to be parked on a public sidewalk without the issuance of a right of way use permit from the city.* Summary: don't park, even partially, on the sidewalk. If there's not room to park appropriately, you shouldn't park there at all.



## Locally Made Custom Retractable Screens & Awnings

*Let us help you extend your outdoor living space.*

Handcrafted in the Pacific Northwest, Rainier's retractable awnings and screens are built in our Tukwila factory. We control the manufacturing process and are able to rapidly respond to your sun protection needs.

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# RAINIER SHADE

# SOMERSET SUMMER SWIM TEAM STARTS MAY 14. JOIN TODAY!



**New Members Welcome!**

**2019 Membership &  
\*Summer Swim Team  
Now Open**

**Deadline to join swim  
team is May 28, 2019**

**Great for ages 7-18**

\*membership required to participate in summer swim team

[www.somersetrec.org](http://www.somersetrec.org)  
Swim. Compete. Fun.





# YOUR STORY IS OUR STORY

DEVELOPING RELATIONSHIPS THAT RESULT IN  
HAPPY CLIENTS AND SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES



Stephanie was an absolute pleasure to work with throughout the process of selling my home. Not only is Stephanie personable and a joy to be around, but she is also incredibly organized, efficient and easily identifies small changes that will bring a high return on investment. Stephanie is amazing at time management and makes sure that every service she includes is done at exactly the right time so that homes shine and show well. Should I ever need an agent again, it will absolutely be Stephanie Kristen! - Melissa Slater

We have sold two homes with Stephanie's help. We have worked with several different realtors in the past buying and selling rentals and Stephanie is by far the best realtor we have worked with. She was very quick to respond to our plethora of text messages with detailed information. She had specific advice in terms of getting the house ready to sell, scheduling all the upfront work, and what the pricing should be. She was great at staying in touch either in person or via cell through the entire process, even after closing. She has the highest ethics and was very generous with her time and efforts to get our house sold. We cannot recommend her enough! - Kris and Barb Lall

**STEPHANIE KRISTEN**

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StephanieK@Windermere.com

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# IN CASE YOU'VE FORGOTTEN

## Please pay your 2019 Somerset Community Association membership dues!

The nominal annual fee of \$75 provides all of the benefits that make Somerset the wonderful community in which we live. Your dues pay for the maintenance and upkeep of the entrance fountain on Newport Way as well as the various areas of landscaping throughout the neighborhood. They also help to support the quarterly editions of the Somerset Sun, our biennial Membership Directory and our website. Your membership is critical as we continue our efforts to build Emergency Preparedness programs within our neighborhood, and our Covenant Review Committee works tirelessly to support the adherence of all Somerset residents to our established community covenants that protect our property values and provide continuity to the legacy of Somerset.

You may pay online at our website [www.somerset98006.org](http://www.somerset98006.org), or mail your check (made out to *Somerset Community Association* or SCA) with the invoice below to:

Somerset Community Association  
PO Box 40531  
Bellevue, WA 98015



## INVOICE

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

The SCA protects your privacy and will never share your information.

Are you the owner? Y N

Are you interested in volunteering? Y N

**Homeowner's Dues for 2019**

**\$ 75.00**

I want to provide an additional donation to support Somerset Community Association neighborhood projects.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

I want to direct a separate donation to **CENSE** in support of their effort to keep PSE's industrial power lines out of all Eastside residential neighborhoods and away from Olympic Pipeline's underground fuel lines.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_





Somerset Community Association  
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- Sessions are 2 weeks
- Swim lessons begin in June
- Lessons are 30 minutes

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Summer  
Registration  
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