



SOMERSET SUN

Neighborhood news from the Somerset Community Association

Spring 2020

BSD Update

Council Corner

News From CENSE

SRC Summer Season

SCA Membership Renewals

Is Somerset Prepared for a Natural Disaster?

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

www.Somerset98006.org

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Maggie Yeh	yehmargaret@gmail.com	Secretary

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

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR WELCOMED

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



**BELLEVUE
COUNTS**
2020 Census

We only get a chance every 10 years to participate in the United States census count. The census is a population count of every person living in the U.S., and the accuracy of this data drives the amount of funding and government representatives allocated to each community.

In mid-March you'll receive an invitation in the mail to participate in the 2020 Census. It takes just 10 minutes to fill out the questionnaire online, over the phone, or through the mail. The census is available in several languages. Everyone counts. Together we thrive! Go to www.2020census.gov to learn more.

Hello, Neighbors!



The Somerset Community Association is starting 2020 with a great board of directors. Our returning members will be joined by Pete Mansfield and Johannes Grad, who were elected at our annual meeting on January 23rd. At that time, we bid a fond farewell to Sean Cox and Priya Talreja, whose terms have expired. We will miss both of them and greatly appreciate their service to the SCA and the community! We still have vacancies 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 should have received an invoice for your 2020 membership dues in the mail – 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 can pay by credit card on our website somerse98006.org (this will include an additional \$5 fee to cover the costs we are charged for this convenient service). Please join as soon as you can. All Somerset homeowners benefit from the services the SCA provides, which also help to maintain the high values of our properties. Additionally, only paid members will receive our printed SOMERSET DIRECTORY, which we update and provide every other year (look for your copy of the directory in your mailbox in May).

SCA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The SCA Board has committed to Emergency Preparedness and neighborhood safety as our main focus for the year. This newsletter includes great information on getting organized to prevent crime (Neighborhood Block Watch) and prepare for natural disasters (Map Your Neighborhood). I also encourage everyone to attend a Somerset Preparedness meeting that our Emergency Prep Chair Pete Mansfield has scheduled for April 23rd – details are included later in this newsletter.

Lastly, I am pleased to introduce you to Francis Brito, who is taking over as President this year. Francis and his wife Carmen raised their two children here in Somerset for the last 28 years, and Francis has served on the Board for two years, working on the Covenant Review Committee and taking charge of last year's 4th of July Parade and Picnic. I am looking forward to working with him in the coming year!

We welcome your input and feedback, so please email or call to share your ideas with us. Whatever your talents or time available, there's a place for you in the SCA. Getting involved is a great 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 2020 from me and the Board!

Diane Fern
SCA Past President

REPORT FROM THE SCA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

About 35 community members attended the annual general meeting held in the Ackerly Room at Forest Ridge school on January 23rd. President Diane Fern welcomed all attending and reported on the SCA's 2019 activities, including the Covenant Review Committee and the annual 4th of July Picnic and Parade. New Board members Pete Mansfield and Johannes Grad were duly elected. Treasurer Marie Vieth reviewed the proposed 2020 budget which was then approved by the members. Landscaping Chair Sue Sander reported on common area maintenance and the irrigation system. At the Board's request, the meeting was then addressed by representatives from Bellevue Quality Schools (regarding the bond initiative), the Somerset Rec Club, and CENSE.

If you are interested in getting involved, joining the Board, or hearing more details about any of these issues, please contact us at somerse98006@gmail.com and plan on attending next year's meeting!



SCA Board members L-R: Johannes Grad, Muriel Mittelstrass, Sue Sander, Sylvia Vasilik, Diane Fern, Marie Vieth, Bozhong Lin, Pete Mansfield



By Councilmember Conrad Lee

Happy New Year of the Rat! The Zodiacal Rat is the first of a repeating 12-year cycle of animals which appear in the Chinese zodiac. Rats are clever and quick thinkers and in Chinese

COUNCIL CORNER

culture, rats are seen as a sign of wealth and abundance. This year is auspicious for all new beginnings. It is a time to turn over a new leaf and take a fresh look at the world. Bellevue and our Somerset neighborhood have both changed since I moved here in 1967. Bellevue was a small bedroom community of 60,000. We knew almost everyone living on our street. We visited with our neighbors and hired neighborhood kids to mow our lawns and baby sit. The best part was when we needed something we could always ask a neighbor, anything from a cup of sugar to helping put up a fence. What fond memories these are! Some would say those were the “Good Old Days.” Whether they were or not, for better or for worse, Bellevue has changed!

Perhaps it is time for Bellevue to take a fresh look. Bellevue is blessed with a robust economy boosted by unprecedented regional growth. It has become a global city and one of the most diverse in the region. With a population of around 150,000, the City still retains the feel of a small town, with great neighborhoods and a quality of life we value. However, it has also become an economic power-house that parallels a modern metropolitan city of millions. Much of this has brought good things, but it has also brought big city problems and challenges.

Bellevue has grown to become an urban center. Because of the great foundation laid by the people before us, it has continued to attract new people because of good schools, safe streets, wonderful neighborhoods, and a great quality of life. Home-grown companies like PACCAR still call Bellevue home; Microsoft and T-Mobile keep expanding; Amazon is expected to bring more employees here as well. With global companies and talents in cloud computing and artificial intelligence coming and located in our region, changes will be the norm for a long time to come. We had better be prepared. Are we ready?

Transportation is the number one problem to tackle. With more people coming, traffic congestion is getting worse. We are a mobile society; everyone wants to get somewhere in a given time. It's getting more and more difficult using current means and technologies. One option is using new and developing technologies – use of machine and artificial intelligence. One such example is the Autonomous, Connected, Electric and Shared (ACES) technology platform. Bellevue must work seriously and hard to develop this and make it a reality sooner rather than later.

Housing is another challenge -- more people need more homes to live in. We have limited land and infrastructure to build on. Land costs are rising out of sight, as are building costs. Innovative and more affordable ways to build homes have to be found. Government public policies have to be developed.

Most importantly, it is becoming more difficult to solve problems because of our increasing diversity, polarization, and lack of communication. We are seeing this in our political representatives who are so polarized that they do not even talk to each other, let alone work together to solve problems. We must work together for better understanding of our common goals. Let's get to know our neighbors like we did in the “Good Old Days.” Let's discuss our common goals and work together for the good of all. The City needs to develop spaces which encourage more people of different cultures and ethnicities to come together on projects of common interest, and to discuss and develop common goals.

One of my Council priorities will be to develop a multicultural center for people of all cultures to gather and work on common projects. It's difficult for people from different cultures to know each other; they remain strangers. We must bring together people of all cultures in our neighborhoods to develop common goals and work together to make Bellevue what we want it to be, through our long-lasting values of accountability, trust and 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.



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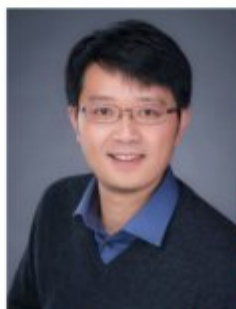


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By School Board Member Dr. Francine Wiest

Bellevue School District a Leader in Energy Efficiency

A big thank you to our community for supporting the bond for our Bellevue schools in the February election. This

was truly a community effort, with endorsements ranging from the government through the City of Bellevue, business groups, PTA, teachers' union, our schools' foundation, and more.

The investment in buildings and safety directly impacts student learning. Not only are education spaces important for the delivery of academic and well-being supports for our youth, but also the careful stewardship of bond dollars results in more money available in the general fund that can go towards teachers and other critical resources that are underfunded in our state, like nurses, counselors, and special education supports. Did you know that the current state funding formula for special education means our district needs to supplement an additional \$21 million to provide necessary services? If we relied only on state general funds, we would have 3.3 nurses to spread among our 29 schools, and we are similarly short on counselors, school psychologists, and librarians, among others. While we advocate for state legislators to refine the definition of basic education to reflect the realities of what students truly need, in the meantime we find ways to fund the world class education and supports for which Bellevue is known.

We ask voters for two main types of

assistance: levies and bonds. Both are for specified amounts and not a rate, meaning as Bellevue's tax base grows, the amount assessed per household decreases. Levies are for the "supplements" -- program enhancements, transportation, and technology, while bonds must be used for construction, renovation, property, or capital investments ("bonds are for buildings"). Fortunately, our community provides for both. With the much needed levies, however, the state legislature capped local levy dollars for Bellevue despite our diverse demographics, and allocates a portion of our state taxes to fund districts elsewhere. Bond dollars, however, are completely for Bellevue.

Thus, when the Bellevue School District invests in energy efficient buildings, not only are we doing our part for the environment and providing real-world learning for students, but also we reduce spending for energy which comes out of the allocated general fund, resulting in recurring savings into

BELLEVUE SCHOOL DISTRICT UPDATE

the future that can be channeled towards directly supporting students. While we promote recycling, lowering food waste, and energy conservation in our schools, these are small contributors to a carbon footprint compared with transportation and buildings. Better school buses may also be in our future soon, but in the meantime we are constructing buildings that are increasingly energy efficient, with upcoming construction projected to be Energy Use Intensity -1.1, meaning more energy will be generated than consumed.

Examples of investments in infrastructure that make Bellevue School District a leader in our region for energy efficiency include photovoltaic (solar) panels, energy storage (battery) arrays, use of natural daylighting, ground source geothermal well fields to provide heating and cooling, wall design and construction to maintain continuous insulation across walls and roofs, and on demand hot water systems among other features.



Stevenson Elementary School's energy efficient features become part of the daily science lesson for students.

Already our newer buildings are bigger to accommodate our growing population, and yet they use less energy than their smaller predecessors, saving on energy costs. This next wave of construction will continue to combine energy efficiency form and function for the benefit of our children and community. Thank you again for your part in investing in our students' and Bellevue's future.

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

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF A SOMERSET PREPAREDNESS GROUP?

What's a Preparedness Group?

Being resilient to disasters and crime involves neighbors pooling resources and information. While it might seem obvious, to do this we need to know each other! As some of

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

you know, Somerset has been historically organized into block groups to help maintain a level of preparedness. Many of these groups have become inactive over time as new folks have moved in and group organizers have moved on.

Strengthening Preparedness Among Neighbors (SPAN) and Neighborhood Block Watch are two programs that Somerset residents have organized preparedness groups around in the past. Block Watch and a newer program replacing SPAN, called Map Your Neighborhood, are both supported by the City of Bellevue. Either or both are great ways to promote neighbors communicating and working together to address topics of mutual concern.

Map Your Neighborhood

Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) guides citizens on disaster preparedness at the neighborhood or block group level. MYN connects neighbors so that they may rely on each other during the period before professional emergency services arrive during a disaster

situation. In responding to a widespread disaster, emergency services are going to focus their stretched resources on locations where they can do the greatest good for the greatest number of people. This means they will focus on locations such as hospitals, office and apartment towers, schools and malls. We have been warned that in a widespread disaster situation it may be several days before we see any emergency response on Somerset.

The program involves:

- Learning the nine steps to take immediately following a disaster to secure your home and to protect your neighborhood.
- Identifying the skills and equipment each neighbor has that would be useful during an effective disaster response. Knowing which neighbors have supplies and skills helps your disaster response be timely and allows everyone to contribute to the response in a meaningful way.

- Creating a block group map which identifies those with specific needs such as elderly, disabled, or children who may be home alone during certain hours of the day.
- Working together as a team to evaluate your neighborhood during the first hour following a disaster and take the necessary actions.

Block Watch

Block Watch is one of the most effective and free ways to fight crime. Watch groups are the foundation of community crime prevention and bring neighbors together in positive and meaningful ways.



The Bellevue Police Department believes in “Neighbors Helping Neighbors” and works with groups to facilitate Block Watch programs. Block Watch brings residents and law enforcement together to improve safety and prevent crime. Safety improves when neighbors watch out for each other by reporting suspicious activity and in-progress crimes to 911. Crime prevention occurs when the opportunity for crime is removed and neighbors work together for a safer neighborhood.

The program involves meeting periodically to share information including collecting and distributing contact information to members and allowing everyone access to each other for neighborhood concerns.



The program also includes Operation Identification. This is a burglary prevention program used to record personal property and discourage burglary and theft. This involves:

- Documenting personal property with photos, brand names and serial numbers.
- Keeping the documentation, along with purchase receipts, in a safe location.
- Displaying Operation Identification stickers near your exterior doors and windows.

How to get started

Are you interested in joining or forming a group but not sure how to get started? The guidelines below suggest organizational steps that have been successful in the past.

1. It always helps to have more than one person interested in getting a group started. If you know some neighbors already, talk to them and see if they are interested in helping to form a group. Also, you can contact us with your address so we can either match you to known groups or to other individuals who have expressed interest in starting a group.

2. Decide what homes you want in your group. We can help with a recommendation. Groups typically include 15 to 20 homes but may be larger or smaller. Groups work best if homes are in clusters, say on a street where all group members' driveways are accessed. Our largest group includes over 40 homes and smallest around 10. A larger group can be more challenging to keep in touch with but will provide greater likelihood of including people with skills or resources helpful in an emergency.
3. With your co-organizers, decide on a date for a potluck meal, picnic, BBQ or similar event. This event will kick off the group members getting to know each other which is the fundamental component of community safety and preparedness. Early in September, just after school starts, has worked for some in the past. Others prefer just before school lets out in the spring. Either way, consult the school calendar before setting a date as orchestra concerts and football games often draw people away. Note that the Somerset Community Association will reimburse groups up to \$100 per year in costs associated with holding meetings and/or maintaining group supplies. Save your receipts!
4. Along with the date, decide on the location. Meeting at one of the homes in the group will be most successful. In the past, group members have offered their driveways, garages, yards, decks or living/family rooms for gatherings.
5. Decide on the meeting format. Meetings often start with social time with food and beverages. This is then followed by an informational session focused on some aspect of neighborhood safety or preparedness (see item 7 below). Finally, a brief discussion time will help highlight specific concerns neighbors may have and point to future informational topics to be presented. You will also want to have a neighbor sign-in sheet available so you can capture contact information for future communications.
6. Once the meeting date, location and general format is set, divide up the target homes into subgroups for organizers to go door to door to meet neighbors and invite them to the event. Keep it informal and stress the main goal is for neighbors to meet one another. Ask for

NOTICE

Mark your calendar for the Somerset Preparedness Group Organizer meeting open to any resident interested in finding out more about emergency preparation, crime prevention and organizing a neighborhood group. We especially would like all current block group organizers to attend. The event will be held on **Thursday, April 23, from 7:00 to 8:30pm at Somerset Elementary School, 14100 Somerset Blv.** For questions contact: Pete Mansfield, (425) 401-8525, petermansfield@comcast.net

any specific concerns which might help focus the informational portion of the meeting. A printed flyer with time, location and contact information to be left with the neighbor is also helpful.

7. With dates set and neighbors invited, the details of the informational portion of the meeting can be planned. There are many topics you might consider. A few are listed below:

- Introduce Map Your Neighborhood. The Bellevue Office of Emergency Management can provide support with a presentation.
- Ask a member of the Bellevue Police Department to stop by and discuss neighborhood safety and Block Watch.
- Ask members of the Bellevue Fire Department to swing by with a firetruck and talk about fire safety.
- Discuss personal preparedness. We can

help with training and teaching materials.

- Explain, demonstrate and practice proper use of kitchen fire extinguisher, how to shut off your natural gas at the meter or first aid skills. Again, we can help with this.
- Hold a drill simulating a disaster scenario.
- Discuss and practice emergency communications.

8. Plan on having annual meetings where learning is reviewed and extended. The best way to maintain preparedness is to review regularly.

Training

This is not required to become a group organizer, but if you want to find out more about disaster preparedness, you might consider



training to become a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) member through the City of Bellevue Office of Emergency Management. This nationwide program educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. The course is free, includes 24 hours of class time and is offered several times a year. A related short-form (3-hour) course called CERT-Lite is also available free of charge. More information and sign-up information can be found online by going to www.bellevuewa.gov and entering CERT in the "How Do I..." bar.



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2020 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 and sign up today! Sign up at somersestrec.org for summer memberships, summer swim team (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 for members to enjoy the amazing views. Make sure to like us on Facebook to keep updated on SRC news!

SRC Opening Day Saturday May 9, 2020 1-4pm

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 swimsuit, come check out our 4-lane outdoor pool and enjoy the amazing views from the pool deck. Learn about SRC membership, swim team, swim lessons and our tennis and social programs. See you there!

Community Service Days: **Pre-Season Spring Volunteer Cleanup Party**

Come volunteer for a few hours or a day and help get SRC ready for another fun summer season. Pre-season volunteer clean up parties will be held from 9:00am - 2:00pm on March 21, March 29, April 4 and April 25.

***REMINDER:** Starting with the 2020 season the SRC has removed the \$130 maintenance fee deposit from all membership pricing so helping out at a pre-season spring volunteer cleanup party is volunteer only.

- **Volunteers Wanted:** We still need volunteers to get SRC ready for the summer season. Pressure washing, weeding, landscaping, cleaning and painting will still be happening.
- **Company Match Programs:** If you work for a company that will match your donation of time to non-profits, please sign up for a pre-season spring cleanup party. Also please watch Facebook throughout the year for additional volunteer opportunities.
- **Student Volunteer Hours:** Students can receive volunteer hours towards graduation or club volunteer requirements.

Important 2020 Dates

Pre-Season Volunteer Cleanup Parties

- **March 21** – Saturday, 9am - 2pm
- **March 29** – Sunday, 9am - 2pm
- **April 4** – Saturday, 9am - 2pm
- **April 26** – Sunday, 9am - 2pm

SRC Opening Day

- **May 9** – Saturday, 1pm - 4pm

Swim Team Assessments

- **May 11** – Monday, 4pm - 8pm

First Day of Afternoon Swim Team Practices (Swim Team and Sharkies)

- **May 12** - Tuesday

Last Day to Register for Summer Swim Team and Sharkies

- **May 22**

June - Group Swim Lessons Begin

Reminder: SRC closes early one weekday per week for 6 weeks during the summer swim team season to allow 100+ kids the opportunity to compete in a swim meet. Closures are posted in the office, Facebook and on the website.

2020 Facility Improvements:

New Cement Pool Deck, Slide and Removal of Old Clubhouse

Before SRC opens for the summer season, the 2020 SRC Board has some exciting news and lots of projects to complete. We are finally ticking off projects that members have been asking us to address in our annual survey. That said, the SRC Board has committed to spend \$105K to do the following:

- \$25K to tear down the dilapidated clubhouse (finally!)
- \$70K to redo the cracked & failing pool cement deck
- \$10K for a new slide (we had to put this project on hold last year due to failing cement deck but we know this is a BIG deal for kids young and old). Stay tuned for plans of new slide in coming months.

In addition to these three large ticket items, there will be small projects to continue to upgrade SRC and make it a great family-friendly place to enjoy the long days of summer. These include:

- Updating toilets and urinals (larger bathroom remodel will have to wait, but it is on the list to update)
- Painting the front exterior building
- Replacing doors to bathrooms and office
- Hiding the garbage bins to enhance entrance
- Trimming of overgrown brush to improve view side

We are excited for all these changes and improvements and thank all the members who have provided invaluable feedback on how we can continue to make SRC a gem in our community.

Aquatics Summer Swim Team



Registration for Summer Swim Team Division II Somerset Stingrays opened mid-February. Deadline for registration is May 5, 2020. Please join us in welcoming Megan and Katie Lowell as Somerset Swim Team's new coaches! They will be sharing responsibilities across the Sharkies and the full swim team. We're excited to have them and look forward to a great year!

Summer 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. SRC membership required to participate in Somerset Stingrays. Find out more at somerstetrec.org/swimteam

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 kids this age to introduce them to our fantastic summer swim team. Registration opened in 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. And just like swim team, registration cut off for Sharkies is 5/22/2020. SRC membership and coach assessment required to participate in Sharkies. Learn more about the program at somerstetrec.org/sharkies

For the full schedule of swim team dates including practice times and swim meets please check out check the Aquatics section at somerstetrec.org. Questions about Swim Team or Sharkies? Please contact our Swim Team Coordinators with any swim team questions: Shannon Gregory-Lowe and Michael Ketchum at SRCswimteam@gmail.com.

Group Swim Lessons at SRC:

Convenient location and great instructors right in your neighborhood

The Summer Group Swim Lesson Schedule is posted at somerstetrec.org/swimlessons. Group lessons are ideal for children ages 5-12 and are on weekdays for 30 minutes. Kids are 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.

SOMERSET SUMMER SWIM TEAM STARTS MAY 12. JOIN TODAY!

New Members Welcome!
2020 Membership & *Summer Swim Team Now Open
Deadline to join swim team is May 22, 2020
Great for ages 7-18
*membership required to participate in summer swim team

www.somerstetrec.org
Swim. Compete. Fun. **SOMERSET REC. CLUB**

Important Swim Team Dates

Swim Team Assessments (for all new swimmers and previous Sharkies)

- May 11 – Monday, 4pm - 8pm

First Day of Afternoon Swim Team Practices (Swim Team and Sharkies)

- May 12 - Tuesday

Last Day to Register for Summer Swim Team and Sharkies (Midlakes League rules) Sharkies program is limited to only 20 spots - register early!

- May 22

No Practice: May 25 - Monday

Time Trials Starting at 4pm at SRC

- June 7 - Sunday

1st Swim Meet of the Season

June 16 - Tuesday

Morning swim team practices begin

June 22 - Monday

B Champs: July 18 - Saturday (date subject to change)

Prelims: July 20-22

A Champs: July 26 – Sunday

Swim Team Awards Night: July 28 - Tuesday

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 22, 2020
*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.somerstetrec.org
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Rhona Lord
 John L Scott Bellevue/Issaquah
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 1700 NW Gillman Blve #300, Issaquah, Washington 98027
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LANDSCAPING UPDATE

The winter has been wetter and warmer than normal and many of our plants are starting to blossom, especially the daffodils and rhododendrons. Although we had snow flurries in January and February, spring will start on March 20th. I hope you will enjoy walking around our wonderful community, and get to know your neighbors. Neighbors will help you to ensure security in the neighborhood and become your best friends!

Somerset's main entrance is looking great with the plants thriving. Thank you to Carol Robl and Kathy Judkins for planting some new bulbs! The tulips and other plants in this area will be blooming soon and they will be beautiful this spring. We hope you enjoyed the holiday lights which were on from early December through early February. Fleming Lighting replaced the lights on the six trees located in the backdrop behind the island. Gary Albert continues to be our dedicated "Somerset Landscape Maintenance King," helping with the lighting and irrigation system issues – again, thank you Gary!

Dawn 'till Dusk Landscapes will continue to maintain our entrances and other areas, as well as managing the irrigation systems for 2020. They recently weeded, removed debris, and replanted a tree on Somerset Blvd that fell during the rainy windstorms. They will partner with us to select the best flowering plants to enhance our areas during each season. In addition, we continue to maintain the strip of land adjacent to Somerset Elementary on 143rd Ave SE, putting in drought resistant plants to improve the area's appearance.

The City of Bellevue has recently cleaned up and barked the entrance island at Forest Dr and Somerset Dr. We are also continuing to urge them to maintain the center medians along Highland Dr in the southern part of the neighborhood.

As spring days are getting longer and warmer, it is a perfect time to start gardening and trimming your plants and trees. There are many plants that require less water and fertilizer, and are resistant to insects and disease. Please investigate purchasing plants/trees that are "native" (from our local region). I recommend fruit bearing plants, ornamental vegetables, and edible flowers that provide beauty to your yard and nutrition to you as well. Fruit and vegetable gardens add value to your yard and provide you with good produce (e.g., bok choy, mizuna, komatsuna, lettuce, corn, carrots, raspberries, or strawberries).

The Somerset Community Association is committed to you and everyone in our community and works to preserve, protect, and enhance our environment. I hope all of you and your families have a wonderful 2020! Please try to maintain your yards, retain trees, eliminate the use of herbicides and pesticides, and make our neighborhood look great this Spring. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at suesander10@hotmail.com. Enjoy the spring and remember to always **Be Green!** Thank you!

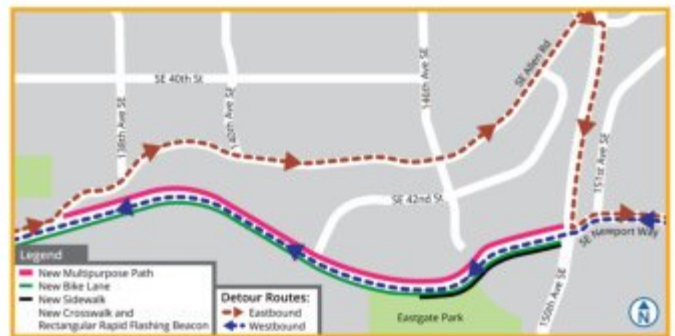
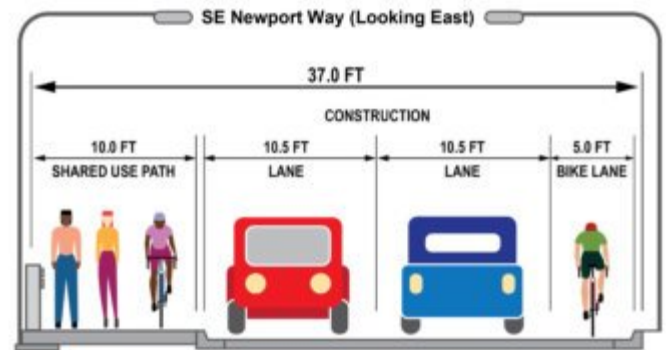
Sue Sander
Landscape Chair

NEWPORT WAY SIDEWALK AND BIKE LANE UPDATE

The City of Bellevue has accepted the bid from Active Construction (the same contractor working on 150th near Newport Way). Full scale construction should begin March 30 and last up to 290 days.

Please be aware of this change in traffic patterns: During construction hours (M-F, 7:00am - 5:00pm) eastbound traffic on Newport Way will be detoured to Allen Rd and Newport Way will be only westbound from 150th to Allen Rd. Pedestrian and cyclists are encouraged to use SE Allen Rd during construction hours. More project information at BellevueWA.gov/Newport-way.

Kristi Weir
Somerset Resident



Childcare
you can trust
like family

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

Cultural Care Au Pair

RENTON DECISION ON ENERGIZE EASTSIDE

The Hearing Examiner for Renton has issued his decision on the permit for Energize Eastside. In the 40-page decision (see CENSE.org/Renton), the Examiner focused mostly on pipeline safety. He concludes that Renton's land use codes require him to ignore fundamental questions about the need for the

citizens living throughout the Eastside. ... CENSE's participation in the process has clearly been in the public interest and has served the public good by bringing important energy issues into public debate. However, CENSE's need issues are not pertinent to the review criteria of the conditional use permit under review." In other words, Renton's land use codes do not require PSE to prove the project is needed!

CENSE UPDATE

project and better alternatives. In keeping with the codes, he approved the permit.

In many ways, the Examiner's decision provides a textbook example of how dangerous infrastructure is located in our neighborhoods while lacking a holistic view of the problem. The Examiner's primary sources were studies conducted by PSE's paid consultants, which PSE can cherry-pick to provide a favorable evaluation of the project.

But the truth still peeks through some of the Examiner's findings:

- "The most time intensive and significant issue by far for this proposal was pipeline safety. This Decision contains a detailed assessment of many of the public concerns raised over pipeline safety, because the record does not contain such an applicant or staff response to many of the safety comments submitted for conditional use permit review." In other words, neither PSE nor the City of Renton addressed public concerns about pipeline safety. The Examiner had to read potentially biased studies and craft his decision.
- "Perhaps the second most significant issue associated with the proposal is the need for the project. [CENSE] brought the need for the proposal to the forefront by well-organized and extensive documentation, qualified professionals, talented presenters and a large number of concerned

The Examiner did not respond to CENSE concerns that taller poles and higher voltages present a potentially fatal hazard to families living near the poles. None of PSE's studies examined this risk.

Upcoming dates:

- CENSE asked the Renton Examiner to formally reconsider technical and legal issues we feel were incorrectly decided.
- CENSE is preparing for a hearing in Newcastle, where land use codes require examination of need and alternatives (unlike Renton). No date for Newcastle's hearing has been announced.
- CENSE will appear in King County Superior Court on May 26 to challenge the decision to approve the project by the City of Bellevue.

Trees being removed in East Bellevue



After more than 13 years of debate, PSE is now cutting down trees on NE 8th St and 148th Ave to install a redundant power line. A coalition of organizations is asking PSE and the City of Bellevue to put the power line underground and save over 150 trees. This proposal has led to lively discussions on Nextdoor and Facebook. See our video at 300trees.org.

**Another Somerset
Pending Sale by Lynn**

206.234.5966

lynne@johnlscott.com

lynne.johnlscott.com



Pending Sale at \$999,988
4517 145th Ave. SE, Bellevue



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NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

Free Training Available

Check out these opportunities to learn about disaster preparedness. Registration is FREE. Go to eventbrite.com and search for "Bellevue CERT Lite".

April 4 – Northwest Arts Center, 1 pm-4:30 pm

May 2 – South Bellevue CC, 9 am-12:30 pm

June 6 – Crossroads CC, 9 am-12:30 pm

July 18 – South Bellevue CC, 9 am-12:30 pm

August 15 – Northwest Arts Center, 1 pm-4:30 pm

October 3 – South Bellevue CC, 9 am-12:30 pm

October 17 - Crossroads CC, 9 am-12:30 pm

November 7 - Northwest Arts Center, 1 pm-4:30 pm

CRC Reminder

As your trees and shrubs begin their Spring growing season, please be aware that they can affect others. Per the neighborhood Covenants, no tree can be allowed to grow into the protected views of a neighbor. Check with your neighbors and prune your trees before this happens. In addition, the City of Bellevue requires homeowners to keep their vegetation pruned back from the sidewalk and trimmed at least seven feet above ground so that pedestrians can easily pass by. Thank you for cooperating so that our views are protected and our neighborhood stays beautiful!

Somerset Community Interest Groups

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

50 and Over Singles

Kathy Judkins (425) 260.4324

Hill 'n' Dale Garden Club

Joan Waldeck (425) 747.6605

Somerset Adult Choir

Sonia Tanielian (425) 641-5824

Somerset Moms

Sylvia Vasilik, sylvia.vasilik@gmail.com

Somerset Women for Medic One

Evelyn Bateman (425) 747-7775

Good Reads

The Good at Heart, by Ursula Werner (336 pages)



Based on the author's discovery that her great-grandfather was a member of Hitler's cabinet, this debut novel takes place over three days during World War II when members of a German family must make a choice between family and morality after their daughter hides two Polish girls in their cellar. The author does a wonderful job of presenting the moral dilemmas the family faced as a whole, and as individuals, as well as the conflicts of belief between family members. This book made me realize how easily the Germans were drawn into complicity by Hitler's manipulation, and once in that position, how limited their choices were. Many were "good at heart"— caught up in an evil from which they could not escape without deadly consequences.

The Butterfly Girl, by Rene Denfeld (277 pages)



In this riveting mystery, investigator Naomi has an uncanny ability for finding missing children. When she turns it toward finding her younger sister who disappeared years previously, the search takes her to Portland, Oregon where she discovers scores of homeless children wandering the streets and still being stalked. Described as a heartbreaking, finger-gnawing and yet ultimately hopeful novel, this book is on my short list of next "reads" after I heard the author interviewed.

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

Bev Edwards
Somerset Resident

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Learn what our clients are saying at: www.maryleerealestate.com/testimonials



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13233 SE 51st Place



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13625 SE 43rd Street

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Mary Lee

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IN CASE YOU'VE FORGOTTEN

Please pay your 2020 Somerset Community Association membership dues!

The nominal annual fee of \$80 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, 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 2020

\$ 80.00

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 Associaton
PO Box 40531
Bellevue, WA 98015

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