

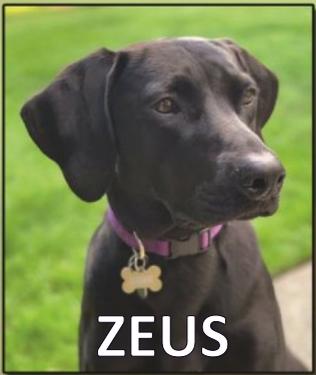
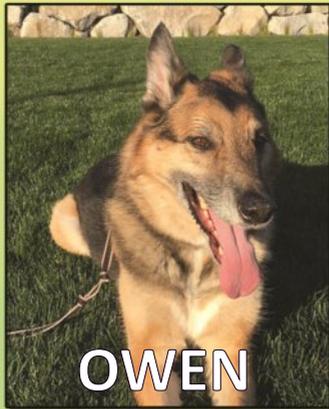
SOMERSET SUN

Neighborhood news from the Somerset Community Association

Summer 2019



Somerset dogs



SPECIAL DOG ISSUE

4TH OF JULY PARADE

REC CLUB IS OPEN

SCHOOL BOARD UPDATE

COUNCIL CORNER

CENSE

SOMERSET COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS - RESPONSIBILITIES

Francis Brito	forsubr@gmail.com	Vice President, CRC
Sean Cox	sean.ozel.cox@gmail.com	Emergency Prep, CRC
Diane Fern	dianefern@hotmail.com	President, CRC
Marilyn Hancock	mkhancock@comcast.net	Pride, CRC
Bozhong Lin	bozhong@hotmail.com	Communications
Muriel Mittelstrass	mmittelstrass@comcast.net	School Liaison, Escrow Demands
Sue Sander	suesander10@hotmail.com	Landscaping
Priya Talreja	priyatallreja@gmail.com	Website, Social Media
Maggie Yeh	yehmargaret@gmail.com	Secretary
Marie Vieth	viethm@comcast.net	Treasurer
Sylvia Vasilik	sylvia.vasilik@gmail.com	Membership Database

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 filling 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.

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.

2018 FINANCIAL REVIEW

Pursuant to Part IV, Section 1 of the Bylaws, a review of the financial records of the Somerset Community Association ("SCA") was completed on April 13, 2019, by a Finance Committee appointed by the President. The Committee examined the financial records of the SCA as provided by the Treasurer, including but not limited to the legal records, checkbook, canceled checks, bank statements, income and expense ledger, bills, receipts, financial reports, and budget. The Committee hereby finds that during the time period covered by the Review (January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018):

1. the Treasurer was cooperative during the Review and with the Committee,
2. the books and financial records of the SCA are being kept in a well-organized and appropriate manner,
3. the funds of the SCA were administered properly, and
4. the Board of Directors acted responsibly and in the best interests of the members in all financial business conducted.

If you are interested in being on the Finance Committee next year and participating in the Financial Review, please contact the Board at somerset98006@gmail.com.

SOMERSET SUN ADVERTISING DEADLINES:

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 5¼"h)	\$140
Half Page Horizontal (8"w x 5¼"h)	\$300
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There is a 10% discount for Somerset residents, OR for committing to the next three issues.

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

Together, we are neighbors helping neighbors.



SOMERSET98006.ORG

DEAR NEIGHBORS,



I hope this newsletter finds you all enjoying a beautiful PNW summer. After the new Board members were elected in January, we took some time to reallocate responsibilities, which you will see reflected in the SCA Board member list. Since then, we've been busy with typical "board business," such as publication of the Sun, CRC reviews, and landscape maintenance. Included in this newsletter you will find a report on our year-end Financial Review, information about the (much-beloved) annual Fourth of July Parade, updates from our Emergency Preparedness and Landscaping Committees, and news from the Somerset Rec Club.

You will notice that we've included several informative articles in this issue on dog care, training, containment and safety. The SCA has received a number of neighbor

complaints recently relating to these issues. I hope that the information we've included will help in many ways – whether by offering resources for training, suggestions for pets kept in yards, or behavior guidelines for those not familiar with dogs. (We have not included another article about feces, although it is an ongoing problem. PLEASE scoop your poop!) Thank you for taking the time to read the articles and understand the perspectives of both dog owners and non-dog owners. We want to make sure that every Somerset neighbor feels SAFE while walking around our beautiful community.

Lastly, please consider taking on a role in the Somerset Community Association. We work hard to help Somerset continue to be a beautiful and safe place to live. The terms of three Directors will expire next year, and we will need new residents to fill those positions. If you'd like a smaller role, the Fourth of July Parade/Picnic always needs lots of workers to run smoothly, or consider organizing a Block Watch group for your neighbors. If there's something you think we should be addressing in this newsletter, or you have a great picture to share, please reach out to us at somerset98006@gmail.com.

It's predicted to be warmer than normal these next couple of months, and I hope everyone has the opportunity to enjoy it. Best wishes for a fun summer!

Diane Fern, President
Somerset Community Association

SCA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Somerset 4th of July Celebration

Mark your calendars now and save the date for Thursday, July 4th for our 13th Annual Somerset Community Association Parade and Picnic in the Park. It's a great day for neighbors to get together, have lots of fun and celebrate our country's independence.

We will have prizes for the best costumes (such as most traditional, most original and most patriotically adorned family), and best decorated transport (bike, scooter, wagon). We gather between 10:30 and 10:45 am at the Somerset Rec Club pool/tennis parking lot at the corner of Somerset Boulevard and Somerset Drive. The walking parade starts at 11:00 am and the route is about 8/10 of a mile, ending at Forest Hill Neighborhood Park.

Then it will be time for BBQ hot dogs, chips, drinks and dessert for all, hosted by the Somerset Community Association. We are planning for field games and a bouncy house. (Honey buckets will be available at the park also.) Things will wrap up around 1:30 pm, giving us all plenty of time to rest up for whatever evening firework show we might be attending.

Please bring the entire family! The kids will enjoy a demonstration by one of Bellevue's big fire trucks. It's the best way to start your day of celebration and honor of our great country. Donations welcome. Hope to see you there!



Back-to-School for all this Fall!

by Francine Wiest, BSD Board Member

Somerset neighbors can shine as volunteer partners in supporting the Bellevue School District's (BSD) new vision statement: "To affirm and inspire each

BELLEVUE SCHOOL DISTRICT UPDATE



and every student to learn and thrive as creators of their future world." The five-year strategic plan also includes sections for high quality instruction, student well-being, exceptional staff, culture and climate, organizational alignment, and family and community.

All of us, as a community, share the responsibility for nurturing youth to grow and shape a bright future.

Your time and talent as a volunteer for BSD can make a significant impact on students' experiences. BSD is fortunate to have dedicated volunteers who

help support student achievement and well-being in many ways, but more are needed. Volunteer opportunities range from reading with young students to assisting high schoolers with college preparation, and all the steps in between at various sites. You can stay in the neighborhood with Somerset Elementary, or become a part of one of the other fabulous schools or programs, including language immersion or problem based learning. For inspiration, the BSD405.org website and Facebook pages are updated regularly with news items featuring student accomplishments, many relying on the support of volunteers like you. Check out the art work; international achievements in rocketry, robotics, and Destination Imagination; community service; and more.

Volunteers help in the classroom, tutor students, go on field trips, and share their interests. A new volunteer application system makes registration easy: bsd405.org/get-involved/volunteer. Start the process now and be ready to support students this fall. Students benefit from your mentorship, and you will be amazed and inspired by their enthusiasm and energy.

Francine lives in Somerset with her husband and three children and is running to retain her seat on the BSD School Board.

BSF ANNUAL LUNCHEON

Somerset neighbors are key supporters of the Bellevue Schools Foundation (BSF) which is celebrating 40 years of partnership in transforming the educational experience of our students. BSF's annual Spring for Schools luncheon on May 3rd featured Honorary Chair, John Stanton, Managing Partner of the Seattle Mariners and BSD alum, as well as a strong showing from Somerset! The event raised close to \$800,000 which will be used to support student programs in our BSD classrooms!



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!

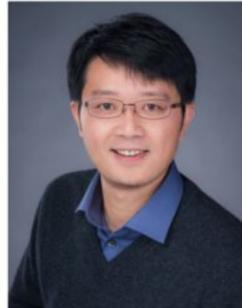


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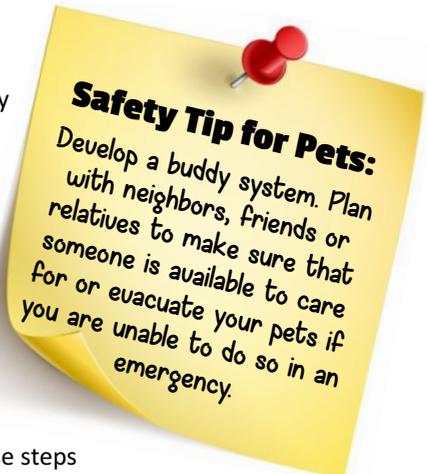
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

It is amazing how quickly the weather has changed, and the days have gotten longer. It is great to see everyone starting to be out and about in the neighborhood. As summer approaches it's time to start thinking about getting your neighbors together for a preparedness and block watch party. SCA provides funds to help with the costs of putting these on and I am happy to help get the fire department, police department, and other from the community who you are interested in hearing from during these events. Let me know if you need help organizing your event or want to form a group with your neighbors - sean.ozel.cox@gmail.com. There are currently organized groups that cover about half of our community. We are seeing lots of change in Bellevue and our community and it is important to have these get-togethers so we know our neighbors and continue to make Somerset a great (and safe) place to live.

In our last Citizen Corp Council meeting, we had representation from the police department and a great discussion about their public outreach. It is comforting to

know that we live in a city that takes fighting crime very seriously. We play an important part in this by making sure we take precautions such as locking our cars, closing garage doors, and reporting any unusual activities you see. Most of the crimes in our area are opportunistic, so taking these steps not only protects you but sets the tone for the entire neighborhood.

Sean Cox
Emergency Prep
Chair



Safety Tip for Pets:
Develop a buddy system. Plan with neighbors, friends or relatives to make sure that someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so in an emergency.





By Council Member Jennifer Roberttson

We are lucky to have a neighborhood pool in Somerset and many of us have found community around the pool deck. The Somerset Rec Club pool, like most other pools in Bellevue, was built 40 to 50 years ago. The Bellevue

The proposed plan includes a 50-meter dividable swimming pool, a deep water tank (for diving, swimming, water polo, etc.), a leisure/recreation pool with play features (slides, lazy river, etc.), an instruction/fitness pool, a warm water therapy/rehab pool, and indoor support spaces for dry land activities. This facility would provide our community with a place where people of all ages can gather and be active both in and out of the water. It will also provide excellent facilities for all the high school teams (swim, dive, water polo) as well as space for club swimming, master swimming, classes, swim lessons, rehabilitation and wellness activities and tons of recreational fun all year long. In addition to being a community, health and recreation project, this center would also spur significant economic development, including filling an estimated 15,000 Bellevue hotel nights per year. The City is looking at several locations, including on the Bellevue College Campus. During the rest of this year, the City will be working with community partners to complete the update. With the significant growth in our population over the past 40 years, it is time to develop the aquatic facilities we need to serve our residents. I'm personally excited to "dive in" to this work and make this dream a reality.

COUNCIL CORNER

Aquatics Center is also of this vintage. Our pools are aging and the few area pools that do allow year-round use are heavily utilized by the high school and club teams in Bellevue. Our high school teams are often practicing outdoors after dark even in mid-winter as there are limited pools for practice. We need more pools in Bellevue and we especially need more indoor facilities.

While swimming is a life-long activity that can build community and health, swimming is also about safety. Drowning is the number one accidental cause of death for children under 4 and number two for kids 5 to 14. In an area surrounded by water, knowing how to swim can literally be a matter of life or death. The Bellevue Aquatics Center currently has a two-year wait list for swim lessons. Too many of our children don't know how to swim or can't swim well enough to be safe in water. These are some of the reasons that I'm championing building a regional aquatics center in Bellevue. The Council has authorized a full review and update to an aquatics center plan, including working to obtain public and private partners to help make this facility a reality.

For more information about this project, you can view the City Council materials on the bellevuewa.gov website from the April 22, 2019 Council meeting, and also visit SPLASH Forward's website at www.splashforward.org In the meantime, I will see you around the neighborhood or on the pool deck cheering for our Somerset Stingrays!

Jennifer Roberttson is a 3-term member of the Bellevue City Council and a municipal attorney. She lives with her husband and children in Somerset. She is currently running for her fourth term on the Council.

NEWPORT WAY SIDEWALK / BIKE LANE UPDATE

The project design is 100% complete. In addition to a sidewalk on the north side of Newport Way from the entrance of Somerset to 150th Ave SE, the City has found funding to extend the sidewalk at the Community Center to 150th Ave on the south side of Newport Way. The City is currently acquiring property rights from adjacent property owners. Construction is still expected to start this summer.

Once construction begins, there is a tentative plan to detour eastbound traffic from Newport Way to Allen Road and have Newport Way be only westbound from 150th Ave to Allen Road during construction hours (2-way in the evenings). This will allow pedestrian traffic to continue through construction.

As part of the agreements with Fish & Wildlife, for every tree removed, four will be planted (on the park property). The grass along the frontage of the tennis courts will be replanted with low growing native plants. The finish date is still set for September 2020 although there may be some asphaltting to be done in the fall of 2020. For more information, please visit www.newportwaysidewalk.org.

Kristi Weir, Somerset resident
Newport Way Sidewalk Committee



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2019 SUMMER POOL SEASON IS OPEN!

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The weather was 85 degrees and hundreds turned out for what made for an amazing open house on Saturday May 11th. The pool was officially opened at 1:10pm when kids lined the pool deck and jumped in during this fun annual kickoff event! Members and guests enjoyed the improvements made to SRC during the off season, including a new upper deck with three deck spaces for members to reserve for parties, a new gazebo, regained seating areas around the baby pool and north end of pool deck, and a fresh coat of paint. Thanks again to all the members who helped get SRC ready in the pre-season!

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 are available to members to enjoy the amazing views.

Sign Up for Summer Group Swim Lessons at SRC: Convenient Location & Great Instructors Right in Your Neighborhood



Important Dates and Social Events

Heads Up: Pool Closing at 3pm on the following home Swim Meet days:

June 9 (Time Trials), June 20, June 25, July 3, July 11, and July 18

Sunday, June 9 – 2-3pm: Jr. Tennis Open House

Learn about SRC's Group Tennis Lessons for ages 6-11 and Jr. Tennis Team. Non-members welcome.

June 24 – Summer Group Swim Lessons Begin

Friday, July 26 – Early Pool Closure at 3pm

Annual Auction & Fundraiser Dinner Join us for a fun adult evening at the pool. We'll have dinner and lots of fun items to bid on. So much fun while helping to raise funds for the pool. Ticket information will be available on our website as we get closer to the event.

Tuesday, August 6 – 6-8pm

Funday w/ Dessert Potluck

Pizza will be available for purchase; you provide the dessert. Pool games for the kids! Please RSVP so we know about how much food to get. RSVP information will be available on somersetrec.org as we get closer to the event.

Monday, August 26 – 6-8pm

Pizza and Bingo Night

A fun night for the whole family! Dinner includes a slice of pizza, salad, beverage and a treat. Dinner is \$6. Bingo cards are for sale during the event, 2/\$1. Please RSVP so we know how much pizza to purchase. RSVP information will be available on somersetrec.org as we get closer to the event.

Friday & Saturday Outdoor Movie Nights

August: 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, and 24

Movies start at dusk. Bring a float for the pool or sit in a chaise poolside. This is one of the amazing benefits of membership – watching a movie outdoors together on a balmy summer's eve.

And make sure to like us (Somerset Recreation Club) on Facebook to keep updated on SRC news!

Somerset Rec Club 2019 Summer Group Swim Lesson Schedule is now posted at somerstrec.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. The 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 somerstrec.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

Sign Up for Summer Group Tennis Lessons & Tennis Team at SRC:

SRC will be hosting Junior Tennis group lessons for beginner to intermediate Monday through Thursday. Times are scheduled to coordinate with swim team practice times. You can sign up for 4-day sessions that run from June 24th through August 1st. Somerset Tennis Team participates in the Junior Eastside Tennis League (JETL) for kids ages 9-18. As a member of the tennis team, our players will experience competition with clubs around the Eastside and focus on improving their fundamentals. Practices include singles and doubles play, drills, activities, and competition. Sign up today at www.somerstrec.org.

Interested in donating to SRC? If you love that our community has this unique gem of a pool in our neighborhood, please consider donating. Every dollar helps and you don't have to be member of the pool to donate. Here are two simple ways you can help:

1. Donate Online - donations accepted at somerstrec.org
2. Attend Annual Auction & Fundraising Dinner on Friday, July 26th at SRC

Fundraising News: SRC Board Sets 2019 Fundraising Goal

Loving the improvements at SRC? Help us raise \$60,000 in 2019. If you haven't checked out the new upper deck and improvements during the off season, we invite you to come on by and take a look! While we continue to spruce up SRC with volunteer time and elbow grease, there are some improvement projects that require significant funds. That is why the 2019 SRC Board has set the goal of raising \$60,000 to continue to make Phase 2 critical improvements on the following identified areas. (Please note this list is subject to change once the 2019 season ends due to unforeseen circumstances.)

SRC is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, so donations are allowed as tax deductions by the IRS. The SRC is also eligible to receive additional "matching funds" for donations made by individuals working for various employers in the area. Please consult with a financial advisor or tax professional to understand how charitable donations would impact your tax status.

Regarding the tennis courts and rebuilding the lower clubhouse - these two areas are much bigger and costlier endeavors and at this time the 2019 SRC Board continues to focus on bringing the most used areas (pool, deck, clubhouse and bathrooms) to a standard that our community can be proud of.

Current Identified Phase 2 Critical Improvement Priorities: (1) New boiler, and (2) Deck resurfacing.

Additional items in Phase 2 of improvements which will require additional funding to complete include: bathroom upgrade (women's initially, then men's); additional seating; deck expansion and pool resurfacing.



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LANDSCAPING UPDATE

Spring has been dry and warmer than normal, and summer is projected to be the same, but with even longer days of sunshine. As a result, the weather has enhanced the growth and beauty of the plants and trees in our yards, throughout the Somerset community, and across the region. The rhododendrons, azaleas, lavender, heather and flowering trees have all bloomed and the deciduous trees are full of leaves now. Please enjoy our beautiful community during your daily walks, bike rides, or even as you drive around Somerset!

Our landscapers (Dusk 'til Dawn Landscapes, Tom Copestake) are maintaining all of SCA's entrances and other areas. The tulips and daffodils by the fountain have finished blooming and they will be putting in flowering annuals and perennials in that and other areas. In addition, they will be trimming some of the plants and trees as needed. We have had bark spread on portions of the entrance and the various common areas, including the Somerset entrance stones on Highland Drive. New plants will be added in the area adjacent to Somerset Elementary on 143rd due to some damage caused by the winter snow. The irrigation system in the entry areas was turned on in May and will continue until early Fall. Thank you to Gary Albert for his continued guidance in working with the system!

As it gets warmer and sunnier, we would like to encourage you to please maintain your yards – mow your grass, trim your plants and trees after they have bloomed and before they get too big. Try not to cut down trees, because they improve the appearance of your yard, reduce the level of heat on the exterior of your home, and attract beautiful birds that help to reduce bugs, too. It is a great time to plant pots that can be placed in entrances or on decks. You can use annuals or perennial flowers and even create a potted vegetable garden. In addition, please use organic fertilizers and reduce or eliminate pesticides and herbicides. Also, if you weed frequently and place bark in your planting area, that will minimize weeds future growth and eliminate your need for herbicides.

The SCA is dedicated to supporting you and your family, making our community look great during each season, and being supportive of our environment. Also, I want to thank everyone that helped to support Earth Day in April! If you have other questions regarding yard maintenance or landscaping, etc., please do not hesitate to contact me at suesander10@hotmail.com.

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Let's Do Lunch...



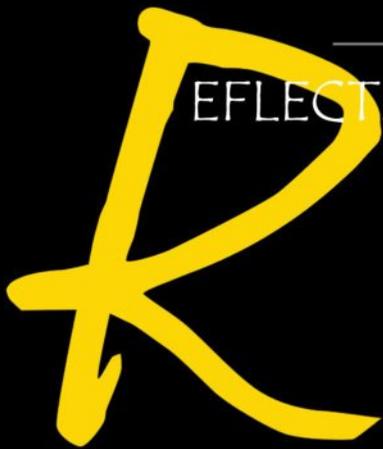
AND IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES.

For most people the decision to move isn't made overnight. It often starts with a question like, "If we could live anywhere, where would that be?" I've always believed it takes courage to imagine a life outside the one you already know and are comfortable with. Having someone to talk through the options with helps. I enjoy meeting with people to discuss the possibilities of what that next move might look like. If there's a move in your future, I'd love to meet and get to know you and see how we can work together to make your dreams a reality.

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“ We have enjoyed working with Jeff for many years. This year he and his Reflections team completed two additional projects. First, they replaced the exterior and mantle of the fireplace in our master bedroom. Then he undertook an ambitious redesign of an indoor/outdoor patio space, adding a gas fire pit and two movable glass walls. The 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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WILDLIFE CONCERNS?

For questions about wildlife that have become a nuisance, please check the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife website at wdfw.wa.gov or contact them at (425) 775-1311.



LICENSING YOUR PETS

You may not know that all dogs and cats in Bellevue must be licensed and registered annually. The fees for licenses are applied to regional animal services, provided in Bellevue through Regional Animal Services of King County (RASKC). To register your pet, go to the RASKC website at kingcounty.gov/depts/regional-animal-services and select "Pet Licensing" in the pull-down menu.

EASTSIDE ENERGY NEWS

The City of Bellevue held its official public hearing for PSE's "Energize Eastside" transmission line project on March 28. The hearing was initially expected to take four hours. Instead, it was continued for an additional three days. CENSE and another non-profit organization, Citizens for Sane Eastside

CENSE UPDATE

Energy, provided multiple expert witnesses and a 350-page legal notebook, compiled by hard-working volunteers. The Hearing Examiner received hundreds of letters and emails from residents who criticized many aspects of the harmful project.

It has taken the Hearing Examiner a long time to consider all the evidence. At the time of publication, the judge said he would not render a decision until June at the earliest. When he does issue a verdict, it is likely that CENSE or PSE will appeal the outcome to the Bellevue City Council. A special meeting of the council could happen in July. CENSE will ask that the meeting be held in September to avoid conflicts with summer vacations. The council's decision may be further appealed to county and state courts. A final verdict might not happen for years.

But there are rumblings outside of Bellevue. PSE must also seek approval in Newcastle and Renton, which are not directly served by the project. The only areas that might have an increasing need for electricity are downtown Bellevue and the developing Spring District. However, the 18-mile long Energize Eastside project is certainly not the best solution to meet localized demand. Other cities are not obligated to serve as an extension cord for Bellevue's benefit.

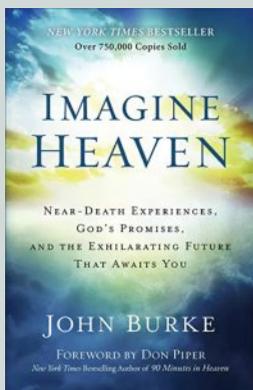
There is another new fact in our favor. The state legislature just passed the Washington Clean Energy Transformation Act, which requires utilities like PSE to shut down coal plants and transition to 100% renewable sources of electricity. The act will change the way PSE is compensated for projects like Energize Eastside. Instead of making money by putting "steel in the ground," PSE will be rewarded for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and making our energy grid smarter and more efficient. This gives us another chance to show that a project like Energize Eastside is a retrograde step, siphoning hundreds of millions of dollars from the modernization efforts we need.

More than five years have passed since PSE presented the Energize Eastside concept to neighbors in Somerset. Through the vigorous efforts of CENSE volunteers, the steady march of technology, the increased concern about energy impacts on climate change, and significantly lower demand for electricity than PSE forecast five years ago, Energize Eastside is less likely to be approved.

GOODREADS

Imagine Heaven

by John Burke (352 pages)

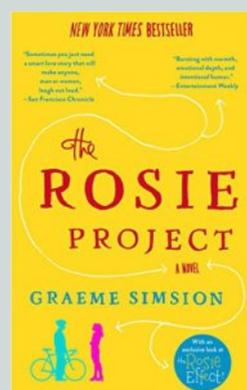


In *Imagine Heaven*, pastor John Burke compares more than one hundred gripping stories of near-death experiences (NDEs) to what Christian Scripture says about heaven. Burke analyzes a significant amount of raw "data" from NDE interviews with people of very different ages, cultures, and religions to find common elements shared by thousands of near-death survivors. As an international speaker, John has addressed hundreds of thousands of

people in twenty countries on topics of leadership and spiritual growth. I read this book about two months before I was diagnosed with colon cancer -- the timing was surely not a coincidence. Amazing book!

The Rosie Project

by Graeme Simsion (295 pages)



Don Tillman, a genetics professor with Asperger's, sets up a project designed to find himself the perfect wife. He starts with a questionnaire that ends up requiring regular "adjustments" he goes along. Then he meets Rosie, who is everything he's not looking for in a wife, but she ends up his friend as he helps her try and find her biological father. I caught myself laughing out loud many times while reading this book. A good, easy summer read.

I welcome your suggestions for other "Good Reads." Contact me at edwardsbd@q.com.

Bev Edwards
Somerset Resident

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"Mary Lee's professionalism, marketing talent, neighborhood knowledge, and savvy negotiating strategies deliver stellar outcomes in the best and worst of times."

We have engaged Mary Lee and her team twice since 2008 to assist us in selling our homes in Somerset. The first time was during a very challenging market. The second time was just as the spring market was heating up in April of 2019. In both cases, Mary's professionalism, marketing talent, neighborhood knowledge, and savvy negotiating strategies delivered stellar outcomes for us. She and her team get our highest recommendation!

Mary's **Ultimate Home Selling Success System™** is a big part of the value she and her team delivers. By having the home pre-inspected before bringing it to market, we identified a punch list of repairs and updates to address to ensure that our home would debut for sale in stellar condition without the typical contingencies. With careful staging, quality photography and sharing of quality marketing collateral materials, our home made quite an impression at a price point that welcomed powerful interest. We welcomed 100 groups that toured within a five day window. Nine parties expressed serious interest, four quality offers came forth, and a well-qualified buyer emerged. Mary even negotiated a \$100,000 non-refundable deposit, which was released to us immediately! This gave us great peace of mind.

If you are pondering selling or buying, give Mary Lee your serious consideration. You will be well served beyond your highest expectations.

On a personal note, we'll miss our neighbors and friends as the Somerset neighborhood has been our home since 1988. We are off to new adventures in Bellingham, WA. We look forward to staying in touch and welcoming visitors to our new home. You can find us on Facebook at:



<https://www.facebook.com/lifegoesonroadmap>

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SOMERSET REC CLUB



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JENNIFER ROBERTSON

**WORKING
TOGETHER
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BELLEVUE.**

Jennifer Robertson is a Somerset resident and a three-term City Councilmember. Stephanie Walter is the former Chair of the Planning Commission and a current member of the East Bellevue Community Council.

Jennifer and Stephanie believe that strong neighborhoods make a better Bellevue...a Bellevue that can grow our business sector while protecting the sanctity of our neighborhoods.



RE-ELECT
Jennifer
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BELLEVUE CITY COUNCIL

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8015 SE 28TH STREET, SUITE 314, MERCER ISLAND, WA 98040

CRC ANIMAL GUIDELINES

Almost all the Divisions within the Somerset Community have Covenant language which relates to the keeping of animals. They generally state something to the effect of “no animals, livestock or poultry of any kind, shall be raised, bred or kept on any lot except that dogs, cats or other household pets may be kept, provided that they are not kept, bred or maintained for commercial purposes.” Some also include the further provision that such animals must “not become a public nuisance.” None are more specific as to dog control, responsible ownership or appropriate care and treatment of pets. (Please review the Covenants which apply to the Division in which your property is located at our website somerset98006.org under the “Covenants” tab.)

As a community association, the SCA does not have the authority to establish new rules relating to dog ownership. The Covenant Review Committee can review and rule on neighbor complaints only as they relate to issues that are addressed in the Covenants. When we are unable to resolve disputes, the parties are referred to the Bellevue Conflict Resolution Center for mediation. While we certainly hope that no dangerous animals are kept in the Somerset community, we strongly encourage homeowners to contact the appropriate authorities in any situation where they may feel unsafe.

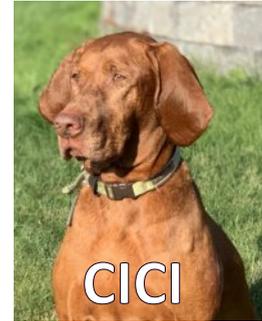
For other local and state laws which might apply to dog owners, we suggest you review Bellevue City Code Title 8 (Animal Care & Control), Bellevue Land Use Code Section 20.20.130 (Animal Keeping & Services), King County Code Title 11 (Animal Care & Control Regulations), and RCW (Revised Code of Washington) Title 16 (Animals & Livestock), specifically Chapters 16.08 and 16.10 relating to dogs.



SOMERSET DOGS!



LUCY



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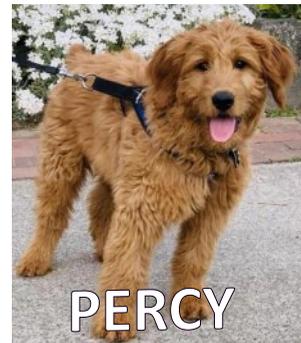
MOCHI



DONUT



SHOESHOE



PERCY

SOMERSET GREENBELT DOG ATTACK - OUR EXPERIENCE

Our daily hike in the Somerset Greenbelt turned into the most terrifying experience for me, my husband and our dog. Our leashed goldendoodle was attacked from behind by an off-leash pit bull. The attack was predatory aggression with intense behaviors: bite that caused puncture wounds, repeated bites in rapid succession, and bite and shake (ASPCA.org definition). Thank heaven my husband was present and able to jump onto the pit bull and hold it down until the police arrived. This took 40 minutes by the way ... let that sink in. I can't imagine what would have happened if I was walking the dog alone. The owner of the pit bull was a teenager who did try to help get his dog off our dog, but when pit bulls bite, they don't let go. Animal control was called to help my husband off the dog and out of this very dangerous situation. The pit bull had been adopted from the Seattle Humane Society four months earlier and the family was told the dog was reactive and would need reactive training. The family had been given restrictions on harnessing the dog when taking it for a walk and keeping their attention on the dog at all times. None of this forewarning and training stopped their dog on this day. The dog broke the leash, ran onto the trail and attacked our dog from behind. The attack is still very disturbing to me; I'm not comfortable on the trails. My dog will rarely go for walks anymore as she would rather just play in her own back yard. It is sad because we used to hike every single day.

ANIMAL COMPLAINTS

Regional Animal Services of King County (RASKC) is our local provider of animal control services in Bellevue. Their Animal Control Officers (ACOs) conduct investigations, enforce state and local laws related to animals, and educate the public about animal welfare, restraint and licensing.

If you have an animal complaint, RASKC recommends first communicating with the pet owner. (This corroborates the position of the CRC on neighbor complaints.) From their website: "Try to talk to the pet owner about the problem. Sometimes owners are not aware of the problem, especially when they are not at home. A neighborly discussion can be helpful. Try to work out a mutually agreeable solution and allow the pet owner a reasonable amount of time to remedy the situation. Make note of the dates and times of your contacts with the pet owner and responses received." If you are unable to come to agreement or compromise, you can file an animal complaint or animal noise complaint with RASKC.

Go to their website at kingcounty.gov/depts/regional-animal-services. Click on "Animal Control Response" for the complaint form which can be completed online or printed and sent by email or USPS. ACOs respond to non-emergency calls seven days a week from 7:30am-6:30pm. Call (206) 296-7387 (PETS).

In the end, the owners of the pit bull decided that they did not want the liability that came with ownership of such a dog so they returned it to the Seattle Humane Society - right here in Bellevue. Unfortunately, the Humane Society is offering the same dog for adoption again. Do you want your neighbor to adopt this dog? I don't.

Because our dog was not killed and no people were bitten, nothing was done to the pit bull. That's the law in Washington. According to RCW 16.08.70, the pit bull should now be labeled as "potentially dangerous".

Unfortunately, there are no restrictions for potentially dangerous dogs, only dangerous dogs. I am uncomfortable waiting for this dog to severely injure a human or kill a dog and be labeled dangerous, so here I am telling our story to raise awareness of this issue. (Note, I am NOT trying to gather support for breed specific legislation [i.e., pit bull ban]. I am trying to gather support for legislation that protects everyone from potentially dangerous dogs.) I think there needs to be discussions about potentially dangerous dogs and what we can do to keep ourselves safe. If you agree, please reach out to your local politicians asking for a discussion about potentially dangerous dogs. I believe Bellevue should consider being proactive in protecting its citizens.

Arden and Paul Hyatt
Somerset residents

ANY DOG CAN BITE

By Dr. Judy Hung

Just as we can raise our voices when we are stressed, scared, or threatened, dogs use their own vocalizations, body gestures and postures to express themselves. They hope that these gestures will work to give them space to be away from a stressful situation. However, if these signals go unheeded, even the sweetest pup can bite. More than half of the 800,000 people annually that receive medical attention for bites are children. In one split second, the beautiful human-animal bond is destroyed by a dog bite that could have been prevented.

How can we prevent dog bites from occurring? Understanding a dog's body language accurately is the best way. However, most children and adults cannot read a dog's body language accurately. A dog wagging its tail might mean that the animal is happy to see you or wants to play. The same gesture, with a subtle difference of wagging at a slower rate might mean that it's anxious or nervous. We also cannot predict whether a dog will bite or not based on its size and breed.

Here are some do's and don'ts when you are interacting with dogs you encounter:

DO: Ask for permission before attempting to pet a dog you don't know.

DO: Hold out your hand still in a closed fist, allowing the dog to sniff your "fist bump".

DO: Gently pet the dog on the side or chest rather than on the top of the head.

DON'T: Squeal, shout, or make sudden movements

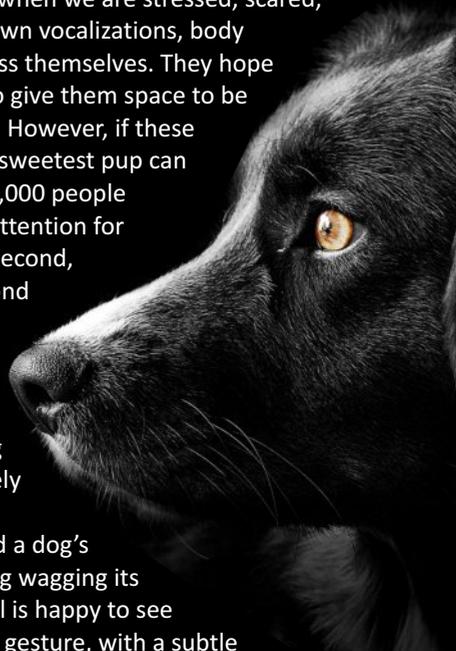
DON'T: Lean over the dog, grab, or hug

DON'T: Stare the dog in the eye

Ask yourself a question next time you're around a dog and want to play with it: Does the dog seem like it wants to be with you? If the dog is relaxed and friendly, and seems happy to see you, it's probably in a good, playful mood and will welcome your attention. If the dog won't look at you or is avoiding you by walking or turning away, it's probably best to let it go on its way and leave it alone. If it seems tense and nervous, or seems to be staring at you, you'll want to stay away.

As a dog owner and veterinarian, one of my greatest joys is to make the human-animal bond stronger. Please take steps to prevent dog bites as life is better with dogs!

Dr. Hung is the Medical Director at Eastside Veterinary Associates with offices in Kirkland and Newcastle / Renton, and a friend of Somerset





Somerset Community Association
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THE INVISIBLE FENCE CONUNDRUM

Fencing is important for dog owners. It prevents your dog from becoming a neighborhood nuisance, but it also protects your pet from vehicle accidents, aggressive interactions with other dogs, and pet thieves (hopefully not a Somerset problem). Because the Somerset Covenants do not allow front yard fences (nothing closer than the 15-foot setback, usually the front of the house), many people keep their dogs confined to their back yards. Others have installed an “invisible” (electric) fence which creates an electrically charged boundary around their property. The dog’s collar has a receiver that delivers a small electric charge when the dog approaches this boundary line, discouraging it from crossing out of the yard.

There are some risks involved in use of invisible fences. If their power supply is interrupted by a power outage or dead battery in the collar, a dog will easily cross the boundary line. Though these fences prevent dogs from leaving a yard, they don’t prevent hazards from entering the yard. Stray dogs and wild animals can still access the yard and interact aggressively with your pet. Lastly, if a dog sees something it really wants to chase, or is frightened by something

inside the yard, it may breach the fence by ignoring the electric shock. Then the dog is essentially “locked out” of its own yard unless it is willing to be shocked again upon re-entry.

The SCA has recently received an increased number of complaints relating to large, loud and aggressive dogs which while contained behind an invisible fence, have lunged at or run toward pedestrians and children walking in the neighborhood. These people have been frightened of the dogs’ behavior, since they did not know there was an invisible fence in place. They have fallen, run and tripped into oncoming traffic in an effort to escape what they assumed was an imminent attack. We assume that these dogs were merely being “watch dogs” and defending their property; the neighbors were nonetheless frightened. For this reason, we discourage the use of invisible fences in Somerset. If you do install one, please (1) install it well back from the property line, (2) post a small sign that indicates the existence of the fence, and (3) do not leave your dog unattended in what looks like an open, unfenced yard. Hopefully these steps will protect your animal while also helping your neighbors enjoy the neighborhood.

