



SOMERSET SUN

Neighborhood news from the Somerset Community Association

Winter 2018

Council Corner
CENSE Update
Local Holiday Favorites
Somerset Chorale
BSD News
Somerset Elementary Auction

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

www.Somerset98006.org

2018 SOMERSET COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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School Liaison	Muriel Mittelstrass	mmittelstrass@comcast.net
Communications	OPEN	somerset98006@gmail.com

SOMERSET COMMUNITY INTEREST GROUPS

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



SOMERSET98006.ORG



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HELLO NEIGHBORS,

Happy Holidays from the Somerset Community Association Board! It has been my pleasure to serve as Interim President through the end of the year after the unexpected vacancy occurred on our Board of Directors. Our Board is made up of a wonderful group of engaged and generous volunteers who work to keep Somerset a desirable and sought after neighborhood. My thanks to all of them for their friendship and support as responsibilities shifted throughout the year.

I strongly encourage everyone to participate in the care and management of our neighborhood.

Decisions made by the SCA directly impact you and your home, your neighbors and our entire community, so YOUR participation in this decision making process is critical. We have current openings on the Board for President, Vice President, Newsletter Editor, CRC Committee members, and members-at-large. I know from speaking with many of you, that you too truly care about this neighborhood.

The best way to act on this is to become a volunteer SCA Board

member. The time commitment is only a few hours each month. Please consider making a real difference in the future of our Somerset community and submit your name or that of another resident you believe might have an interest. You can mention this to any existing Board member, or simply submit this info via our contact form at Somerset98006.org.

If you cannot commit to joining our Board, you can still support the neighborhood by paying your annual membership dues, which go toward seasonal plantings, year-round maintenance of landscaping for entrances and community areas, and maintenance of the fountain, signage, lighting and sprinkler systems. We also currently prepare quarterly newsletters and a biennial directory of members. 2019 Membership Forms, along with proxy statements, should have been in your mailbox around the same time as this newsletter. I encourage you to complete and return both as soon as possible. Also, mark your calendar for the SCA Annual General Meeting on Thursday, January 17, at Forest Ridge School, in the Ackerly Room. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Your participation is welcome and encouraged!

Lastly, as we approach a season that is special to many, I would encourage each of us to approach one another with kindness. My role on the CRC has exposed me to multiple situations begun in miscommunication which escalate to an "us vs. them" situation. Rarely is one party's position absolutely in the right. Often there is a language or cultural barrier that is challenging to overcome. Our Somerset neighborhood has become more diverse over the last few years, mirroring what is happening all over our country. Let's learn and grow from those that are different from us, and strengthen Somerset by being inclusive of the diversity in our neighborhood.

All my best to you and your families for a happy and healthy 2019!

Diane Fern

2018 Interim President

SCA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ANNUAL SCA GENERAL MEETING

Please join us on **Thursday, January 17, 2019** for our annual general membership meeting.

Come meet your SCA Board members and neighbors in Forest Ridge School's Ackerly Board Room (south side of campus). Light refreshments and social mingling at 6:30 p.m., business meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. We will ask members to approve our annual budget, elect new board and CRC members, and approve a minor Bylaw amendment. The agenda includes community speakers, a CENSE update on the Eastside Energy project, and answers to your community questions. If you haven't already mailed in your proxy statement and annual dues for 2019, please bring your check with you. *Hope to see you there!*

SCA BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED

Your Somerset Community Association is seeking Somerset neighbors to serve on the Board of Directors as volunteers beginning in January 2019 for a three-year term. We need a diverse group of perspectives to accurately represent our wonderful neighborhood. If you are interested in giving back to your community and helping Somerset, please contact us at somerset98006@gmail.org.

Student Safety Stop Paddle Cameras Installed

Twenty percent of Bellevue School District buses had stop paddle cameras installed in early October as part of a new partnership between the school district and King County for the benefit of student safety.

BELLEVUE SCHOOL DISTRICT UPDATE



Stop paddle cameras are similar to red-light cameras at traffic lights. When a school bus stops to pick up or drop off students, the bus driver puts on the amber lights, followed by the red lights and then extends the stop paddle prior to opening the door for students. When the stop paddle is extended, drivers are required to follow state

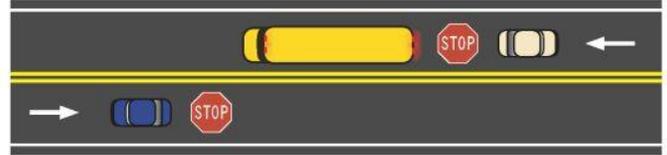
laws regarding stopping and waiting. The size of the road and direction of travel dictate which vehicles are expected to stop. The cameras are being installed as a student safety measure and will capture video of cars which illegally pass school buses.

The grace period and enforcement date are still being determined. During the grace period drivers who do not stop will receive a warning letter by mail. Following the grace period, drivers who illegally pass a school bus will be issued a \$419 ticket.

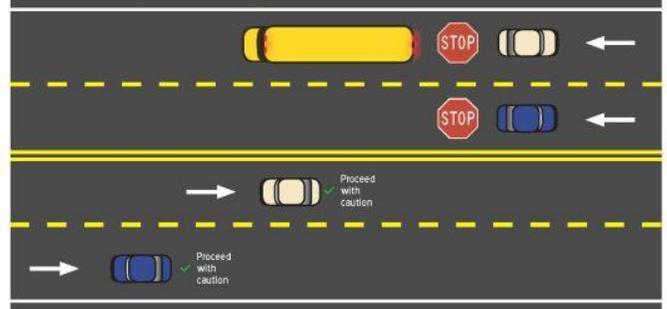
See the Bellevue School District website for frequently asked questions and to refresh your knowledge of Washington's laws on this issue. www.bsd405.org

When to stop when school bus lights are flashing or stop bar is out

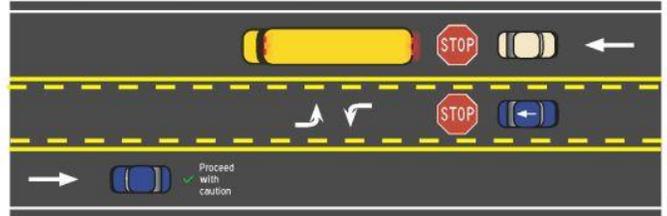
- 1** 2-lane roadway: both directions stop



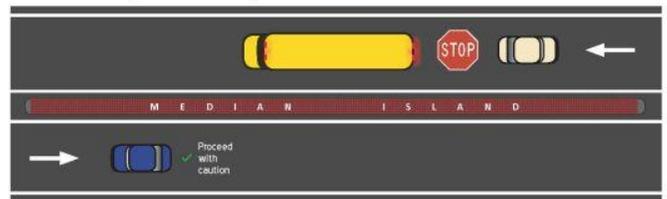
- 2** 3+ lanes: stop if traveling same direction as bus



- 3** Turning lane: stop if traveling same direction as bus



- 4** Median: stop if traveling same direction as bus



"I want to thank you for the tremendous job you did for us. You were so accurate on your pricing, timing, and most of all communication. Any question we had you answered promptly. You kept us updated with wise counsel at every turn. Chuck and I so appreciate the way you made us feel as though we were your number one priority. A home is not only a huge investment, but it's an emotional judgment as well. You made it a great business decision for us. Again, you are the best broker in the State. We were so lucky to have you guide and lead us through the process. Thank you so much!" – Judy and Chuck T.

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LOCAL HOLIDAY FAVORITES

We all enjoy celebrating the winter holiday season. If you are staying in town this year, check out these local favorites for family fun!

Garden d'Lights - The Bellevue Botanical Garden puts on this annual event with over half a million sparkling lights formed into the whimsical shapes of plants, flowers, birds, animals and cascading waterfalls. Open nightly from 4:30 to 9:00 p.m. through December 30th. Admission is \$5 per person, ages 10 and under free. Tickets can be purchased at the door, or online. www.bellevuebotanical.org/garden-dlights

The Nutcracker - The Pacific Northwest Ballet will be performing this best-selling holiday classic in McCaw Hall through December 28th. Tchaikovsky's score and Balanchine's choreography are now embellished by new staging designed by Ian Falconer. Two hours long with one intermission, ticket prices range from \$36 to \$180. www.pnb.org/nutcracker/tickets

Snowflake Lane - The Bellevue Collection puts on this free parade which includes falling snow, dazzling lights, festive music and holiday characters. Held nightly from November 23rd to December 24th at 7 p.m. on the sidewalks between Bellevue Square and Lincoln Square. Details and exact parade route on their website. www.snowflakelane.com

Enchant Christmas - New to Seattle, this event will be held in Safeco Field and is marketed as the world's largest Christmas light maze, with an ice-skating trail, Santa, food, drink and nightly live music and shows. Running 4 to 10 p.m. daily from November 23rd to December 30th. Tickets start at \$20/person but check website for family packs and discount nights. www.enchantchristmas.com

Bellevue Ice Skating Arena - This all-ages winter tradition will again be held in Bellevue Downtown Park from November 23rd through January 13th. The 9,000 square foot covered rink is open rain, shine or snow. Your \$15 admission (\$10 for ages 8 and under) includes skate rental. www.bellevueicerink.com

NEWPORT WAY IMPROVEMENTS

You may have noticed Puget Sound Energy crews at work along SE Newport Way. They are installing utility poles on the north side of Newport Way in order to make way for the Newport Way sidewalk and bikeway improvements. We received the following project updates from Paul Krawczyk, City of Bellevue's Project Manager:

The 90% design is planned to be completed in October 2018 and will be 100% completed by the end of the year. The project will go out to bid in January 2019 with an anticipated start date in March or April 2019 (this is dependent on easements, weather and permitting). Initial work will include clearing and grading of trees and shrubs throughout the corridor and then the construction of retaining walls on the south side of Newport Way. Once the retaining walls are in, there will be more space to work on the multiuse path planned for the north side of Newport Way. The narrowness of the roadway will make routing pedestrians difficult during construction. The City is working on ways to allow limited pedestrian usage during construction. The flat work (concrete curb, gutter and sidewalk) will commence in 2020. Anticipated total completion will be in the fall of 2020. We are excited to see work beginning. You can check for updates at www.newportwaysidewalk.org.

Kristi Weir, Somerset resident
The Newport Way Sidewalk Committee



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Let's Talk About Poultry

The Covenant Review Committee regularly receives questions about whether our community members are allowed to keep chickens, ducks or other poultry. Almost all of the Divisions within the Somerset Community have restrictions *against* the keeping of poultry. Here are some excerpts from some of the Covenants:

- **Divisions 2, 4 & 6: ANIMALS.** 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.
- **Divisions 9, 10 & 14: ANIMALS.** No animals, livestock or poultry or 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, and further provided that they do not become a public nuisance.
- **Somerset Crest:** No animals except dogs, cats, caged birds and fish in tanks will be permitted on any lot. (a) All ordinances, rules, regulations or other directives of government authorities with respect to the keeping of animals shall be complied with strictly and expeditiously by all owners. (b) No more than two (2) dogs and two (2) cats shall be domiciled on any lot, although unweaned puppies or kittens shall be permitted in excess of said numbers. (c) No mules, swine, goats, pigs, ducks, geese, or any other fowl or animals shall be kept upon the property.

As you can see, while the language varies between the different Division Covenants, it is consistent in its restrictions against poultry. Please review the Covenants which apply to the Division in which *your* property is located at our website somerset98006.org under the "Covenants" tab.

Note: The only exceptions to these restrictions are the two divisions in Somerset (SE-3 and 16) which do not have

COVENANT CORNER

Covenants and therefore must follow City of Bellevue Codes/Ordinances. Land Use Code §20.20.130, "Animal Keeping and Services", sets forth the guidelines which apply to the keeping of poultry. In summary, fewer than six chickens (or other fowl of similar size) are treated as household pets and allowed by Bellevue City Code. Should you reside in one of these two Divisions, I would remind you that roosters are the cause of most noise complaints, and they are not necessary for your chickens to produce eggs!

To review, chickens are not welcome in most of the Somerset neighborhoods, since the Somerset Covenants supersede any City of Bellevue allowances and the stricter ordinance prevails. Please contact the CRC if you have any questions or concerns about a neighbor ignoring the Covenants. If you have chickens from a neighboring residence that encroach on your property, you can call Regional Animal Services of King County at (206) 296-7387.

Diane Fern, Chair
Covenant Review Committee





By Council Member Jennifer Robertson

With winter, often comes snow and ice which are dangerous for drivers, particularly on steep hills like we have in Somerset. The City has 17 trucks that can plow and sand and is already preparing

COUNCIL CORNER

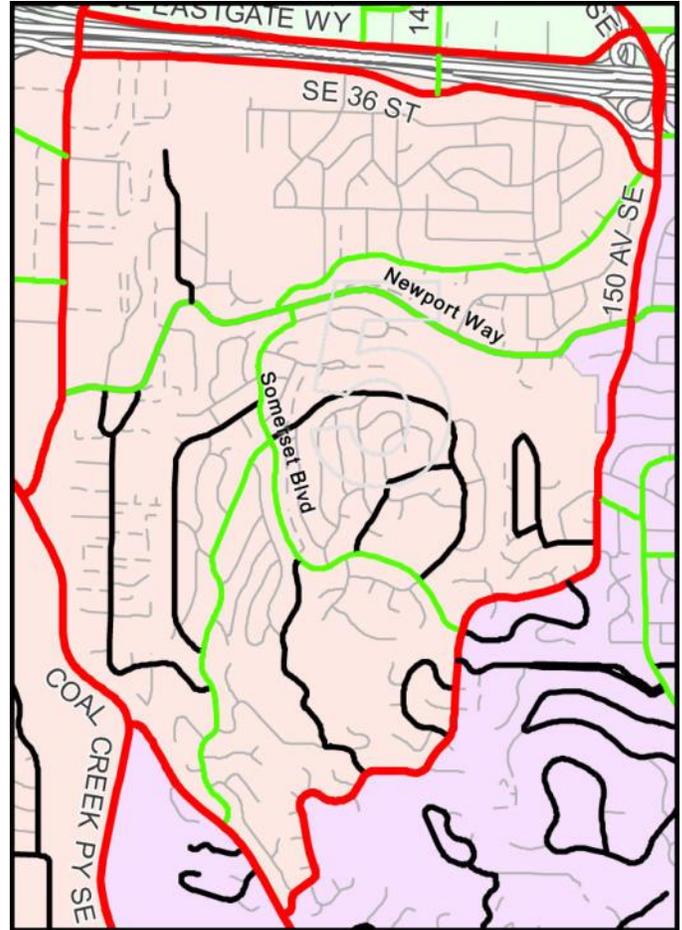
for the winter weather. During a storm, the City has up to 25 employees who work round the clock in 12-hour shifts. The City's priority on clearing streets of snow and ice is to keep public street routes passable for emergency, commercial and private vehicles. "Passable" means that someone with the appropriate equipment, driving ability and judgment (i.e. driving a reasonable speed) can travel that street once it has been serviced. The City has a "priority response system" to clear major arterials and primary neighborhood routes, with secondary arterials and other streets being cleared only after the priority routes have been cleared. A map of the Somerset area for these priorities is included with this article.

One important thing to know is that for people who live on or near Highland Drive between Somerset Boulevard and Forest Drive, parking on Highland Drive during a winter snow event may result in the City's trucks being delayed or unable to clear that section of the road. This is because the roadway lanes are narrow in that area and cars on the street may block the ability of the larger road clearing equipment to get through.

For more information about dealing with snow and ice in Bellevue, please visit the City's website at fire.bellevuewa.gov/emergency-management/hazards/snow-ice

As the holidays and winter come upon us, please be prepared and be careful. My family and I wish you all a restful and happy holiday season and a bright new year in 2019.

Jennifer Robertson is a 3-term member of the Bellevue City Council and a municipal attorney. She lives with her husband and children in Somerset.



Legend

Snow Response Priorities

- Primary Arterial
- Primary Neighborhood
- Secondary Arterial

Source: City of Bellevue

The City of Bellevue does not guarantee that the information on this map is accurate or complete. This data is provided on an "as is" basis and disclaims all warranties.

SCHOOL CLOSURE INFORMATION

Stay informed on school closures or delays.

BSD Homepage: bsd405.org

Facebook: facebook.com/bsd405

Twitter: twitter.com/thebsd405

FlashAlert: flashalert.net/id/BellevueSD

BSD Newsline: (425) 456-4111

Local TV/Radio Stations

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ADDING A DECK?

PAINTING YOUR HOME?

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

We can help!

www.somerset98006.org/contactus

LANDSCAPING UPDATE

The Somerset Community Association works with two firms for our common area maintenance: Earthworks takes care of landscaping and Aquasense maintains our irrigation system. These companies have helped to make our entrances look great through the hot/dry summer by maintaining and trimming all the plants/trees and making sure that the sprinklers are working. The beautiful impatiens near the fountain have been removed and the area tidied up to prepare for the cold weather. It seems that all the issues we dealt with this summer (construction, broken pipes, sprinkler heads, sidewalk changes) have been completed and the areas returned to rights. Gary Albert and Kenn Gennari have again helped to resolve many of these issues and we owe them our great appreciation. Thank you Gary and Kenn!

We hope you appreciate the holiday lights at the main entrance which should be lit from Thanksgiving through Chinese New Year in February. We love all neighborhood decoration, so please join us in celebrating this special time of year. (Try to use LED lights to save energy and make your home look great too.)

Winter is here with shorter days and the leaves have fallen. Our summer and fall were amazing with lots of sunshine and minimal rain. As a result, our plants bloomed several times and grew fast. (Many of my lilies have blossomed three times since last spring!) Now is the time to protect those great flowers and plants from freezing. Start to prepare your yard by raking leaves and placing soil/bark around the stems of plants and tree trunks too. Also, take in your pots if they have flowering plants in them; many will not last the winter unless you place them in your garage (water periodically) or under your roof/eaves.



It is a good time to trim overgrown bushes and trees, plant bulbs, add perennials to your yards that will bloom all winter (e.g., pansies), and apply winter fertilizer on your grass. Use your green garbage to compost leaves and yard cuttings. I also encourage you to feed the birds that winter in the PNW. We have hummingbirds that stay all winter, so please keep their feeders full throughout the winter months. It is a joy every day to watch them feed and listen to them sing. For more information on the winterizing process check with PSE's and the City of Bellevue's websites on how to protect your home by adding insulation, double-paned windows, energy efficient appliances and heaters. Also, the City is offering a series of classes for "Greener Living" that will sharpen your environmental knowledge. This will help you save you energy, money, and enables our neighborhood to be greener.

If you have any questions regarding any landscape or maintenance issue, please contact me at suesander1@gmail.com. Take care, Happy Holidays to you all, and remember to always Be Green! Thank you!

Sue Sander
Landscape Chair

2019 SOMERSET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AUCTION

Somerset Elementary School is a neighborhood school. Our school and our community support each other so that Somerset Community is a desirable place to live and Somerset Elementary is an attractive school where parents feel comfortable sending their kids.

The Somerset PTSA (Parent Teacher Student Association) is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. Our mission is to support the education, health, and welfare of each and every child at Somerset Elementary School.

Due to the shortage of general education funding from the State, the Somerset PTSA funds \$300-\$400/student/year as a supplement. We raise money through our annual fall fundraising drive and biennial auction.

Our next auction is scheduled to take place on Saturday, March 23rd, 2019 at the Bellevue Hilton. All community members are invited to attend. This is

not only a fundraising event; it is also a community-building night. There will be an exciting live auction, silent auction, champagne reception, gourmet food, laughter and more. Please come join us to meet old friends and make new ones during this wonderful event. Ticket information will be distributed shortly.



Million dreams

If you are a business owner, please consider donating to this auction. As one of the largest elementary schools in the Bellevue School District, we have 670+ students in our school. We can help bring your business to our families. We have in-kind donation and sponsorship options for you to choose from. In addition, all donations are tax-deductible. Please visit our website SomersetPTSA.org for more information. If you wish to contact us, please email somersetptsa@gmail.com. Your generosity will help build a better school and a stronger community. Thank you!

Somerset PTSA



REAL ESTATE MARKET UPDATE



Active Listings

5	Homes Currently For Sale
3,818	Average Square Feet
32	Average Days of Market
\$1,162,250	Average List Price

Pending Listings

5	Current Pending Sales
3,065	Average Sq Ft
36	Average Days on Market before going under contract
\$1,152,378	Average List Price when home went under contract

Sold

9	Closed Sales within last 90 days
3,082	Average Sq Ft
20	Average Days on Market before going under contract
\$1,208,278	Average Final Sales price **
>.05 %	Average % of sale OVER list price
7	# of homes hold over \$1M
78%	of Homes that sold over \$1M
93%	of Homes that sold over \$1M

Cash Sales

2	Homes Purchased with Cash
22%	of total sales purchased with cash
\$1,262,250	Average Cash Sale **

Rentals

6	# of homes available for rent
\$4,233	Average monthly rent advertised
13	Average # of Days on Market
9	# of homes Rented in last 90 days
\$3,216	Average monthly rent advertised
39	Average # of Days on Market prior to Rental

~ Provided by **Tanya Franzen-Garrett**
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* Data based on NWMLS 90 Day Reports Dated 11/2/18*
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For those of you who have not considered these local businesses you might want to take a closer look. If you are looking for a recommendation you may want to call Bev Edwards at (425) 638-9788 who has been working closely with each advertiser and has great insights into their capabilities. If you do select one of our advertisers let them know that heard about them through the Somerset Sun.

Your support of our advertisers is always appreciated.

ENERGIZE EASTSIDE: CLOSING ARGUMENTS

Lingering questions about the need for PSE's big power line and its compatibility with Bellevue's land use code may delay a public hearing until 2019. Although no date has been set, CENSE will need maximum turnout at the hearing to show the land use judge how the community feels about a big,

CENSE UPDATE

dangerous transmission line through Somerset and dozens of other residential neighborhoods.

Is it safe?

In October, a natural gas pipeline exploded in Canada for reasons that are not well understood. PSE proposes to "hand dig" holes for the metal transmission towers within feet of a 50-year-old petroleum pipeline. Will that be enough to protect nearby homes and schools from a life-threatening pipeline explosion?

In November, a transmission line in California sparked a fire that destroyed whole towns and required evacuation of a quarter million residents. Will doubling the voltage on these transmission lines increase fire risk? What technology is PSE using to mitigate that risk?

Selling PSE

Macquarie, the Australian investment bank that owns 44% of PSE, wants to sell its share of the company to Canadian and Dutch pension funds. The Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) was prepared to approve the deal before CENSE joined the office of the Attorney General, environmental groups, and labor unions to ask the UTC to

more thoroughly scrutinize the transaction. CENSE isn't convinced the new owners are committed to making PSE a better "corporate" neighbor that respects local community and environmental values. CENSE would especially like greater transparency for data and forecasts that PSE uses to justify its projects. Instead of immediately authorizing the sale, the Commission decided to pursue an "expedited evaluation process." CENSE will continue to monitor developments and lobby for better outcomes for PSE's customers.

Good news for reliability

PSE recently announced that in 2020 it will install "self-healing grid" technology for Somerset, Eastgate, and Newcastle. These neighborhoods have had the worst electrical reliability in the area, according to ten years of reliability data analyzed by CENSE. When a power outage occurs, a self-healing grid will route electricity around the failed component, reducing many outages from hours or days to a few seconds or minutes. We heartily applaud this announcement!

Bad news for Lake Hills

PSE insists a new transmission line is the only way to improve reliability in Bellevue's Lake Hills neighborhood. According to CENSE experts, a self-healing grid would be a great solution for this neighborhood too. CENSE and a new organization, 300trees.org, are asking for a solution that improves reliability and preserves 300 trees that PSE is preparing to cut down on 148th Ave. We hope to preserve the beauty of our city for future generations.

To stay up to date with all these efforts, visit [CENSE.org/newsletter](https://www.cense.org/newsletter) to receive the CENSE newsletter.



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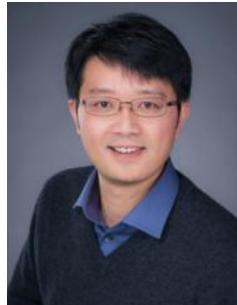
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GOOD READS

The Girl with Seven Names: A North Korean Defector's Story

by Hyeonseo Lee (304 pages)

This is the unique story not only of Hyeonseo's escape from North Korea, but also of her coming of age, education and the resolve she found to rebuild her life – not once, but twice – first in China, then in South Korea. An extraordinary insight into life under one of the world's most ruthless and secretive dictatorships – and the story of one woman's terrifying struggle to avoid capture/repatriation and guide her family to freedom. Strong, brave and eloquent, this memoir is a triumph of her remarkable spirit. This book has been recommended by many people.

The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World

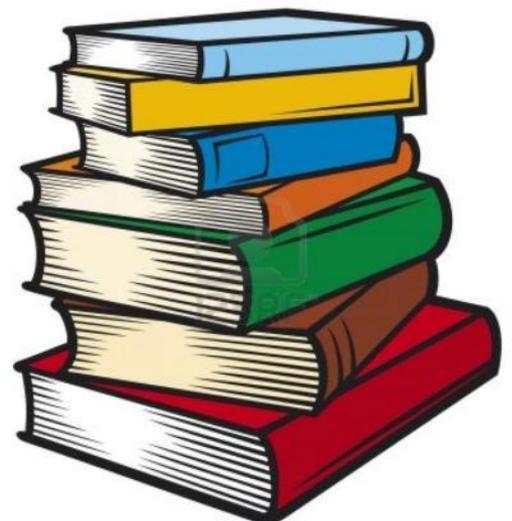
by the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu (351 pages)

Nobel Peace Prize Laureates His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu have survived more than fifty years of exile and the soul-crushing violence of oppression. Despite their hardships (or as they would say, because of them), they are two of the most joyful people on the planet. In this book, they share their wisdom about living with joy even in the face of adversity, sharing personal stories and teachings about the science of profound happiness and the daily practices that anchor their emotional and spiritual lives. This is a book that you could read yearly! This selection was given to me by a dear friend, Mary Means, who is a voracious reader.

I welcome your "Good Reads" too. Email them to me at edwardsbd517@gmail.com.

Bev Edwards

SCA Board Member



CONCERTED ACT OF COMMUNITY: THE SOMERSET CHORALE

Four years ago, Alison Seaton, who teaches music at Forest Ridge School of the Sacred Heart, conceived of the idea of a community choir serving Somerset and surrounding neighborhoods. Thus the Somerset Chorale was born. The chorale has now grown from twelve members to 52. Singers come from the Forest Ridge community (alumni and staff), from the Somerset neighborhood, and in some cases from many miles away: Kirkland, North Bend, and Mercer Island.

They're all drawn by the opportunity to sing with a choir that, as singer Elly McKenzie says, is not affiliated with any particular institution, that's bound purely by the love of music and the love of community. All are welcome, no auditions required. Alison's infectious warmth draws people in and ensures that everyone feels welcome, but with her world-class skill as a conductor she also challenges her singers to perform choral feats they hadn't previously thought possible. No matter how bad your day has been, says soprano Pat

Brown, everything just melts away when it's choir time. Cindy Knight, who has MS, says her days can sometimes leave her feeling drained of energy, but choir is a source of renewal. Cindy puts a lot into choir, but she says she gets even more out of the weekly rehearsals. Singers Gayle Layman and Jonathan Seaton concur: they love the people and the energy in the choir. Choir members Peter Robinson and Andy Haslam have written original compositions that have been performed at the Chorale's concerts. And the highlight of the year for choir members may be the composer visits that Alison organizes: last year composer Jim Papoulis spent a weekend with the Somerset Chorale, and his joyous style even led to the debut of a new dance move called the Bellevue shimmy!

You can catch the Chorale in concert on December 15th at 4 p.m., in the chapel at Forest Ridge. For more information on rehearsals and concerts, please contact the choir director, Alison Seaton at aseaton@forestridge.org.

Kiran Mascarenhas
Somerset Resident



The Somerset Chorale, with director Alison Seaton (front row, fifth from the left)



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- Ty & Terry Thorpe, 5060 Highland Drive (our 200th Home Sale in Somerset)

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SOMERSET COMMUNITY INTEREST GROUPS

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

Book Club

Becky Mills (425) 223-6520

Somerset's co-ed book club usually reads more fiction than nonfiction, but that really depends on the makeup of the club, since members recommend books and then vote on what they will read. With about 12 current members, the club is always accepting more. Meetings last about two hours starting at 7:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month (except December) at a member's home. Contact Becky if you are interested in joining.

Somerset Women for Medic One

Evelyn Bateman (425) 747-7775

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

Somerset Moms

Sylvia Vasilik, sylvia.vasilik@gmail.com

Sylvia created this email group (via Google groups) more than 10 years ago, to connect local moms in the neighborhood. With more than 200 members, it can be a great way to get recommendations, buy and sell items, and get local info. It's a great resource for all parents in the neighborhood. Contact Sylvia to join, or if you have fresh energy or ideas on how the group might develop.

Hill 'n' Dale Garden Club

Joan Waldeck (425) 747-6605

HillnDaleGardenClubBellevue@gmail.com

Having started as the Somerset Garden Club in 1956, and with a current member who joined over 50 years ago, the Hill 'n' Dale Garden Club has been helping our hilly neighborhood stay gorgeous and green for over half a century. The currently 15-member club meets at 6:30 p.m. on the first Monday of each month at Newport Library. Each meeting lasts approximately two hours, beginning with a speaker covering one of three gardening topics — horticulture, design or conservation — and ending with some discussion and social time. Meeting info and speakers' topics are listed on the Newport Library website; kcls.bibliocommons.com/events/5b81d3e985e5d925007ac853. All are welcome.

50 and Over Singles

Kathy Judkins (425) 260-4324

Somerset's 50 and Over Singles is a group of women aged 50 and up who are single, widowed, or divorced and meet frequently for social gatherings and events. The 50 and Over Singles group is not about dancing, but about community, fun, and social connection.

The group meets in the early evenings on Mondays and Thursdays in the Factoria and Eastgate areas. On occasion, they also head out to the movies and on other social outings — four of the women in the group even shared a cabin on a cruise together. So, if you're single, aged 50+, and would like to make some new friends in the neighborhood, this is your group!

As we head into winter and just had our first big storm it's a good idea to review some of the information that we have published over the last couple of years and update your family's plans.

The Emergency Preparedness teams here in Somerset work hard to keep each of our block groups updated, prepared, and connected. This isn't enough unless each of us is aware of the

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

risks and have put plans in place. Please review or take a look at the following links which will provide some answers and help either get you started or help you enhance your family's plans and supplies.

This first story talks about the earthquake risk here in the region: www.king5.com/news/local/disaster/457421137. The Seattle fault they mention runs just to the North of us right down I-90. In addition to this, we also are exposed to risks from the Olympic pipeline and power outages. After watching this clip, give some thought to what this means to your family and you. What are your plans if you are at work and the kids are at school? This link provides some things to be thinking about and include in your plans:

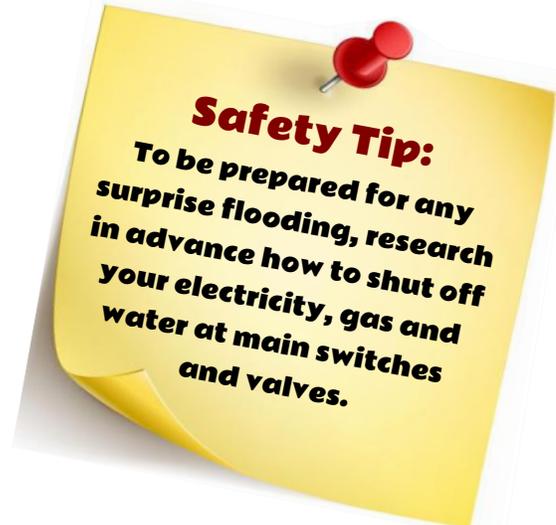
www.king5.com/news/local/disaster/453952968. We used to recommend that your kit have enough supplies to last 3 days, but our emergency responders are now saying in a major event we'll need to be able to take of ourselves for a minimum of up to 14 days. This article provides some insight: www.king5.com/news/local/disaster/453947654. There are a number of other articles on their site if you want additional information.

The Bellevue Fire Department's Office of Emergency Management has lots of good information at this link: fire.bellevuewa.gov/emergency-management/preparedness-information. This is a lot of information to digest. The important takeaways are:

- We live in an area with certain risks that could cause us to lose power, water, and the ability to travel out of area.
- Have conversations with your family to develop plans and build your family's supplies. Take small steps and build up your kit over time.
- Get to know your neighbors and get involved with your block watch or neighborhood group.

As we head into the holiday season and the days are getting shorter, get prepared, and stay safe!

Sean Cox
Emergency Preparedness Chair



GREEN CLEANING, RECYCLING, AND COMPOSTING HOW-TO CLASSES

Become a Zero Waste Hero!



The City of Bellevue Utilities Department is pleased to offer free classes to sharpen your green cleaning, recycling and composting knowledge, and help you reduce waste in your home and office.

They are providing two classes. The "Green Cleaning Class" will teach you how to avoid products that harm your health and our environment, and how to choose and make green cleaners. The City will provide a green cleaning kit that includes tools, recipes, and baking soda/vinegar/castile soap. The "Zero Waste Hero Class" will teach you how to save money by reducing food waste and how to properly sort

recycling, organics and garbage. You will also learn where to recycle unusual items like batteries, light bulbs, and paint cans. The City will also provide a reusable, recycling collection bag, a kitchen composting container and kit with posters of how to sort materials.

We highly recommend that you attend these two great classes. Sam Wilder is responsible for providing the training for all the classes and she does a fabulous job to help everyone learn how to be a "Zero Waste Hero" and live "Greener". If you would like to attend, registration is required. Please email recycle@bellevuewa.gov or call (425) 452-6932 to register. Classes will occur during the day/evenings at different libraries and community centers in Bellevue.



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