

The Shorewood News

January – 2012

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President's Letter

So we finally got some snow, and it snowed, and it stayed on the ground. And then it snowed again. We had to postpone the first Shorewood on the Sound Community Club Board meeting of 2012 because it was just not safe to drive, much less to walk to a meeting. I need to get this letter out now to meet a delayed production deadline, though I really wanted to report to the neighborhood on the results of our meeting. Oh well, the best laid plans of mice and men....

This community has a lot of neat events during the course of the year. However, they are put on by a very small cadre of very dedicated people who work very hard to serve the community and make great things happen around here. Unfortunately, some of us are getting older and can't really keep this up forever. We need to have young blood, or some of the events may not be able to continue. For example, I play and sing at the Summer Festival and am happy to organize it, pulling the thing off with the help of some wonderful people. But it took its toll on me last year. It was even harder to follow that up with ultimately having to run part of the Salmon Bake a month later. We brought together a wonderful group that jumped in and helped to set up, cook, and tear down. But it was frantic and also took its toll.

I'm not looking for sympathy. I'm looking for help. Where are the younger members of this community who bring their kids to the events, the streets of garage sales, the festivals, the bakes, the egg hunts? Can some of you young people pitch in and help? You live in a great community. Pitch in and you can help keep it that way, to benefit yourself and to the benefit of your kids and everyone else's.

Barrett W. Knudsen - President

NATIONAL BACKYARD HABITAT PROGRAM

representative Rianne BeCraft spoke at our annual meeting last November. She discussed NWF's Certified Wildlife Habitat program and how individuals and communities can get involved. The Certified Wildlife Habitat program encourages people to create havens for wildlife in their own backyards by providing the basic elements that all wildlife need. The NWF program reaches beyond your backyard to engage communities in transforming backyards, schoolyards, businesses, community gardens, parkland and other spaces into environmentally-friendly landscapes for wildlife. The program has turned into a movement in Washington, with over 32 actively engaged communities, 130 schoolyard habitats, and nearly 7,000 backyard habitats working to identify, restore, connect, and protect natural habitat areas that are critical to wildlife. To learn more enter the following link into your browser's search bar:

<http://www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife>

Burien can become one of the communities that is recognized for the protection of backyard habitats, if enough people join in the program and register their yards. The Shorewood community is great for this program.



SHOREWOOD CHRISTMAS HOME DECORATING CONTEST

Okay, I admit it looks like we just reprint the same article about our contest every year. The names don't seem to change all that much. The awards get circulated around and it somehow seems to be nearly the same houses always winning our contest. But it really only looks that way. I know this because we always have a few new winners, and because I deliver the award signs to the owners of the winning houses every year. From talking to recipients it is easy to tell this is a fun, good natured competition. And one we all benefit from.

We had eleven individuals in four cars out judging displays for our Christmas contest this year. As there were many great displays it was harder than ever to choose our contest winners. It was very close, but choose them we did. This year's winners are!

Grand Prize went to Mike & Kathy Ellis
12827 Shorecrest Dr SW

Runner-Up to John & Luzma Woods
12731 Shorewood Pl SW

Highest Wattage to Eric & Jennifer Moe
12805 Shorewood Dr SW.

Most Original to Brian & Helen Hughes
12243 Marine View Dr SW.

Brian and Helen's inspiration came from Kevin and April Sunderland's house, next door, which had a spectacular display by its own right, as usual.

Each winner receives prepaid dues for the upcoming year and our deep gratitude for all their efforts. The decorations have all come down now, but if you would like to see photos you can find them on our **Facebook** page, along with pictures of some of the many other neighborhood nominees. Just log-on to Facebook at www.facebook.com and search for "Shorewood on the Sound" to locate our group page. Join up if you like!

Kevin DeLashmutt - CHDC Chair

They came. - We listened and asked questions. - Then, we voted.

The Shorewood Community Club hosted a Candidate Forum at Shorewood Elementary School on Tuesday, October 25th, 2011. Seven debates were scheduled over the course of the evening. The Forum was moderated by Mrs. Pat McCann of the Seattle King County League of Women Voters. Pat was able to keep the questions flowing and the evening moving. Approximately 80 people attended this event.

The event started with the two candidates for the Southwest Suburban Sewer District Commissioner Position 1. Scott Hilsen and Dan Johnson discussed the future for the sewer district then answered questions.

Next up were the candidates for the Highline School Board Director District No. 1. Tyrone Curry and Sili Savusa were most informative regarding the position.

Then it was the Port of Seattle Commissioners turn. Position 2 candidate Gael Tarleton presented her view of the Port Commission and how the airport impacts our community. Richard Pope was a no-show. Position 5 candidates Bill Bryant and Dean Willard discussed some of the same topics and audience members were able to ask a number of questions.

Finally, it was the City of Burien Candidates turn. Position 2 candidates Greg Duff and Lucy Krakowiak debated. They were followed by Position 4 candidates Bob Edgar and Gordon Shaw. The final position debate was Position 6 with candidates Jerry Robison and Debi Wagner. In all races candidates are either serving or have served on the council or in community groups and have the City of Burien interests in mind. We are truly fortunate to have great candidates to choose from. All in all, my mind or should I say my vote changed regarding how I was going to cast my ballot when I heard the candidates debate and was able to create an informed decision to exercise my franchise rights.

Joe Cail - Candidate Night Chair

News of our Neighboring Forested Parks

All of the Salmon Creek Ravine work parties in 2011 were along the new pathway along the treatment center fence. Students from New Start High School as well as neighbors and community friends cleared out invasive plants and planted native plants, particularly important to the health of the creek. We will continue this work along the service road on the creek side on March 10th, so if you want to help plant, please join us between 10AM and 2PM. We will have a large order of bare root native plants available from the King Conservation District Nursery in Renton, thanks to the City of Burien.

The big news at Seahurst Park was the opening of the Environmental Science Center in October, 2011. The caretaker's cabin was repurposed as a big classroom that has numerous green features for energy efficiency and environmental health. Much of the vegetation surrounding the building is native and be sure and note two little native plant rain gardens beneath the building. These provide a place for water falling on the roof to be filtered by the soil instead of flowing into a drain into Puget Sound. Be sure and visit the building some time this spring as access will be limited when work to remove the seawall begins.

Classes of students from Shorewood School visited Shorewood Park last year, the first time in a long time. Since neighbors have contributed so much to invasive removal and restoration in this park, it is a wonderful venue for students to experience and learn about Northwest nature. First work party of the year at

Shorewood Park will be February 11th from 10 - Noon. Please email Jean Spohn, jeanspohn@comcast.net if you have questions or would like to help by becoming a friend of Salmon Creek Ravine or attend a work party.

Jean Spohn - Ecology Chair

Disclaimer: We as a Board and newsletter for the SOSCC have not made it a policy to post notices to collect funds for groups or to solicit for charities. However, in the interest of the concept of community and neighborhood building, we felt that allowing the following announcement in support of our children and neighborhood public school serves the Shorewood Community.

The Shorewood Elementary School Library requests help to purchase a Multi-touch Smartboard.

The PTA and our librarian have requested donations for the purchase of a "presentation-size multi-touch Smart Board". This Smart Board provides engaging learning opportunities through the ability to interact with the information presented via the Smart Board. The new larger board will be more appropriate for the larger library space and will provide multiple points of contact thus actively engaging more students simultaneously. PTSA is actively fundraising for the \$3,500 board. If you would like to support your neighborhood school and make a tax-deductible donation, you can send your donation to the Shorewood PTSA with a notation that it is for the Library Smart Board. You can contact Lori Davis for any questions at lorigdavis02@gmail.com or **244-6134**. Thank you for considering this request!

Another way to support our local school is to sign up with eScrip for your Safeway account grocery club card. Sign up at www.escrip.com, or again call Lori Davis at **244-6134** for assistance.

2012 SOTS CC "Dates to Remember"

- Easter Egg Hunt at the Community Beach - April 7
- Streets of Garage Sales - June 16
- SummerFest - July 21
- SalmonBake at the Beach - August 25
- Annual Meeting – November 15
- Christmas Home Decorating Contest Judging - December 22

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