

Columbia Park Newsletter

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Coming Soon:

- Annual Meeting—January 2004
- Board & Officers Elections—January 2004
- Annual Dues—March 2004

Neighborhood Block Watch

To help keep our neighborhood a safe place to live, we will be forming a neighborhood block watch in the near future. Block watches are a proven method of deterring crime.

We will be holding a meeting to find out who is interested in participating and getting the program started. A law enforcement officer will be there to explain how the block watch program works and what you can do to help. More information will be coming soon.

In the meantime, here are some tips for keeping your home safe:

- Lock all doors at night and every time you leave the house – even if it’s just for a few minutes.
- Keep spare keys with a trusted neighbor, not under a doormat or planter, or on a ledge.
- Use a dowel or pin to secure a glass door to prevent the door from being shoved aside or lifted off the track.
- Always lock windows, even when they are opened a few inches for ventilation.
- Make sure shrubs and bushes are trimmed so there is no place for someone to hide.
- Make sure there are no dark areas around your house, garage, or yard at night that would hide prowlers.
- Make sure every outside door has a bright, working light to illuminate visitors.
- Turn on outdoor lights in the evening – whether someone is at home or not, or use a photocell or motion-sensitive lighting system.
- Put at least two indoor lights on timers to turn on and off when you’re not home.
- When on vacation, have mail and newspaper deliveries stopped, or arrange for a neighbor/friend to pick them up, and ask a neighbor to tend the yard and watch your home.
- Be sure that firearms are stored unloaded and locked in storage boxes and secured with trigger guard locks.
- Inscribe valuable items, such as televisions, stereos, and computers with identifying numbers approved by local police.
- Make sure your home inventory is up-to-date and include pictures. A complete copy should be kept somewhere out of the house.

If you see suspicious activity in the neighborhood, call 9-1-1 and explain what happened and provide police with as much detail as possible about the suspect and/or vehicle involved. Here are some things to look out for:

- Someone screaming or shouting for help.
- Someone looking in windows of houses and parked cars.
- Property being taken out of houses where no one is home.
- Cars, vans, or trucks moving slowly with no apparent destination or without lights.
- Anyone being forced into a vehicle.
- A stranger sitting in a car or stopping to talk to a child.

Together we can make sure our neighborhood is safe for all.

Letter from the president

Dear Columbia Park Friends,

I have to say I'm proud of how our Columbia Park is turning into a real, live *neighborhood!*

For a fact, we're sharing cups of flour and oil and watching each other's homes while vacations are taken. We're borrowing ladders and tools, and looking out for suspicious events. We had a great turnout to our first neighborhood block party, and we're getting to know neighbors up and down our streets. We're solving problems together and learning how to get proper ACC permission for construction projects. These things morph a development into a true neighborhood.

And to think that we've done all this within the first year of forming ourselves into a homeowners' association! It's something we can take pride in.

I'd like to point out three parts of our life together that will help us grow as a community:

SIDEWALK PARKING

The first is a reminder *not* to park your cars on any part of the sidewalks. This is a ticketable violation - and it obstructs the

sidewalks for walkers. Please make sure that when you park streetside, your car is fully on the street and not up on the sidewalk.

WATCH YOUR SPEED

The second is to be kind in your driving in Columbia Park. Our streets are meant for 25 mph driving. We have had a growing problem of speeding vehicles. Please don't be one of them. None of us wants to have a child or even a pet struck by a car to jolt us to action. Take a breather and drive slower.

KEEP YOUR WATCH

One of the best gifts we can give each other is to be alert for suspicious events, broken lights, odd cars moving slowly - that sort of thing. If it feels dangerous, go ahead and call 911. Or you can send an email to our neighborhood email group, Columbia-Park@yahoogroups.com and describe your concern. That gets the word out quickly to get more eyes watching. (If you're not subscribed to that email group yet, send a blank email to Columbia-Park-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.)

As the Safeway slogan used to go, "Since we're neighbors let's be friends!"



Dave Hackett, HOA president

Fall fun for the whole family

The Farm in Snohomish offers a variety of activities for the whole family. From a world-class corn maze to a pumpkin patch and even a putting green, The Farm provides harvest time fun for all.

The unique 12 acre maze is a giant map of our state. It contains over 250 actual roads and 400 places and towns marked by signs (with interesting historical facts about each). There are 4-1/2 miles of highways and country roads within the maze. Enjoy a wagon ride through Oregon to the Idaho border. Start your adventure in Spokane or Pullman, and find your way across our great state to the coast at Grays Harbor. Along the way visit the Space Needle, Peace Arch,

Hanford, Cascade Tunnel, Coulee Dam, cross the bridges at Vantage, Bridge Port and Tacoma Narrows, visit Fort Vancouver and more! Travel I-90, I-5, Hwy 2 and 12, but look out for detours! You may find yourself wandering down country roads like Uncas, Rat Trap Pass, or Cow Canyon. Find out why Bickleton has so many birdhouses, and Stonehenge in Washington? Washington State History and Geography was never so much fun.

Prices are \$5.00 per person or \$20 per family. For more information visit www.thefarm1.com, call 425-334-4124 or e-mail info@thefarm1.com.

Fall Home and Yard Care

Fall is the perfect time to take care of the little things around the house that may need some fixes. Following is a list of home maintenance items that will keep your home in good shape through the winter.

- Inspect and clean gutters and downspouts.
- Seal gaps and cracks around windows and doors with weather-stripping and caulk.
- Inspect your roof for damaged or curled shingles, corroded flashing, or leaky vents.
- Take steps to repair damaged sidewalks, driveways, and steps.
- Drain and winterize outdoor faucets and irrigation systems.
- Clean or replace dirty furnace filters.
- Test smoke and CO monitors, inspect (or install) fire extinguishers, review fire escape plans, and rid your home of old newspapers and other fire hazards.

This is also one of the most important times of the year to care for your lawn. Properly caring for your lawn in autumn guarantees a lush, healthy lawn in spring. Here are some basic tips for autumn lawn care taken from the Washington State University College of Agriculture.

- Fertilizer- Autumn is a crucial time of the year to properly fertilize your lawn as this will give your lawn the nutrients it needs to stay healthy through the long, damp winter months. Sometime between November 20th and December 10th homeowners should apply a 3-1-2 ratio fertilizer (3 parts nitrogen, 1 part phosphorus, 2 parts potassium). It is recommended that 1-1.5 pounds of fertilizer per 250 square feet be applied quarterly in November, April, June and September. Use a slow release fertilizer. This will help eliminate the chance of the fertilizer being washed out during our long rainy days.
- Leaves/needles- rake up any fallen leaves or needles. Lawns in the Northwest have a difficult enough time making it through our soggy winters without having to deal with leaves and needles that hold even more water.
- Lawnmower- make sure the blade is sharp. This will help to keep the lawn looking good and free from brown, frayed ends. If you mulch your lawn, make sure you mulch no more than 1/3 an inch per week. Like fallen leaves, too much mulch makes for a sponge effect that will damage your lawn.
- Pesticides- the Crane Fly is a common nuisance in the Northwest and many lawns in Columbia Park were damaged by this pest last year. It is recommended that a pesticide be used in October and again in April. This will kill the Crane Fly larvae that eat the roots of the grass and cause the grass to die. Visit your favorite nursery or home improvement store to ask for specific product recommendations.



**HOMEOWNERS
ASSOCIATION**

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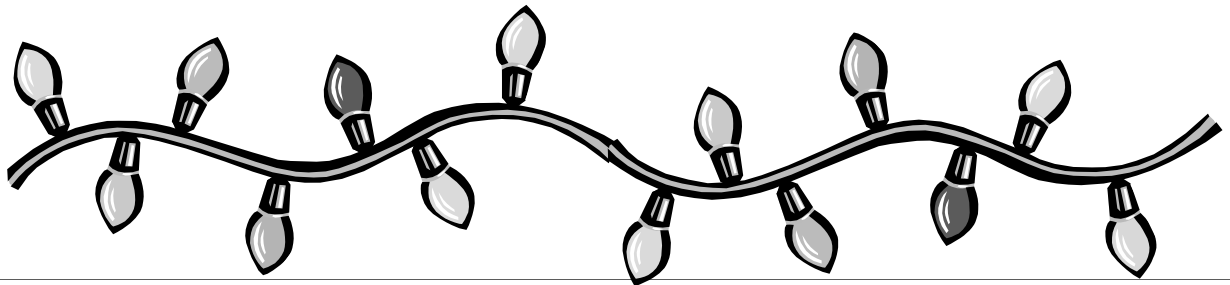
1st Annual Holiday Lighting Contest

Help start a new tradition for Columbia Park!
This December, dress your house to the nines and win
a prize.

The Homeowners' Association is sponsoring our
first annual Holiday Lighting Contest. So break out
those twinkle lights and plastic reindeer, put your
creative cap on, and dazzle us.

The Architectural Control Committee will be
judging the contest, and the best decorated home will
win a \$50 gift certificate to a local restaurant.

Have fun and help decorate our neighborhood for
the holidays this December. More details will be
coming from the ACC next month.



*Visit the Columbia Park web site at
www.Columbia-Park.com!*