

# Columbia Park Newsletter

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## Neighborhood Block Watch

To help keep our neighborhood a safe place to live, the residents of Columbia Park are forming a neighborhood block watch.

Jennifer Beach is heading up the block watch effort. If you have not yet heard about the block watch, please contact Jennifer at 206-235-5366 or [awbeach@comcast.net](mailto:awbeach@comcast.net) for information on your area block watch.

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 with identifying numbers approved by local police.
  - Make sure your home inventory is current and include pictures. Keep a copy 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 Owners,

It's sure getting dark early these days! Our recommendation: Turn on those porch and garage lights at dusk for safety and leave them on all night. It's a small investment to protect your house. Some owners have put in motion-activated light adapters (\$20 at Lowe's) which have proven effective in deterring prowlers. We also recommend all owners put in window slider bars to prevent easy access by burglars.

## SAFETY AND SECURITY

Safety is on my mind as we've had two home break-ins in our neighborhood in the past month. Both houses were entered through side, ground-level windows with no slide bars. We have been in good communication with the Snohomish County Sheriff's Department to advocate for increased patrols. Recently Lt. Doug Jeske wrote us. Here's his note:

"Det. Wells has been working very hard, long hours on these cases [involving Columbia Park]. He has identified two Asian males as the suspects in the burglaries. Det. Wells has been working with other law enforcement agencies (particularly in the Renton and Kent areas) as the suspects have ties to those communities as well and have committed similar crimes there as well. Det. Wells was able to obtain a search warrant for one of the suspects residence and served that warrant, unfortunately no evidence of the burglaries was found during the search of the residence. He has interviewed both of the suspects, and even convinced one of them to take a polygraph (which he failed) concerning the burglaries. (Polygraphs are inadmissible at trial and therefore are normally used as an investigative tool rather than evidence).

"The Asian males in question typically drive Japanese made vehicles and are traveling in pairs to commit the burglaries. One drives and is basically a lookout while the other forces entry into a house and commits the actual burglary. I would encourage you and the neighbors in your community to call

911 if they should see any suspicious activity involving Asian males. By suspicious I mean a lone Asian male sitting near homes or one of two leaving a car and walking behind a residence etc. The fact that these two suspects happen to be Asian in no way should influence calls to 911 for other Asian males who have legitimate business in the neighborhood. The race of any suspect is one factor of many when making a determination as to their legitimate or illegitimate activity. Sincerely, Lt. Doug Jeske"

## JANUARY 20 ANNUAL HOA MEETING

It's time to mark January 20 on your calendars so you can plan now to attend our annual HOA meeting, Jan. 20, 7:00-9:00pm at Northlake Church. This is the one annual meeting we ask all our HOA members to attend. We elect board of directors at this meeting, hear about important issues, and have the opportunity to raise questions and make comments. Please help make our HOA the best it can be by attending the annual meeting.

## BLOCK WATCH and EMAILS

Finally, I want to commend the team of owners who have been creating Block Watch communities in our neighborhood. I would urge you to join in this safety program. A little watching can go a long way, and the house it saves may be your own. Call Jenn Beach for information: (206) 235-5366. One of the best ways we can keep each other informed of HOA concerns, events and safety issues is through our Columbia Park email group. If you are not yet subscribed to this email group, send me an email ([dave@davidhackett.com](mailto:dave@davidhackett.com)) and I'll sign you right up.

Thanks, everyone. It's been a privilege to serve as your HOA president these past two years. In January I pass this on to someone else. Could it be you?



Dave Hackett  
CPHOA President

# Pumpkin Cheesecake

Serves: 16

## Crumb Crust:

- 1 cup graham-cracker crumbs**
- 3 tablespoons margarine or butter, melted**
- 2 tablespoons sugar**

## Pumpkin Filling:

- 2 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese, softened**
- 1 1/4 cups sugar**
- 1 can (16 ounces) solid-pack pumpkin (not pumpkin-pie mix)**
- 3/4 cup sour cream**
- 2 tablespoons bourbon or 2 teaspoons vanilla extract**
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon**
- 1/2 teaspoon ground allspice**
- 1/4 teaspoon salt**
- 4 large eggs**

## Sour-Cream Topping:

- 1 cup sour cream**
- 3 tablespoons sugar**
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract**
- crystallized ginger strips for garnish**

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. In 9" by 3" springform pan, with fork, stir graham-cracker crumbs, melted margarine or butter, and sugar until moistened. With hand, press mixture onto bottom of pan. Bake crust 10 minutes. Cool completely in pan on wire rack.

Prepare Pumpkin Filling: In large bowl, with mixer at medium speed, beat cream cheese until smooth; slowly beat in sugar until blended, about 1 minute, scraping bowl often with rubber spatula. With mixer at low speed, beat in pumpkin, sour cream, bourbon or vanilla, cinnamon, allspice, and salt. Add eggs, 1 at a time, beating just until blended after each addition.

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. Pour pumpkin mixture into crust and place it on a cookie sheet. Bake at 400 degrees for 10 minutes, then turn down the oven to 225 degrees F and continue baking until the cheesecake is set, about 1-1 1/2 hours.

Meanwhile, prepare Sour-Cream Topping: In small bowl, with wire whisk, beat sour cream, sugar, and vanilla until blended. Remove cheesecake from oven and spread sour-cream mixture evenly over top. Return cake to oven and bake 5-10 minutes longer.

Remove cheesecake from oven. With small knife, loosen cheesecake from side of pan to help prevent cracking during cooling. Cool cheesecake completely. Cover and refrigerate cheesecake at least 6 hours or overnight, until well chilled. Remove side of pan to serve. Garnish with crystallized ginger.



**HOMEOWNERS  
ASSOCIATION**

PMB#344  
20611-E Bothell-Everett Hwy  
Bothell, WA 98012

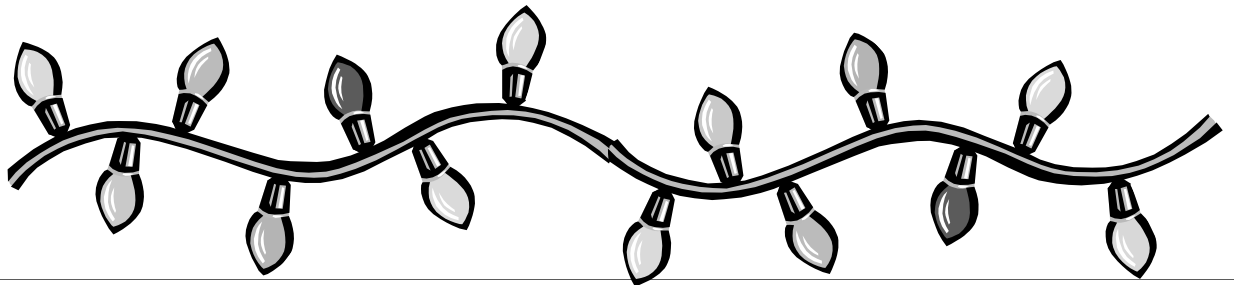
## **2nd Annual Holiday Lighting Contest**

The end of the year means holiday festivities, and the HOA will again be sponsoring a Holiday Home Decoration Contest!

This year, the Block Watch captains will be evaluating our neighborhood lights and prize of a \$50 restaurant certificate will go to the home

judged to be the best decorated. Judging will happen sometime around December 11th, so keep that in mind.

Also, please plan to take down your exterior holiday decorations by the end of January.



*Visit the Columbia Park web site at  
[www.Columbia-Park.com](http://www.Columbia-Park.com)!*