



The Ravenna-Bryant Gazette

R A V E N N A - B R Y A N T C O M M U N I T Y A S S O C I A T I O N

Letter from the President

by Sarah Swanberg

It's been a busy year for your community association. Since you elected us last April, we have formed a Land Use Committee, a Transportation Committee, and a Communications and Community Resilience Committee, and we're continuing to represent you on many neighborhood and city-wide associations such as the Northeast District Council, and the City Neighborhood Council.

We recently devoted a large chunk of time to seeing that the Roosevelt Rezone wouldn't adversely affect the gateway to our neighborhood. Things didn't go our way; however, we are part of the design team working with the Roosevelt Development Group and their architects, GGLO.

Now we're regrouping and looking forward, we've put together a fantastic community meeting for **Tuesday, April 3, at the Ravenna-Eckstein Community Center**, where we'll hear from:

- **Jim Diers, former (and founding) director of the Department of Neighborhoods:** Jim will present stories about the power of communities working together. He's known around the world for his work -- check out his website at neighborpower.org.
- **Seattle City Council Member Sally Bagshaw, Chair of the Parks and Neighborhoods Committee:** Councilmember Bagshaw will speak about the burgeoning Greenway movement (more here: <http://bit.ly/fzKax4>), and answer your questions about the City's relationship with neighborhoods.
- **Tom Donnelly, from the RBCA Land Use Committee,** will discuss efforts to develop and review planning ideas for our own neighborhood, and hopefully get you thinking about ways that you can get involved.

We hope to see you at the upcoming meeting!

Sarah Swanberg is the President of the Ravenna-Bryant Community Association, and has lived in Ravenna-Bryant for 15 years.

APRIL
3RD

7 PM

SPRING
COMMUNITY
MEETING

RAVENNA-ECKSTEIN
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6535 RAVENNA AVE NE

AGENDA AVAILABLE
ONLINE AT
WWW.RAVENNABRYANT.ORG

How Neighborhoods Make Their Voices Heard

by Tony Provine

Neighborhood community organizations, like the Ravenna-Bryant Community Association (RBCA), have long been a source of citizen involvement and participation in the City of Seattle.

Twenty-five years ago, the City recognized the need to bring other neighborhood viewpoints from a diverse variety of groups into a system of representational bodies that can work together on both local and city-wide issues. This effort culminated in the development of community centers and the Department of Neighborhoods (DON). Jim Diers, author of *Neighbor Power* and the featured speaker at our Spring Community Meeting, was a driving force in their creation.

Seattle is divided into 13 neighborhood districts; these grew out of a 1987 Seattle City Council resolution to promote, support, and involve citizen participation at the neighborhood level. Each district has a District Council

composed of representatives from community councils, nonprofit organizations and business districts (RBCA is represented on the Northeast District Council, or NEDC).

The councils provide a forum for consideration of concerns and sharing of ideas for solutions to common problems. To ensure city services are responsive and reflective of the needs and values of neighborhoods, field staff from DON (known as Neighborhood District Coordinators) serve as the community's liaison and resource.

The City Neighborhood Council (CNC), comprised of elected members from each of the City's 13 Districts, is a citizen-led advisory group organized under the authority of the Seattle City Council. The CNC's purpose is to provide city-wide coordination for the Neighborhood Matching Fund, Neighborhood Budget Prioritization, and Neighborhood Planning programs.

The CNC accomplishes much of its work through its committees. CNC's Budget Committee identifies and develops ways for neighborhood organizations to be involved with and influence the City's capital budget. The Neighborhood Planning Committee studies, makes recommendations, monitors the neighborhood planning process, and coordinates with the relevant City agencies and citizen advisory bodies. The Neighborhood Matching Fund Oversight Committee makes recommendations for procedural and other changes to the Neighborhood Matching Fund review process, and offers advice regarding funding parameters and selection criteria. The Transportation Committee identifies major transportation issues and makes recommendations concerning those issues, city policies, or specific projects of concern. The Citywide Review Team reviews the Neighborhood Matching Fund Large Project Fund applications and makes funding recommendations to the Mayor and City Council.

The CNC also provides a forum for a discussion of common neighborhood issues and is available for advice on policies necessary for the effective and equitable implementation of the Neighborhood Planning and Assistance Program. Its monthly meetings are open to the public.

Tony Provine is the RBCA Treasurer, and representative to both the NEDC and CNC meetings. He has lived in Ravenna since 2003.



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what's happening, in our neighborhood

RAVENNA BLOG

news, events, and more at **RavennaBlog.com**

member of the Seattle Times Local News Partnership

Are We Prepared for Change?

by Tom Donnelly

This past January, the Seattle City Council approved the Legislative Rezone for the Roosevelt neighborhood. This action allows new zoning that has the capacity to triple the current level of population and households in their neighborhood. To the north, the Wedgwood community is currently experiencing growth in the form of a 91-unit apartment building at 35th Ave. NE and NE 86th St, which will change the character of their community.

While we're not aware of any comparable development proposals for the Ravenna-Bryant neighborhood, we do know that change is inevitable. Many outside factors can influence the shape and character of a community, not the least of which may be new four- or six-story apartment buildings.

One of the best things a community can do is to anticipate what changes are likely to occur, and have the proper tools in place to address change before the community is confronted by outside forces. However, without the benefit of the normal tools such as a neighborhood plan or design guidelines, the Ravenna-Bryant community lacks the ability to effectively respond to growth pressures or to shape the character of our neighborhood in a way that reflects our values.

Over the coming months, the RBCA Land Use Committee (LUC) will hold a series of meetings and workshops to

identify the important issues in our community and structure plans to address our most critical needs. We want to engage the community in discussions in a range of issues. Will our community participate in the City's new Green Street plan, designed to improve pedestrian and bicycle mobility? How can we make our community more environmentally sustainable? Where is new development most likely to occur in our community? And what can we do to ensure that our community is a safe, enjoyable, and sustainable place to live, not only now but for generations to come?

The LUC, hopefully with the help of many volunteers, will facilitate this discussion process and any plans that come out of it. But the ideas, suggestions, and direction that guide us into the future really must come from the community. I encourage anyone interested in the Ravenna-Bryant community to be a part of these discussions. Please look for announcements for upcoming meetings and workshops, attend them when you can, and stay connected with us as this process unfolds. The specific time and location of the first workshops will be announced in the next few weeks.

As we help prepare the Ravenna-Bryant community for the future, we hope you will take an interest in this process and share your thoughts and ideas with us.

Tom Donnelly is a planning consultant, and has lived in the Ravenna neighborhood for over 12 years. He is a member of the RBCA Land Use Committee.



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Crime Watch and Prevention

by Marc Muntifering

The following is a brief overview of information obtained from the last several North Precinct Advisory Council meetings. More in-depth information can be found on the Crime Prevention page on the RBCA website.

OCCUPIED RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES

From late February to early March there were numerous (13 as of March 7th) home invasions/burglaries while residents, homeowners and children, were at home. All have been in the north end of Seattle; most have been in the middle of the night. Often a vehicle, as well as iPods, iPhones, jewelry, plasma TVs, purses, wallets, checkbooks, and laptops were taken. Significant Seattle Police Department (SPD) resources have been dedicated to this issue. To date, in ALL 13 cases, there has been no sign of forced entry. Access has been through unlocked doors and windows.

SPD's advice is to BE WATCHFUL! If you see ANYTHING suspicious, do not hesitate to CALL 9-1-1.

Case in point: a few days ago a 9-1-1 caller on Woodlawn Ave. N. called in a suspicious person looking into car windows with a flashlight in the early morning hours. Officers responded, checked the area on foot and found nothing initially. On the officers' departure from the area, they saw a vehicle with rear window broken out and the alarm sounding. They saw a person who matched the caller's description take off running when the officers approached. K9 was in the area and conducted a search, as the officers could hear the individual thrashing around in backyards. The search was negative, but

the determined officers found a window opened a crack. Homeowners arrived as officers were trying to knock on door and the resident gave the patrol officers permission to search the unoccupied home. They located the suspect hiding out upstairs and placed him under arrest. This might not have occurred had the watchful neighbor not made a good 9-1-1 call.

9-1-1 USAGE

The following information was provided by Robert Montague, Manager of the Seattle 9-1-1 Call Center. Mr. Montague made several interesting and helpful points regarding 9-1-1 calls:

- Most important when calling 9-1-1 is that you know the address you're reporting from or with regards to. "Location, Location, Location."
- Particularly, if using a cell phone to call, you have to be able to explain exactly where you are. (Only "Phase II" cell phones have GPS chips giving location.)
- If you want to remain anonymous, you have the option of requesting "Do Not Disclose." (Most anonymous 9-1-1 calls are related to parking complaints, domestic violence, etc.)
- Every 9-1-1 call is recorded. If you are not satisfied with the outcome of your 9-1-1 call or with the 9-1-1 operator, you can call back and speak with a supervisor.
- 9-1-1 operators are trained to handle every call as a potential triage situation and consequently may interrupt you in order to most expeditiously obtain the pertinent information as soon as possible. "Let the Operator GUIDE the Call!"

Marc Muntifering is the RBCA's representative to the Seattle Police Department's North Precinct Advisory Council meetings. He has been a Ravenna-Bryant resident for the last 21 years.

35th Avenue NE Neighborhood Planning Process Underway

by Per Johnson, Wedgwood Community Council

Residents of Ravenna-Bryant and Wedgwood have begun a neighborhood planning process for 35th Ave NE, and both community associations are integral to the project. This community-driven endeavor will determine whether the vision our communities have for the 35th Ave NE corridor can be realized given the existing conditions.

In January and early February, two kick-off community meetings were held to present the planning goals and timeline to nearly 90 residents. A steering committee has been established to coordinate and facilitate public workshops, host community learning opportunities, and develop planning tools over the next year. While a complete schedule of public workshops has not been finalized, several monthly community learning opportunities or "Coffee Talks" are in the works.

The first Coffee Talk, a productive discussion on the needs of neighborhood businesses, took place in February with a presentation from Theresa Barreras with the Office of Economic Development, and Wendy Schwartz from Fresh Boutique.

As public workshops and additional Coffee Talks are finalized, details will be posted to the RBCA and WCC (wedgwoodcc.org) websites and Facebook pages. So, stay tuned for more ways to get involved and have your voice heard in the future of 35th Ave NE.

Per Johnson is the 1st Vice President of the Wedgwood Community Council and Chair of their Land Use Committee. He was also the WCC's project manager for the Hunter Farm Gathering Place project.

Vietnamese Coffee Jelly

(adapted from The Food Librarian)

Serves 6 – 8

Active time 15 minutes, chilling time 4 hours

I have enjoyed Vietnamese coffee, a sweet, strong coffee served either hot or cold when dining out, but never tried making it at home. The coffee is traditionally made using a drip filter to which sweetened condensed milk is then stirred into the coffee. It is a great substitute for dessert. It also lends itself well to gelling. The recipe is quick to make, requires very few ingredients, and is sophisticated enough to serve at an elegant dinner party.

Ingredients

2 1/2 cups strong brewed coffee (French Roast is fine, Decaf or Regular), divided (1/2 cup and 2 cups)

1-14 oz. can or squeeze bottle of Sweetened Condensed milk (I use Trader Joe's)

3 packets (3/4 oz or 21 grams) unflavored gelatin

unsweetened whipped cream to serve

Instructions

Place the 1/2 cup of cold coffee into a 2 quart bowl. Sprinkle the gelatin over the coffee and let it sit for 10 minutes to bloom (or enlarge) before getting incorporated into a hot liquid. During this time, heat the remaining 2 cups of coffee (don't boil, but does need to be hot).

After gelatin has bloomed, add heated coffee to gelatin and stir in the sweetened condensed milk, making sure all is dissolved. Pour into a 9x13" Pyrex (glass) baking dish, or a ceramic bowl (1 quart). Refrigerate for 4 hours or until firm.

Remove from refrigerator. If in baking dish, cut into squares and serve. In a Jell-O mold or ceramic pudding basin, run a little warm water around the outside of the mold or bowl to loosen and then turn out onto a plate. Cut into serving pieces.

Nazila Merati is the RBCA Secretary. She has lived in the area for 19 years, and is often seen in the company of her basset hound, Ernest.

Do you have a recipe you'd like to share in the next RBCA Newsletter? Send it to communications@ravennabryant.org.



RBCA Leadership and Committees

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DID YOU KNOW that the Ravenna-Bryant Community Association serves **over 7,000 households and businesses?** That's a lot of voices to get heard!

Here are some ways YOU can get involved:

- **Membership:** Membership funds printing this newsletter, so we can all stay better connected and informed.
- **Board Member:** Minimum two-year, four-hours per month commitment. No experience required, but enthusiasm a must.
- **Membership Coordinator:** Enter and maintain membership data. Internet connection required.
- **Communication:** Create and publish news related to our neighborhood. Help maintain our listserve, and send out e-newsletters. Internet connection required, WordPress experience a bonus.
- **Business Liaison:** Help the RBCA connect with our local business community.
- **Transportation:** Help inventory, prioritize and then implement transportation issues.
- **Land Use:** Help facilitate an inventory of what our neighborhood values and needs. Work towards the creation of Neighborhood Design Guidelines. Monitor

Department of Planning and Development bulletins. Training provided.

- **OTHER:** You've got special skills and good ideas. We'd love to hear all about them.

Email **contact@ravennabryant.org** to see how you can help our community.



JOIN THE RAVENNA-BRYANT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Support the work of your community association by becoming a member! The RBCA works on local issues important to YOU. Your dues and involvement help to keep you informed and our neighborhood thriving.

YES! I would like to support the RBCA!

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Support level (circle one):

Individual Membership = \$10 per year

Family Membership = \$15 per year

Other Amount = \$ _____

Ad in next newsletter = \$25 per issue (we will contact you about graphics near press time)

Mail checks and completed forms to: RBCA, 6535 Ravenna Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98115

You can also **bring the form and payment to any community or board meeting**, or **become a member online** (using a credit card) at **ravennabryant.org**.