

# NEWS

VOLUME 24, NO. 1    SPRING, 2000



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## ***Big Win in Fight to Preserve the Sammamish Valley***

In a huge win for preserving agriculture in the Sammamish Valley, 47 acres of valley farmland has been added to the County's Farmland Preservation Program. Located on the northwest corner of the NE 124th Street and Woodinville-Redmond Road intersection, this key section of the Valley's Agricultural Protection District will now enjoy an added protection that will help ensure the long term preservation of the Valley. The property was purchased on November 15, 1999 by the FARM LLC, the same local group that owns the Root Connection property. With the land no longer held hostage to development speculation, it will be opened to a variety of agricultural pursuits. This event proves two things:

First, the HHA's efforts to preserve the Sammamish Valley can pay off. The HHA was instrumental in stopping efforts to convert this land into a shopping center. While being in the Farmland Preservation Program is not an absolute guarantee of permanent protection, it creates a huge hurdle to overcome before the land can ever be opened to any kind of non-agricultural development.

Second, this event destroys the argument that there is no one interested in farming in the Sammamish Valley. Opponents of the agricultural preservation of the Valley have pointed to this fallow section of the Valley as an indicator that no one wanted to farm the property. In reality, the land was held by speculators who didn't want it farmed while they were trying to get the land opened to commercial development. As soon as a way was created to make the land available for farming, buyers stepped in wanting to farm the land.

## ***Farm LLC Readies New Property for Farming***

A lot's been happening down on their farm!

FARM LLC members are busy getting their newly purchased land ready to lease for organic farming. The land has been surveyed, and they've put in a gravel road so farmers can get to their land. Contrary to rumor, they are not building a mansion—or even a small house—on the property. They do have plans for a fruit/vegetable stand on 124th, but that probably won't go in until summer 2001 when the land is in full protection.

General Manager Roger Calhoon is talking with a number of people who are interested in leasing land. Roger says demand for farmland is so high that he'd have no trouble leasing the land several times over. The group plans to reserve 10 acres for their own projects, including u-pick berries, fruit trees, flowers, and bamboo.

**FARM LLC invites all HHA members and other neighbors to stop by and get acquainted at the spring Open Barn, Saturday, May 20, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Living Legacy Community Ranch.**

FARM LLC is also helping to educate the next generation by holding three weeks of farm tours for preschool and kindergarten groups in April and May. Kids will learn about the challenges of being a seed on the farm, visit the barnyard animal area, and plant a seed to take home.

For more information about FARM LLC, call 425-869-9777, or email them at farmllc@yahoo.com.

## *from the President...*

*As the new president of the HHA, one of my first actions was dedicating a file drawer to the organization. It was quickly overflowing with the quantity of paper I inherited. Apparently, this is but a small part of the archives—the result of the 25 years of activism since the HHA was founded.*

*There are many items in these archives which provide interesting historical perspectives of our neighborhood and the HHA. Though they cover a range of topics, they are best summed up in an article published by the Journal American in 1980 entitled "Hollywood Hill is an escape from big city." In it there is a quote from Mary Baum, then president of the HHA, which states, "This kind of community does not happen by accident, but by the efforts of its residents."*

*So much seems to have changed since then, yet the basics have remained constant. We all have a hand in shaping our community's character. Our contributions may be as complex as involvement with the PTA, coaching a sports team, maintaining a trail, raising a family, (or, as with a few amazing people I know, all of the above). Or, it may be as simple as the manner in which we drive our vehicle through our neighborhood. Each of these day-to-day activities, and others unmentioned, are essential elements that define our community's character.*

*However, that's not the whole story. There are plenty of communities with wonderful people doing great things. Yet, most of them fall short of having the unique character that attracts us to Hollywood Hill. The difference can be found in the long line of people who, over the past quarter century, have shared the vision of a better community unlike the many examples where the standard is set by mindless sprawl. These people were willing to step forward and fight for a shared vision. They created and maintained the HHA to give form to that voice then and into the future.*

*That future is now. We have inherited some exceptional circumstances, embodied in our neighborhood. It is now our turn to demonstrate what legacy we will leave for the next quarter century. Though it sounds like a tall order, it all begins with the small things we do day-to-day.*

*In this issue, you will find information on numerous committees and activities which provide a variety of opportunities to get involved with some neighborhood improvement projects. Working together, we can keep our wonderful neighborhood as a place that's a pleasure in which to live as well as something we can be proud to pass on to those who come after us. And, we'll know that it's not an accident that Hollywood Hill is an "escape from big city."*

—Mike Tanksley

## *Please Pay 2000 Dues*



*It is time to pay your 2000 dues.  
If you have not sent in your dues for  
the current year, an envelope and  
application form are included  
in your newsletter.  
Dues are \$25 per  
calendar year.*

## **YOUR ASSOCIATION**

The Hollywood Hill Association is a private, state non-profit corporation, formally chartered in 1976. We are an all volunteer, community based organization, dedicated to the preservation of our community character. Our primary goals are the preservation of Hollywood Hill's rural designation and the preservation of the agricultural lands of the rural Sammamish Valley. We are widely recognized by both government officials and development interests as an influential and determined organization. Our many successes have been due, in large part, to dedicated volunteers, and to the support of our many members. We encourage you to become actively involved in the Association by joining one of our standing committees. Please contact any Board member for more information.

President	Mike Tanksley: 483-2529
Vice President	Ken Goodwin: 481-4994
Secretary	Tricia Callahan: 488-6863
Treasurer	Jan Hunt: 806-0118
Directors	Steven Gallagher: 883-0661 Karen Mackie: 483-0889 Marsha Martin: 883-8561 Torrey Russell: 483-6531
Committee Chairs	Government: Marsha Martin Membership: Steve Gallagher Environment: Mike Tanksley Events: Newsletter: Karen Mackie Roads: Tricia Callahan Trails: Susan Cyr: 487-2908
Website	www.hollywoodhillassoc.org

The HHA is managed by a 9-member Board of Directors. Elections are held by mail each autumn at the time of the HHA annual membership meeting. The existing Board selects candidates from those volunteers who have demonstrated a willingness to actively contribute to the HHA and who support its goals. Board meetings are scheduled for the 2nd Thursday of each month at the homes of Board members. The Board welcomes HHA members who wish to attend these meetings as long as prior arrangement has been made. Because these are business meetings, space availability and legal issues may require closed meetings from time to time. Contact any Board member if you are interested in attending.

# *HHA Committees*

## *Many hands make light work!*

The following section includes various neighborhood improvement activities; some are ongoing and others are just getting started. The activities contain a range of opportunities to utilize some of that spare time you've been wondering how to use. Membership in the HHA is not required to participate in these activities. If you have an activity which is directed toward neighborhood improvement, feel free to contact us for inclusion in our future newsletters.

### •••• ROADS ••••

See "Neighborhood Traffic Safety" article on page 4 of this newsletter. To get involved with this committee, contact Tricia Callahan at 488-6863.

### •••• TRAILS ••••

#### **TRAIL MAINTENANCE WORK DAY MAY 6**

The Trails committee has begun meeting to discuss expansion of our Neighborhood Pathway System (NPS) as well as maintenance of our existing trails.

The HHA periodically organizes work parties to resurface and clear the pathways which are currently in dire need of attention. Consequently, a work party has been scheduled for Saturday, May 6th, 9am-12pm. We supply the coffee, donuts and all the wood chips you want to spread. Please consider joining us to improve our community and share the good company of your neighbors!

The possible expansion of our NPS continues to move forward. King County's NPS program establishes soft trails along public right-of-ways to provide alternatives to riding/walking on the roads in our rural areas. The current pathway extends along 168th Ave NE, NE 160th St., and 158th Ave NE. Plans have long been in the works to extend this pathway north along 158th Ave NE to the Saddle Club and elementary school. An extension on 168th Ave NE south to NE 148th St has also been discussed.

King County has indicated a willingness to work on this extension as early as this summer; however, the project relies on community support to become reality. The HHA has offered its support, evidenced in part by our maintenance efforts discussed above. If we move ahead with this, a few work parties may be organized during the summer.

If you are able to help out on the work parties, would like to attend future trail committee meetings, or are interested in more information, contact Susan Cyr at 487-2908.

### •••• SIGNS ••••

We have been discussing the creation of signs for the entrances to our neighborhood which identify it as Hollywood Hill and provide a welcome. Actually, it is a concept which has been supported for many years, even to the point of having some artwork options explored. However, this project has never gotten off the ground.

Now seems a good time to move ahead with this worthy project. If you are interested in helping out with design, woodworking skills, materials or installation, contact Michael Tanksley at 483-2529.

## *Spring Clean-up Set for May 6*

It's past time for another road-side clean-up. In keeping with our commitment to the Adopt-A-Road program, the date for the clean-up is set for Saturday, May 6. To participate, stop by the Hollywood Hill Saddle Club, just east of the elementary school, between 9am and 11am, to pick a section of road. You will be supplied with plastic garbage bags and safety equipment. All trash is to be returned to the Saddle Club Arena by the end of the weekend to be picked up by the County. If you cannot participate on Saturday morning or if it is raining that morning, drop by to pick up some trash bags and do clean-up any time during the weekend. If you are unable to stop by at these times, contact Mike Tanksley at 483-2529 to make alternate arrangements.

# *Traffic Safety Project*

A walk along the roads of our neighborhood, taking in the wooded or pastoral ambience, can be one of the simple pleasures of living here. But with increasing frequency, we are brought out of our reverie by the shock wave and roar of a vehicle travelling well above the speed limit. As unnerving as this may seem to a walker, it goes to a whole new level when observing our children riding their bikes to a friend's house or equestrians riding their horses.

In an effort to investigate the traffic hazards that exist on Hollywood Hill, the HHA held the first of a series of traffic safety meetings in January. Dave Paul, Senior Traffic Engineer and Neighborhood Traffic Safety Coordinator with King County, spoke to a group of concerned residents to explain what can be done to alleviate neighborhood traffic concerns.

The meeting was attended by residents from a variety of neighborhoods on the Hill. The concerns ranged from speeding and careless driving, to dangerous encounters for equestrians and pedestrians. The presence of non-local traffic cutting through our neighborhoods was also identified as a contributing factor. Some of the roads that have been brought to the forefront of our neighborhood investigation are: 148th Ave. NE, 158th Ave. NE, 171st Pl. NE, and 168th Ave. NE. The importance of proper etiquette on the part of the non-motorized users was also discussed.

As Neighborhood Traffic Safety Coordinator for King County, Dave Paul leads neighborhood organizations through a two phase process that can take several years. The first phase covers the three Es: Education, Engineering and Enforcement, while the second phase is reserved for the most critical problem areas with persisting problems.

Phase 1 actions begin with sending a flyer out to the residents of the Hill (as we have done below). Other actions include operation of radar reader-

boards, which you will soon begin seeing operated around the neighborhood, increased law enforcement, changes in road signage, markings and speed limits. Phase 2 would include structural changes to roads and intersections. Dave Paul made it clear that many of these solutions are not as simple as they appear.

While each of these elements make small improvements to our traffic safety, the effect of all of them, properly applied, can make a significant improvement in our neighborhood's environment. And the biggest element is the commitment of the people in the community, both by participating in implementing the program's elements and by setting good examples while driving.

The next step in this Phase 1 will be the operation of a radar reader board in areas of concern. This involves volun-

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## *Traffic Safety Reminder King County Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program*



In recent years, the citizens on our hill have become increasingly concerned about the speed at which some people are driving their vehicles on our residential streets. At issue is the safety of our children, our neighbors, our pets and ourselves.

Our neighborhood streets accommodate a wide variety of non-motorized users, including a high concentration of horse riders. In the interest of protecting the ambience of our neighborhood, the HHA is asking each of you to encourage your family members (including the younger drivers), your neighbors, friends and visitors to be vigilant and respectful toward our non-motorized users. The first step in doing so is to drive at the posted speed limits. Speed limits are established for the safety of all, both for those on foot as well as those driving.

We should all work together to make our neighborhood streets safe and thereby contribute to ensuring that our neighborhood remains a pleasant environment in which to live.

# Tree Cutting

The HHA takes advantage of County and State regulations to help preserve our community. As a part of enjoying the protections of these regulations, we also respect the rights of other property owners. However, being a property owner involves a responsibility to respect laws and regulations, and to be conscious of your impact on your neighbors. Tree cutting is frequently an emotional issue for people, but it also has legal and environmental implications. Recently, issues have been raised regarding serious tree cutting activity on Hollywood Hill, although this issue applies to all of unincorporated King County.

There are laws in place to regulate tree cutting. Some people will choose to follow the laws, but some would rather clear-cut and take the penalty. Sometimes the profit made from the trees will more than cover the penalties, if any penalties are actually assessed. This puts conscientious landowners and citizens at a disadvantage, especially if a landowner lives out of town and does not really have to deal with the mess that is created. There are some con-

tacts at the Department of Development and Environmental Services (DDES) that deal specifically with these matters. You are encouraged to ask questions if you see tree-cutting happening. Ask to see a permit. Contractors are required to have their permit with them and have all sensitive area buffers flagged. If you have questions concerning logging, you can contact the following people: ( area code 206) Randy Sandin at 296-6778, Jon Pederson at 296-6781, or Jim Ballwebber at 296-6779. Jon and Jim work with Forestry permits and Randy supervises the clearing and grading section.

King County has announced a new citizen complaint hotline that will allow DDES staff to react to serious environmental violations during off-hours. Report serious environmental hazards, such as illegal clearing and grading or lack of proper erosion control measures, at 1-888-437-4771.

During regular DDES business hours, call Randy Sandin mentioned above, or Doug Dobkins at 296-7087.

## Update on Equestrian Overlay

The HHA Trails committee held an informational meeting in February to get an update on an ordinance proposed by King County that would create an "Equestrian Special District Overlay", which is the government's way of saying Horse District.

Hollywood Hill is already formally recognized as an "Equestrian Community" by King County, but up to now, this designation has been little more than a pleasant sounding name. This ordinance will give designated "Equestrian Communities" some tools they need to protect the open spaces and right-of-ways that are essential to remaining viable areas for keeping livestock.

Our neighborhood has a vested interest in this due to the important role that livestock play in supporting the maintenance of larger lots, which are vital to keeping our area rural and open. Much of the focus of the Overlay ordinance is on the preservation of historic trails, access and incentives for private landowners to voluntarily allow egress across their property, bicycling, etc., which significantly contributes to the unique character of our neighborhood.

Tom Fitzpatrick, King County staffer in charge of overseeing the Overlay District proposal, outlined the proposal and answered questions at the meeting. Also at the meeting were HH residents Lynn Burch, president of the HH Saddle Club and Jan Reinking, a key member of the KC Executive Horse Council for many years. Jan has been instrumental in developing the citizen input on this issue.

Tom stressed the importance of citizen input on this project, both now and when it is before the King County Council later this year. You can address comments to him at: tom.fitzpatrick@metrokc.gov -or- King Co. Dept. of Development and Environmental Services, Land Use Svc.Div., 900 Oakesdale Ave. S.W., Renton, WA 98055.

For more information on the specifics of the proposal, how it can affect our community and on what points to consider commenting, contact Jan Reinking at 485-3452 or Lynn Burch at 481-8376.

For info about contributing to the Trails committee or attending future meetings, contact Susie Cyr at 487-2908.

### **Get Important Notices by Email!**

HHA now offers email notification when important issues come up. Send your email address to Mike Tanksley, current HHA President, at [cmtanksley@earthlink.net](mailto:cmtanksley@earthlink.net) and we will add you to our confidential email notification list. Also visit our Website at <http://www.hollywoodhillassoc.org> for current information about what is going on around our neighborhood.

# ***State Supreme Court To Hear Ag Preservation Appeal***

The Washington State Supreme Court has agreed to hear an appeal that will have a significant impact on the preservation of the agricultural parts of the Sammamish Valley. The hearing will be held June 1, in Olympia.

The State Growth Management Hearings Board (GMHB) had ruled that King County had violated the State Growth Management Act by permitting new non-agricultural uses on property the County had already designated as agricultural resource land. A Superior Court judge overturned the GMHB decision and declared that the State Growth Management Act's requirement for agricultural preservation was merely "advisory" and that the County was under no obligation to preserve agriculture.

The same group of organizations that had filed the initial appeals (including the HHA) asked the State Supreme Court to hear the case. While no one knows how the court will rule, the fact that the State Supreme Court agreed to hear our appeal is significant.

The State Supreme Court does not agree to hear every appeal. They could have left us to make our appeal to the Court of Appeals. If, as has been alleged, this issue was only about building soccer fields on 18 acres of land in the Sammamish Valley, the State Supreme Court would have been unlikely to intervene. The State Supreme Court is only allowed to make a direct review of a Superior Court decision

## ***Membership Does Not Support Abandoning HHA Goals***

In the last newsletter of 1999, a survey form was included to allow HHA members to tell the HHA Board if they wanted the HHA to abandon its efforts to preserve a rural Hollywood Hill and an agricultural Sammamish Valley. These land use activities have been the historical purpose of the HHA and were the very reason the HHA was created. Only 16 of our more than 800 members asked us to abandon these preservation efforts.

The HHA has always been very open about its goals and its activities. As with any non-profit, advocacy organization, we assume that those who join the HHA do so because they support what we are doing and what we promise to do. However, a small group of members has continuously claimed that our membership wanted us to abandon our historic purpose. This is not the first time such a claim has been made, and the HHA normally does not respond to such claims. However, we decided to put this matter to rest. We wish that everyone in our community supported our goals, but we recognize that this will never be true. As far as the HHA Board is concerned, this matter is settled.

for a limited number of reasons. The two reasons that could apply to this case are:

1. **Conflicting Decisions:** Where the case involves issues in which there are conflicting decisions from the Courts of Appeal or inconsistencies with Supreme Court decisions.

2. **Public Issues:** Cases involving a "fundamental and urgent issue of broad public import which requires prompt and ultimate determination."

The fact that the State Supreme Court has agreed to hear this case indicates that we have been asking a valid question and that the question is about more than just soccer fields.

## ***Keep Your Septic System Working***

The maintenance of your septic system is an important factor in continuing the lifestyle that you enjoy in our area. The recommended time frame for having your septic tank pumped is every 3 to 5 years. Heavy use of the system requires that the tank be pumped more often than does use by a one or two person household. If you do not know the location of your septic system, most particularly the opening of the tank, you should be able to obtain the information from the King County Office of Environmental Health at (206) 296-4932.

Association members have access year round to a reduced rate offered by Pete Couty who owns Alberta Septic Systems. Additional charges will be made for locating a tank, unearthing the cover, repairs, etc. Mr. Couty is licensed and is qualified not only to pump your tank and make repairs but also to install a new system. Call Karen Mackie, Board member, at 483-0889 if you have questions or would like assistance in contacting Pete.

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## ***Traffic, cont'd.***

teers working a radar gun to display an approaching vehicle's speed for the driver to see. This has proven to be very effective in increasing speed awareness. We plan to proceed with this part during May, increasing awareness of driving habits and identifying where the most significant hazards exist. This is a step that can use plenty of volunteers. Grab a friend, a warm drink and spend an hour (time and location your choice). For more information, contact Tricia Callahan at 488-6863.

We would appreciate your help and insight. All perspectives are important and we welcome you to join us as we strive to make traffic safer on Hollywood Hill.

# Annual Statement of HHA Goals

Even though the Hollywood Hill Association has not changed its policies in the last decade, the HHA publishes an annual policy statement in the first newsletter of each year. We invite all residents of the Hill to provide feedback regarding these policies, although we do not expect that every resident will necessarily agree with goals of the HHA. The Board of Directors has tried to make sure that all policies are consistent with views that members have expressed in the past at various public meetings and in some of our opinion surveys. The Board will continue to review and modify these policies as situations change, and will endeavor to ensure that all actions taken are consistent with these policies.

## **What does the Hollywood Hill Association stand for?**

- Preservation of our rural character;
- Ensuring that Government listens to our community;
- Supporting growth in a manner that maintains our quality of life.

Most of those who live on Hollywood Hill came and stayed here because of the relatively unique character of our community. For many, this “rural residential” character is what protects our quality of life. The fact that Hollywood Hill has maintained this rural character is not an accident. It exists because so many of the residents of the Hill have been willing to work to protect it. Since it was incorporated in 1976, the Hollywood Hill Association has led the fight to protect the community. This has been accomplished largely by understanding and using the governmental processes that plan for and control development in our area. The HHA has been successful because we can demonstrate the strong support we have in our community.

The overriding goal of the Hollywood Hill Association is to “Preserve and enhance the quality of life on Hollywood Hill.” To achieve that goal, the HHA has 3 primary objectives: 1. Advocate the preservation of the rural character of Hollywood Hill. 2. Advocate the preservation of the rural and agricultural character of the Sammamish Valley. 3. Advocate the development of the Northshore region of King County in a manner that contributes to the quality of life for area residents.

Under each objective is a set of strategies designed to help the Association achieve the objectives.

**Objective 1.** Advocate the preservation of the rural character of Hollywood Hill. The first strategy is to preserve and protect the rural character of Hollywood Hill by identifying and promoting those elements of our community that define its character. This includes protection of our environment, rural zoning, ownership of livestock, rural roads serving only our community, and the development of pedestrian and equestrian pathways. The second strategy is to keep residents informed as to issues that affect the rural character of Hollywood Hill. The most powerful asset we have in dealing with area government is an informed citizenry that will speak out to let government officials know that we are watching their actions. The third and fourth

strategies involve advocating our interests to King County government and to the City of Woodinville. In both cases, our tasks are to monitor the activities of these governmental bodies and to participate in hearings and planning processes. With King County, our efforts will center around encouraging the County to maintain our rural designation. With the City of Woodinville, our efforts are concentrated on opposing the efforts of the City Council to persuade the County to give the Hill an urban designation and to oppose the City’s efforts to annex sections of the Hill. The fifth strategy calls for the development of projects that serve to enhance our community, such as the regular roadside litter cleanup and the development of the neighborhood pathway system.

**Objective 2.** Advocate the preservation of the rural and agricultural character of the Sammamish Valley. The Hollywood Hill Association has long had a strong interest in the protection and preservation of the Sammamish Valley as an agricultural resource. The Association sees four strategies to achieve this objective. First, to act as an advocate to King County for the preservation of the Sammamish Valley. Second, to act as an advocate with the City of Woodinville and opposing any effort by the City of Woodinville to annex the Valley or include it in their urban growth area. Third, to encourage Hollywood Hill residents to patronize the agricultural services of the Sammamish Valley. Fourth, to protect the environmental quality of the Sammamish Valley, as well as the Sammamish River and the streams that feed it.

**Objective 3.** Advocate the development of the Northshore region of King County in a manner that contributes to the quality of life for area residents. While the HHA has not taken an active role in regional planning in the past, the new State Growth Management Act places such an emphasis on regional planning that we can not longer confine our involvement only to our own community. The first and second strategies for dealing with regional development again involve acting as an advocate with King County and the City of Woodinville to make sure the views of our community are heard. The third strategy calls for developing a working relationship with other rural communities and organizations so that we might combine our efforts in dealing with County and local governments.



**CHECK YOUR LABEL -- ARE YOUR DUES PAID UP?**

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

**Hollywood Hill Association  
P.O. Box 404  
Woodinville, WA 98072**

