



FARM LLC: The sweet taste of strawberries—and more

Christine Dubois

When FARM LLC decided to put in a U-pick strawberry patch at The South 47 Farm, members wondered if there would be any demand. Within a week of opening, they had the answer: YES!

“We could have sold many more berries than we had available,” says Roger Calhoon, general manager of FARM LLC. “We’ve been overwhelmed by the number of people who want local, chemical-free strawberries and enjoy the experience of coming to the farm to pick them. I especially enjoy seeing folks coming back weekly for more berries.”

When Jerry Traunfeld, executive chef at the Herbfarm Restaurant, sampled the berries, he ordered eight flats a week and featured the tasty berries on the menu.

Many days, enthusiastic crowds picked the half-acre strawberry patch clean within several hours of opening. The farm, located at 15410 NE 124th St., was forced to reduce its U-pick hours to two days a week to give berries a chance to ripen. The U-pick will close for the 2001 season in July, but strawberries will be available at the Living Legacy Ranch and the Redmond Farmers’ Market.

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TRAFFIC CIRCLE

The Woodinville City Council recently voted to hire an engineering firm to continue development of plans for installing a traffic circle at the intersection of NE 145th Street and SR-202. This is the intersection at the bottom of Hollywood Hill where Woody’s and the Hollywood Schoolhouse are located.

The HHA Board received a presentation on the traffic circle concept last year from Joe Seet, Traffic Engineer for the City of Woodinville. The most skeptical members were convinced that the concept has many merits and deserves further study. Accordingly, the HHA Board voted to lend its qualified support to the concept.

However, there are still numerous outstanding issues, which must be satisfactorily addressed before the HHA Board will consider giving a finalized traffic circle plan its unqualified support. These issues include, but are not limited to: impact on the local businesses, appropriate interface with local roads, pedestrian friendliness, aesthetics and general alignment.

The planning process is still in its early stages and the Board feels that the outstanding issues have acceptable solutions. It is hoped that such solutions will be applied as the plan matures.

There will be opportunity for citizen input and, if there is sufficient interest, the City has indicated a willingness to make a presentation and have a discussion with the Hollywood Hill community. For alerts about this and other community issues, consider signing onto our email list. The list is sparingly used and maintained by the HHA president at mtanksley@home.com.

...from the President

My Mom still lives in the house in which I grew up. When I was a boy, that area had much in common with the present day King County. Behind my house was a sod farm, surrounded by vegetable farms. The hills were covered in forest and deer. We lived close to our fine school and traffic was not so bad. Beyond these was the ocean. That was Long Island in the 60s, 35 miles from Manhattan.

Much change has occurred in the intervening years. New York was one of the first places in America to experience massive suburban sprawl. The modern subdivision was invented at Levittown and the first mall in the country went up a few miles from my house.

The consequences of such of growth had not been foreseen and, therefore, little was done to prepare for it. Now, the hills are covered with houses, most of the farms are industrial parks and the traffic jams are legendary. It was a good place to grow up, but I wouldn't care to raise my children there now.

Today, amongst that relentless sprawl, one can witness firsthand the success and increasing value of the parks, open spaces and productive farmland that have been saved. The remaining farmers are prosperous and the communities fortunate enough to have them are enriched by the fresh produce and open space.

King County and the surrounding region have been a couple of decades behind Long Island's stage of development. For that reason, we have the luxury to observe places like Los Angeles and Long Island as an indication of what will happen here with a lack of enforceable long-term land use planning. While growth continues to be inevitable, we need not repeat others' mistakes in how we manage it.

I know that we can do better and, in fact, we are doing better. We have inherited a legacy of land-use planning that was put in place a generation ago by forward thinking men and women who recognized the problems inherent in urban sprawl that was driven by short-term development interests. To counter this nationwide phenomenon, they put land use protection tools into place, such as the Farmlands Preservation Program and the Growth Management Act. And local groups were established, such as the HHA, to participate in the process and be watchdogs. If it weren't for these local and statewide efforts, there would no longer be any farmland in the Sammamish Valley nor any "rural" character on Hollywood Hill to defend. For this we thank them.

Not surprisingly, these legacies come under periodic attack. It is good news that there no longer appear to be any of the big land speculators overtly targeting our immediate area. But at least they were easy to spot. The recent attacks have been less obvious, hiding behind the emotionally appealing camouflage of our children's sports and the flawed notion that we must choose between providing sports fields vs. protecting farmland.

The latest such attack has come from Redmond's City Council, the details of which you can read about on our web site. While Redmond claims that they are simply pursuing "local control," their actions do not occur in a vacuum. If left unchallenged, Redmond's actions would adversely affect the enforceability of our Growth Management Act. Maintaining this enforceability is tremendously important in our ongoing efforts to protect Hollywood Hill and central Sammamish Valley from urban blight. Enforceability is the single most important element that makes our land use planning effective in the long run.

For these reasons, the HHA Board of Directors has decided to join with a coalition of groups to provide funds for legal assistance in the defense of the Growth Management Act from the current attacks by Redmond. Since most of our dues receipts go to publishing the newsletters, paying tax and insurance on the 10-Acre Woods and other incidentals, there isn't a lot left over for such legal fees. For this reason, I urge you to support a tax deductible legal fund that has been set up to assist this effort, which is being administered by the Farmcity Alliance.

— Mike Tanksley

*Visit your community
web site for more on these
and other issues
effecting our community.*

www.hollywoodhillassoc.org

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	
Secretary	Tricia Callahan: 488-6863
Treasurer	Jan Hunt: 806-0118
Directors	Karen Mackie: 483-0889 Marsha Martin: 883-8561 Steven Gallagher: 883-0661 Torrey Russell: 483-6531 Joanne Szymanski: 481-8088 Bethann Martin: 402-4783
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.

Farming for fun and profit

Strawberries are just one way The South 47 Farm is spreading the richness of local agriculture. The farm also runs the Community P-Patch Gardens, which lease 400-square-foot garden plots to those who want to get their hands dirty and hang out with other gardeners. More than 40 plots are in production. Many plots are cooperative efforts, with neighbors, co-workers, and parents and their adult children all growing together.

FARM LLC is also leasing space at The South 47 Farm to farmers raising everything from corn to mushrooms to flowers. The farmers sell their produce at farmers' markets and at a farm stand at The South 47 Farm. Educating kids

Each year, FARM LLC welcomes hundreds of preschool and kindergarten students to the Living Legacy Community Ranch and the Root Connection Farm. The young people meet the farm animals, plant seeds or pick pumpkins, and learn about how farmers grow the food we eat.

Another fun and educational event is Saturdays at the Farm, held at the Living Legacy Community Ranch, 13651 Woodinville-Redmond Rd. NE, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., July 7-Aug. 25. Families can explore a farm and learn about the importance of local agriculture as they enjoy pony rides, kids'

craft activities, and shopping for farm-fresh veggies, honey, and chicken and duck eggs.

For more information about FARM LLC activities, see www.farmlc.com or call 425-869-9777.

Support your local farms.

*Pictures by
Lincoln Potter*



Farm LLC



Zante Farm



Root Connection

Redmond Council Actions Continue to Threaten Valley Farmlands

Support Needed to Defend Ag-friendly Court Decisions

On July 10, Redmond City Council voted 4 to 3 to continue its assault on farmland designations in the Sammamish Valley. If successful, Redmond's action could significantly hamper our ability to protect the character of our community. Additionally, it could have profound negative implications on regional and statewide efforts to carry out effective long-term land-use planning designed to avoid the worst effects of urban sprawl.

Redmond's actions threaten the protection of farmland, open space and our rural community character in two ways. The actions challenge the enforceability of the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA), and the disregard the King County Farmland Preservation Program.

This attack consists of pursuing an appeal of a Superior Court ruling, which upheld the Agricultural Resource designation of two parcels of Sammamish Valley farmland, referred to as the Benaroya and Muller parcels. Our neighborhood character is closely related to the agricultural designations of the central Sammamish Valley. Without such enforceable designations, it is a simple matter to foresee the high density development that would occur in the Valley.

There is an ironic twist to this issue in that it was the Redmond City Council who originally decided to designate the land in question as Agriculture Resource land in their

Comprehensive Plan and who went on to successfully defend that designation against legal challenges in the State Supreme Court.

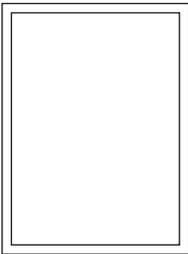
Now, in the face of pressure from special interest groups, Redmond's City Council has found their own Comprehensive Plan inconvenient and wants to change it without meeting the requirements the GMA lays out for making such changes. It is just such political whimsy and short-sighted policy making that results in the relentless urban sprawl that the GMA is designed to help us avoid.

It is crucial for us, as citizens, to defend the GMA and the accountability required of local land-use planners which the GMA provides if we are to have any expectation of leaving a legacy of livable communities to the generations that follow.

You are strongly urged to contribute to a legal fund for the defense of upholding local Agricultural Resource designations in the Sammamish Valley and the intent of the GMA in general. Any amount is helpful: the projected cost is approximately \$35,000, of which about \$10,000 has been raised. Please send your tax deductible contribution to: Farmcity Alliance, PO Box 334, Mercer Island, WA 98040. (The HHA welcomes additional donations, but contributions to the HHA are not federally tax deductible.) For additional information, visit our website or call an HHA Board member.



CHECK YOUR LABEL -- ARE YOUR DUES PAID UP?



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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

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 of \$30 off the regular price 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.