



# NEWS

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## ***More Playing Fields and Farms*** ***HHA inputs on a proposal supporting additional soccer fields***

The HHA is working with King County (KC) and Lake Washington Youth Soccer Assn. (LWYSA) in support of a land trade proposal that would allow for the creation of additional athletic field development on property adjacent to the present 60 Acres North soccer complex.

The proposal under consideration would have KC exchange its ownership of 60 Acres South with LWYSA's ownership of the Muller farm. If the proposal goes forward, it will be sponsored by KC Executive Ron Sims for consideration by the KC Council.

The recent history of these properties is as follows: 60 Acres South was purchased by KC at the same time as 60 Acres North (the current soccer complex) with funds from Forward Thrust. This voter approved bond measure, enacted in the late 1960's, was designed to purchase lands for use in developing public park and recreation facilities in the county. 60 Acres South is located within the boundaries of the city of Redmond.

The Muller farm was purchased by LWYSA a decade ago with the intention of developing a regional soccer complex. The property is located SE of the intersection at NE 124th St. and Willows Road and extends east to the Sammamish

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## ***The Root Connection***

### ***A Conversation with Claire Thomas on Successful Organic Farming and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) in the Sammamish Valley***

Ray Wade: I'd guess you'd call me a "Field Manager". I translate Claire's plans down to the field level. There are patterns set up. I help implement those and basically get the work done; the planting, the harvesting etc. All of us have input as to what's done, even the members; what they like, what they don't like to eat but Claire is the strategist, she comes up with the plan of what we plant and when.

Claire Thomas: We have about 13.5 acres and we're using a hundred percent of that right now for our members. Everything they find in their share we grow right here during the summer months.

Ray: And we utilize that limited acreage very intensively. Because we use more human labor and cultivate very closely, we are able to produce more food than large-scale farming. For example we plant and harvest lettuce every week during the whole season. The Sammamish Valley is incredibly rich bottom land; it goes way down perhaps 12 feet or more.

Claire: The key to organic farming is how the plants take up the nutrients. To grow they need organic matter that is being digested in the soil so we need productive soil. Chemical fertilizer is water-soluble. It needs to be replaced constantly as it washes out into the eco-system. We've tested this soil. A good proportion of organic material in soil is considered to be 7 to 10 percent. Ours is 43 percent. It's a soil that is so full of micro-organisms it is digesting all the time. To help keep it that way we add back into it all the picked weeds, compost and certified organic fertilizer. This why we want to keep these valley bottom lands. They simply can't be reproduced. I don't care how much compost and fertilizer you do, you can't replace what nature has taken thousand's of years to put down. That's what we have here.

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# Letter from the President

With summer officially here and summer vacation upon us, kids are on my mind since mine are back in the house pretty much all the time now. With so many children out of school, I feel compelled to admonish you to drive carefully and watch out for them on the roads (I was referring to kids on the road shoulders rather than driving but perhaps the warning should go both ways). But since someone has certainly done that elsewhere in print, I will tell you instead of the energy generated by a bunch of our local kids and their families here on Hollywood Hill.

Back in May, the HHA held its annual Spring Clean-Up and for the second time in two years, we had a great turnout. Many families with their children participated by picking up litter together along a section of roadway. It was heartening to see the younger generations caring for and giving back to their community in such a positive way. What a great life lesson for anyone! I hope you noticed the huge piles of debris that were returned to the school driveway and Saddle Club for collection. It was both satisfying and sobering to see how much litter was collected from our road shoulders. My wish now for the community is that we will continue to collect less trash over time due to less being generated because of the resulting pride of cleaner streets.

If you didn't participate in the Spring Clean, you've got another chance to feel great about making our Hill look great. The Fall Clean is set for the weekend of September 25<sup>th</sup> and will coincide with the elementary school's back to school barbeque but everyone is encouraged to participate—with or without kids. I guarantee that you will feel good about helping out. Please see the back of this newsletter for additional details.

Happy summer to you all—I'm off to enjoy some time in the mountains with my family where I hope to see no litter along the roadways.

Susan Cyr

## •••Dues•••

*Check the top line of your address label to see if your dues are current. 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.*

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

[www.hollywoodhillassoc.org](http://www.hollywoodhillassoc.org)

## YOUR ASSOCIATION

The Hollywood Hill Association is a private, state nonprofit corporation, formally chartered in 1976. We are an all volunteer, community based organization, dedicated to the preservation of our community character.

President	Susan Cyr: 487-2908
Vice President	Mike Tanksley: 483-2529
Secretary	Jan Hunt: 806-0118
Treasurer	Mary Hosizaki: 402-1216
Directors	Karen Mackie: 483-0889
	Marsha Martin: 883-8561
	Lincoln Potter: 481-8382
	Ron Baum: 806-8044

Website [www.hollywoodhillassoc.org](http://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.

River. It is in unincorporated King County and within the Sammamish Valley Agricultural Production District (APD). The LWYSA has been unable to proceed with their development aspirations due to the farm's preexisting participation in the Farmland Preservation Program as well as its being within the APD. Both restrict the use of the land to agricultural and passive open space uses only.

If this land proposal succeeds, LWYSA will own 60 Acres South and could install playing fields as soon as this fall. Redmond has signaled its desire to support development of more active recreation facilities on the site. This is consistent with present zoning. Executive staff has told us that alternate locations have been found that satisfy the traditional passive users, primarily the RC model fliers, of 60 Acres South.

In exchange, KC will come to own the portion of the Muller farm that is within the APD. The county would then be required to offer the agricultural rights of the property for public sale. It is expected that this would result in the property being returned to active farming in the near future.

There are still a few wrinkles to be ironed out. First, the initial proposal does not include the small parcel that has the farm's barn and house. The value of the Muller farm is less than the value of the 60 Acres South parcel unless the parcel on which the farm buildings are located is included. Otherwise, the trade would translate to an inequitable exchange which is unfavorable to county taxpayers.

Secondly, as of this writing, there is an additional proposal to remove a 35 acre parcel of the Muller farm from the Farmland Preservation Program. This parcel is also owned by LWYSA, but is located within the city limits of Redmond though it is contiguous with the rest of the farm and the APD. [There are 3 parcels that make up the total farm, which straddles the border between Redmond and unincorporated King County.] Such removal is a lengthy process, but, if successful, would require the owner to buy back the development rights from the County as well as to pay back taxes and interest.

The HHA and numerous other interests have taken a position adamantly opposing this proposal. The following outlines some of our reasons for this opposition.

1.) The proposal presents serious threats to the integrity of the Farmland Preservation Program which stands as a cornerstone in our efforts to manage growth locally and countywide. The parcel in question does not meet the most basic requirement for removal of a property from the Program which stipulates the

removal process may be commenced only if the property is clearly unsuitable for agriculture. The bond ordinance that approved funds to acquire development rights under the Program included this stringent test to address the inevitable requests to remove properties from the Program and from agricultural uses. The property is clearly suitable for agriculture as are the rest of the Sammamish Valley farms that have not already been developed for other uses. It is the County's obligation to uphold and enforce the requirements of the bond ordinance and the deed restrictions.

2.) There are several problems with the technical aspects of the proposal. Examples include the valuations initially proposed for use if LWYSA were to be allowed to buy back the development rights on the 35 acre parcel. KC staff has floated \$200,000 as the value of the development rights on the 35 acre parcel while the true value of the parcel's development rights today is in the neighborhood of several million dollars. Additionally, the proposal calls for the funds generated from the buy back to be applied to protecting land in the north end of the valley. However, the suggested lands are already within the APD which protects them from nonagricultural uses, and most of them are owned by King County anyway.

3.) If this proposal were to be carried, it would encourage speculators to run up prices of remaining farmland eventually driving out farmers.

4.) This proposal would set a legal precedent making it difficult to uphold other challenges to the efforts to preserve farmland and open space.

5.) The trade which we support and which is discussed above can stand on its own merit, but the initial proposal only complicates the issue putting the trade concept at risk.

If we are to give any consideration to going through the steps required for removal of the Redmond parcel of the Muller farm from the Farmland Preservation Program, it is the position of the HHA that it should be discussed as an issue separate from the trade proposed above.

There is much to be gained if the trade proposal goes through in an equitable manner. Our community stands to gain additional active recreation facilities accompanied by a high probability of prime agricultural land being returned to productivity. But, these gains are threatened by the several serious flaws that are contained in the initial proposals.

Visit the HHA website to read our complete position on this issue and to find more detailed information the general land-use issues involved.

## *Proposed Park Update*

Progress is continuing on the quest to create a park out of surplus county land behind the Hollywood Hill Elementary School (see map on page 5). A new group, Friends of Hollywood Hill Park, has been formed to work with King County to facilitate the creation of the park. As a Federal non-profit organization, Friends will also be able to accept tax-deductible donations to help fund the development of the park. Please visit the group's new website at: [FriendsofHollywoodHillPark.org](http://FriendsofHollywoodHillPark.org) for more information including a proposed site plan and map.

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Ray: CSA farming is all about “connections”. The farmer’s relationship to the soil and the plants, and, in turn the members have a relationship with an open-working farm. After they pick up their pre-packaged share they can come out if they want, wander around and pick flowers, herbs and some additional greens; they are able to sense the

When you look at Earth’s topography there are certain areas that are suitable for food production, the climate, the fertility and flatness of the soil. And, there are areas that are not. If you build factories, warehouses, apartments and strip-malls on that precious soil just because it is cheaper to build on flat land, what does that say about us to future



*Claire’s Rangers conferring in the mid-day heat. left to right: Salvador Vedolla, Ray Wade, Dave Kaplan and John Iizuka. --Lincoln Potter*

weather, the seasons, they watch the plants mature and ripen. The CSA gives them a feeling of participation. They own a share of the produce; they are “vested” in their community’s farming. Claire was a visionary. We were only the second CSA in the U.S. when she started The Root Connection. She has been very influential in the movement. Now the concept is spreading all over the country.

Claire: The CSA movement is growing. Every year I hear of a few more CSA’s even right here in the Puget Sound area. We need these lands to grow food. Once the ground is covered over, it’s gone forever. One acre can feed two hundred people a year. The development rights to the farmlands were purchased by the citizens for us in the 70’s. Every citizen of King County today owns those rights. If we overturn even parts of the Farm Preservation Program, the land prices will go straight up, farmers won’t be able to stay in business and we will lose those rights and that land. It’s that simple. We’re giving away the legacy that we have inherited.

generations that we destroyed nature’s farmlands for fleeting profit for the few? We can build elsewhere but we cannot grow food anywhere.

Interview, June 16, 2004, The Root Connection

Fresh delicious food is indeed growing right now in wild summer profusion and there are a few memberships still available. Call or visit the **Root Connection Farm, 13607 Woodinville-Redmond Rd.; Redmond, WA 425-881-1006**

## ***DEER ALERT***

Watch for deer on our roadways. There have been numerous reports of deer, often in pairs, jumping onto the road in front of cars. The Association is working with the Dept. of Transportation to have deer signs posted.

# ***HELP SAVE THE GOLD CREEK HEADWATERS AND A VALUABLE TRAIL***

A new opportunity has turned up for our community to add to our public woods and trails and preserve an important environmental jewel. Mr. & Mrs. Bosley want to sell their vacant 2.5 acre lot located between NE 155 St. and 154 Ave NE and prefer that it be sold as a community resource. The beautiful wooded property is a peaceful place rich with bird songs. Additionally, the land provides valuable wildlife habitat. The western end of this acreage contains the official headwaters of Gold Creek and a wetland. The wetland, which needs some reclamation, provides a critical resource for wildlife propagation. From the source, the creek flows to Gold Creek park and on to the Sammamish Slough.

An established trail runs the length of one side. This trail provides an important link between 158<sup>th</sup> (the main road between the Hill's two entrances) and Gold Creek Park via a trail along the Buus property (between 154 and 152 Avenues NE). Henning and Greta Buus have placed their trail in the easement program under the Public Benefit Rating System (PBRS). Similar access to the park is available from 158<sup>th</sup> via either NE 153rd or NE 160<sup>th</sup>, but traffic, especially on 153<sup>rd</sup>, can be a problem for pedestrians and riders,. There is another trail between 154<sup>th</sup> and 153<sup>rd</sup> (perpendicular to the Bosley/Buus trails), but it is not in the easement program and could be lost.

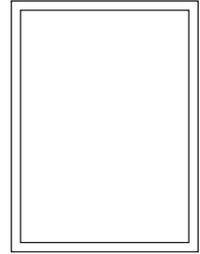
The trail and water quality criteria make the property eligible under PBRS for a 90% property tax reduction. Other than the wetland restoration and insurance, the property will entail limited expense.

For those who would like to help create another community resource and save a vital resource or would like to share a creative idea regarding this land, please call Jan Hunt at 806-0118.



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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



CHECK YOUR LABEL -- ARE YOUR DUES CURRENT?



## *Hollywood Hill's Annual Fall Clean*

Hollywood Hill's Annual Fall Clean is scheduled for the weekend of September 25th. This year we have scheduled two dates to pick up trash bags and sign up for a section of road to clean, but, as always, you can pick up litter at any time during the weekend as long as the filled bags are returned to the entrance to the Saddle Club by Sunday evening for pick up by King County crews on Monday morning. The first date to pick up supplies is the evening of Friday, September 24th between 5:00 and 8:00 pm at the HH Elementary School. If you are attending the elementary school's barbeque that evening, you can sign up at any time during that event or as you are leaving at the exit of the east parking lot near the Saddle Club. The second date to pick up supplies is Saturday, September 25th between the hours of 9:00 and 11:00 am. Again, remember you can pick up litter anytime during the weekend. We hope to see you there!



*Be on the look-out for teenage gang spotted on hill. Said to be sporting hard hats, day-glow vests and carrying giant plastic bags full of "our" trash. Caution, unruly behavior may be involved! Left to right: back row: Haley Grossblatt, Olivia Stener, Hannah Grossblatt, Clark Cyr. Front row: Cici Cyr, Kiwi Cyr. --Lincoln Potter*