

FEBRUARY 2023

MIRRORMONT

A BEAUTIFUL COMMUNITY NESTLED IN THE TREES OF TIGER MOUNTAIN'S SOUTHWESTERN FOOTHILLS

Letter from the President / Annual Meeting

Trees of Mirrormont

Noxious Weeds of Mirrormont

Tour of Gardens 2022

Page 2

Page 4

Page 6

Page 12



FACES OF MIRRORMONT



ALEJANDRO ZEPEDA ~ I was born in Tampico, Mexico and my wife, Marlene Vazquez, was born in Mexico City. We both grew up in Guadalajara, Mexico and our primary language is Spanish. We have two children: Dario (6) and Naomi (3).



We've lived in Mirrormont for almost three years. My favorite thing about the neighborhood is our beautiful landscape. We love that it's a quiet place surrounded by the woods.

I am a full-time Dad and love being close to my kids and seeing them grow up. Marlene is a Software Quality Assurance Lead, working at Meta. She says, "I love when I use a software product that's intuitive, easy to use, and error-free, and I get to ensure the products that the team builds meet those by testing them before they're released."

In my free time, I enjoy playing the guitar, hiking and mountain biking, camping, and traveling. I am passionate about music and playing the guitar. Marlene is most passionate about Project Management at all levels. Our favorite hobby is Travel—we love it because it's relaxing and we can get to know other cultures from other places, and then share that with our family. This past summer, we took a risk and traveled with our little kids to Europe. The furthest trips we have taken have been to Peru, Iceland, French Polynesia, and Turkey.

LYDIA LAPARRA ~ I was born in Valencia, Spain and Sander Meixner, my husband, was born in Mexico. We have two girls, Daphne (7) and Sandra (4). We moved to Mirrormont from California one and a half years ago. We feel very lucky to live here in the forest. I love how it changes in each season and how beautiful it is. I never stop to surprise myself and admire the place where we live.

I am a Breastfeeding Educator; I love helping moms by giving them information that can improve their breastfeeding and help them feel empowered and supported. My hobbies are hiking, gardening, and yoga. I love cats!! Sander is a software engineer, and his hobbies are climbing, mountain biking, and snowboarding.



A fun fact about our family is that Sander and I met thanks to the circus. We used to do performances together and the first remodel that we did to our house was installing a climbing wall and a beam to hang an aerial silk and other circus equipment.

[FACES ... CONTINUED ON PAGE 16]

letter from the PRESIDENT

volunteer

noun

vol·un·teer | vä-lən·'tir

: a person who voluntarily undertakes or expresses a willingness to undertake a service:

Yes, your Mirrormont Community Association (MCA) needs them to function. Without volunteers, on either the Board, or for events, the MCA would fold. No more Spring Clean-ups, Movie Nights, Easter Egg Hunts, Halloween Parties, Speaker Evenings or dumpsters when Republic next goes on strike.

There has been the same half dozen or so volunteers that have served the MCA for many years (you know who you are!) and let's be honest; fair is fair when they say that they want someone else to offer to help.

I know that people are busy, have demanding jobs, have to transport kids to after-school activities and so forth, but what is the expression? "If you want something to get done, ask a busy person!"

So, I'm asking all you busy people out there, if you want the MCA to continue to put on fun, educational and useful events, please drop me an e-mail and volunteer.

Thank you!

P.S. And a BIG thank you to the MCA volunteers in 2022!

*Ian Parker,
MCA President*



2023 MCA ANNUAL MEETING: On

January 17th the MCA Board presented an overview of 2022 and plans for 2023. Board members were elected, and the budget was reviewed and approved.

Discussion included an area of significant concern to the MCA Board: How to increase MCA membership and encourage members to volunteer time and energy to keep our MCA governing body functioning. A question was raised about increasing membership fees to pay for support traditionally filled by volunteers (Membership VP, etc.). A vote was carried that the Board look at raising the annual fees. At the February meeting, the Board voted not to increase membership fees in 2023. Instead, the MCA will continue to focus on methods to increase community engagement to join and participate in the MCA.

Our speaker, Dr. Marianne Elliott, PhD, from the Puyallup extension service of WSU, gave an interesting talk about endangered trees of our area.

2023 MCA Board



The MCA Board wants to represent the diversity of our residents. Any Mirrormont resident is welcome to attend monthly meetings at 7:00 PM on the first Tuesday of the month. If you want to become more involved with the MCA Board, please review the position descriptions at <https://www.mirrormont.org/team-4>, then email president@mirrormont.org. Help make Mirrormont an even better place to live!

• OFFICERS •

PRESIDENT	<i>Ian Parker</i>	president@mirrormont.org
VP MEMBERSHIP	<i>OPEN</i>	membership@mirrormont.org
VP ARCHITECTURE	<i>Rachel Wright</i>	architecture@mirrormont.org
VP PARK	<i>Meg Wade</i>	park@mirrormont.org
TREASURER	<i>Francie Kugelman*</i>	treasurer@mirrormont.org
SECRETARY	<i>Carrie Mapes</i>	secretary@mirrormont.org

• DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE •

SOCIAL EVENTS CHAIR	<i>Kellie Batali*</i>	events@mirrormont.org
WEBSITE	<i>Theresa Solak*</i>	website@mirrormont.org
WELCOME PROGRAM CHAIR	<i>Connie Harris</i>	welcome@mirrormont.org
FIREWISE CHAIR	<i>Wayne Elson</i>	firewise@mirrormont.org
SPRING CLEAN-UP	<i>OPEN</i>	springcleanup@mirrormont.org
GARAGE SALES	<i>Sheldon Esteb</i>	garagesale@mirrormont.org
PEA PATCH COORDINATOR	<i>Linda Shepherd</i>	peapatch@mirrormont.org
SAFETY/ EMERGENCY PREP	<i>OPEN</i>	safety@mirrormont.org
MCA ADVISOR & EXPERT	<i>Mary Nelson</i>	

*New on the MCA Board since our 2022 election

Do you feel too busy to volunteer? Balancing it all can be hard! If you want to be contribute to your community, but are only able to take on a smaller role. If you'd like to contribute to your community but don't feel ready to take on a leadership role, please consider joining one of MCA's Standing Committees. It's a wonderful way to meet neighbors, learn about how you can make a difference, and help decide if you want to get more involved. Zoom, Teams, and other platforms have made it easier to have brief meetings from home with a minimum of disruption to our lives.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Park Stewards: contact park@mirrormont.org

- Participate in work parties to maintain our beautiful park
- Learn about ecological restoration, native plants, and noxious weeds
- Help with planning for a playground and shelter
- Suggest and help organize fun activities at our park

Social Events: contact events@mirrormont.org

- Help with Easter Egg Hunt, Halloween Party, Holiday Party, and other events
- Suggest and help implement new events

Firewise Program: contact firewise@mirrormont.org

Welcome Program: contact welcome@mirrormont.org

Spring Clean-up: contact springcleanup@mirrormont.org

Architectural Review Committee: contact architecture@mirrormont.org

Safety/Emergency Preparedness Committee

Ad-hoc Committees: From time to time, residents bring issues to the MCA Board and form ad-hoc committees to accomplish a particular project or advocate for specific issues with the support of the Board. Two examples include addressing speeding and the condition of our roads (see articles included in this newsletter).

FRANCIE KUGELMAN - Treasurer

I am the new volunteer Treasurer of the MCA Board. My husband, Kerry, and I moved to our home in Mirrormont in 2019 and we love living here. We previously lived in Southern California, so being surrounded by trees, walking our dog along the winding trails of Mirrormont Park, enjoying the winter weather, fall foliage, snow, and making new friends has made our life as retirees amazing and wonderful!

Before we retired, I had a varied career as a public elementary school teacher, director of a downtown art gallery featuring the photography of Ansel Adams, helping teachers get their projects funded through DonorsChoose, and I also designed pension plans. I developed a love of math that I used in my jobs; that's one of the reasons I offered to help the MCA as Treasurer.

Another reason I volunteered is that I have stage 4 cancer, and it is important to me to give back to the world through service projects, like being the Treasurer for the MCA. It means so much to me to be able to help and provide a positive presence in the world. New medicine is being developed every year, so I hope to be able to live for at least another ten years in our wonderful Mirrormont home.

**KELLIE BATALI** - Social Events Chair

I moved to the Tiger Mountain/Mirrormont neighborhood back in 2000, and totally love living here. One of the first things I did was to restart a toddler group that hadn't been active for a few years. Because of my kids' ages, it was a perfect way to meet new friends and playmates for my family. I ran that for two years, then moved on to volunteer on several different MCA committees through the years. At the same time, I've also volunteered at all the Issaquah schools serving this area, was on the Board of the Issaquah Schools Foundation, and in 2012, chaired Mirrormont's 50th Anniversary Celebration held in the park and clubhouse.

When I heard the MCA was looking for a Social Events Chair, it felt right to step up and help with this important function in the neighborhood. We always need new volunteers and remember that it's a great way to be connected to the community and meet people who could become lifelong friends! I'm also a long-time local realtor in the area, married with a husband who also does real estate, have three kids in the local area, and love jogging/walking through the beautiful peaceful streets of Mirrormont and the trails and paths on Tiger Mountain.



MCA BENEFITS

As the MCA's Treasurer, I hope I can inspire you to pay the MCA's annual \$50 membership fee! Last year, the MCA had wonderful events and activities every month! Only \$50/year—around \$4/month—allows the MCA to provide these events and services for our community.

One of my favorite annual MCA-sponsored programs is the Spring Clean-up. I love this event—just for MCA members—you can bring to the huge dumpsters that the MCA rents old carpet, furniture, and those items cluttering up your garage. No need for dump runs if you're an MCA Member!

Did you know that this year the MCA is working on adding a playground to Mirrormont Park? Your dues will help support this great project!

If you want to try gardening but don't have enough sun, paying your MCA dues allows you to apply for an organic garden plot in our community Pea Patch. I LOVE my raised beds in the Pea Patch and helping bring the weekly summer harvest to a local food bank. One special feature of the Pea Patch is the irrigation system, so if you are not able to visit your plot for a few weeks during the summer, your plants are automatically watered!

Last year there was a wine tasting event—only for MCA members—and I heard that it was fantastic, so I plan on going this year. When Republic Services failed to serve us in January 2022 and our trash was overflowing, the MCA covered the cost of dumpsters. This was funded by our membership fees.

If you want to be part of our amazing MCA community, please pay your membership dues right away, so I can write checks to cover the costs of all our events. Thank you for giving me something to do as Treasurer besides writing checks and watching our monthly balance decrease.

When you pay your \$50 dues, I get to deposit checks, track online membership payments, and I also promise to email you a thank you for becoming an MCA member! We all appreciate you being part of the MCA community, and I look forward to meeting you and thanking you personally for investing in our community.

Pay your dues here:

<https://www.mirrormont.org/shop>.

See all the events that your \$50 dues pay for at <https://www.mirrormont.org/mca>.

▲ Francie Kugelman

MCA DUES

HOUSEHOLD ANNUAL DUES
NOTICE \$50 DUE 3/1/23

Submit payment online at

<https://www.mirrormont.org/shop>

using PayPal or credit card — or mail a \$50 check made out to
MCA to P.O. Box 476, Issaquah, WA 98027.

Membership runs with the calendar year, from January to January.

With membership you can participate in MCA-sponsored community events.

Dues also cover maintenance of Mirrormont's front entrance.

• • MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS INCLUDE • •

SPRING CLEAN-UP
COMMUNITY-WIDE GARAGE SALE
COMMUNITY PICNIC
TOUR OF MIRRORMONT HOMES

CHIPPER DAYS/FIREWISE PROGRAM
WELCOME PROGRAM
MIRRORMONT PEA PATCH
MANY SOCIAL EVENTS!

TREES OF MIRRORMONT

How many trees can you identify in Mirrormont Park? How many native trees do you have around your house?

The 2013 *Issaquah Press* article “Mirrormont Thrives at 50” proclaimed, “A drive through the Mirrormont neighborhood feels more like a scenic trip through a national park, with towering trees on either side of the roadway.” The article mentioned Tom Cole, a resident for 54 years, as saying that the reason he stayed so long, like many Mirrormont residents do, was because of the trees.



© Janet Horton

Since that article about our 50th Anniversary Celebration in September 2012, Connie Harris, Jane Ulrich, and I have welcomed 380 new homeowners to Mirrormont. Many new residents are unfamiliar with our area and our trees. I find that the first step in establishing a relationship with a plant, as with a person, is to know its name. In Mirrormont this is fairly easy, since the number of common native trees is limited to six main species: Douglas fir, Western red cedar, Western hemlock, big-leaf maple, vine maple, and red alder.



© Gary Reum

EVERGREEN CONIFERS

DOUGLAS FIR is the most common and widespread tree in the



© Ben Legler, Burke Herbarium Image Collection

Pacific Northwest. Cones have a distinctive 3-pointed bract protruding from above each scale, which looks like the tail and hind legs of a mouse. On mature trees, its bark is deeply grooved. From a distance, upswept upper branches form a smile and the uppermost leader points straight up, unlike hemlock and red cedar, which droop. Needles are arranged like a bottlebrush and buds are sharply pointed.



© Mike Styskal

WESTERN RED CEDAR, Its leaves are flat and scaly, arranged in a braid-like pattern. Cones are ½” long and the reddish-gray bark shreds in long strips. The Coastal Salish people considered Western red cedar to be their Tree of Life, providing longhouse shelters, canoes, clothing, baskets, bentwood boxes, combs, tools, harpoon shafts, spear poles, cradles, coffins, medicines, and art. Although the inner foliage turns brown and drops off each autumn as a normal event, your cedar is struggling if it has a thinning crown, branch dieback, and dying tops. Recorded to live over 1500 years and reach heights of over 200 feet, many Western red cedars are now dying due to successive years of extended droughty summers.



© Bud Kovalchik, Burke Herbarium Image Collection

WESTERN HEMLOCK, Washington's state tree, has feathery, drooping boughs and a distinctive drooping leader (the top shoot of the tree). Needles vary from ¼” – 5/8” and lay flat along the stem. Cones are ¾” long. This tree has been a victim of root rot and King County has cut down many hemlocks in Mirrormont Park.

DECIDUOUS TREES

Our main deciduous trees, which lose their leaves in winter, are:



Ben Legler, Burke Herbarium Image Collection

BIG-LEAF MAPLE leaves can be up to 12" in diameter and have 5–7 lobes. This tree's fuzzy, winged seeds hang in large bunches and whirl down like helicopter rotors in autumn. Citizen scientists can play with some maple seeds in [easy projects](#). Its calcium-rich bark hosts mosses, lichens, and licorice ferns (none of which harm the tree). Because Native people used big-leaf maple wood to make oars, was nicknamed the "paddle tree."



NPS Sonya Daw; inset photo Gerald D. Carr [NPS=National Parks Service]

Over the past few years, big-leaf maples have been dying off. This has been linked to hotter, drier summers that predispose this species to decline, weakening their immune systems and making it easier to succumb to other stressors and diseases. No single pest or pathogen has been found responsible but sooty-bark disease, new to the PNW, is a recent suspect. You may notice leaves becoming smaller as a tree declines. I've been sad to observe big-leaf maple die-off around my house and in Mirrmont Park.

VINE MAPLE is the most common small tree west of the Cascades. It is an understory tree that grows to about 20 feet tall and tends to form multi-stemmed clusters. The small palmate leaves have 7–9 lobes and turn brilliant reds and yellows in the fall.



Jim Robbins

"Finland is officially the world's happiest country. It is also 75 percent forest. I believe these facts are related." • Matt Haig

RED ALDER leaves are ridged and toothed, and the tree is



Ben Legler

easily identified by its catkins and cones. It grows rapidly to 40'–70' and lives only about 50 years. It is the first tree to colonize disturbed areas and it improves the soil by "fixing" nitrogen from the air.

Female-seed-producing catkins are small, oval-shaped, and tend to grow in bunches. They begin to form in summer (as in the photo) and ripen the next spring to look like small woody pinecones that remain on the tree all winter. Male pollen-producing

catkins are long and narrow and dangle from the branches of the same tree. ▲ [Linda Shepherd](#)

Mirrmont was logged in the 1920s, so trees were only about 40 years old when Mirrmont was platted and development began. Since our 50th Anniversary Celebration mentioned above, many magnificent trees have grown but some have died. Climate change is the primary cause, with many recent years of longer than usual droughty summers. It's important to notice and identify trees in trouble, with their different patterns of manifesting stress.

Throughout Mirrmont Park you'll find signs that identify each of these trees with five photos, descriptions of key characteristics, fun facts, ethnobotany, value to wildlife, and landscape value. Less common native trees in Mirrmont Park are bitter cherry, cascara, and cottonwood. Mirrmont Park Stewards have recently planted grand fir and shore pine to replace some of the trees that have died and to increase diversity with species that may succeed better in our changing climate.

For more photos, browse the [Burke Herbarium Image Collection](#).

An excellent resource for identifying these species and more is [Trees PNW](#). This is a free app for both Android and iPhones, which covers common native trees in Oregon, Washington, and Western British Columbia.

If you suspect your trees might be diseased or hazardous, it's best to contact an arborist who isn't associated with a tree-removal business. PlantAmnesty has a referral service to help you find a certified professional arborist: <https://www.plantamnesty.org/services/referral-services/>

Noxious Weeds of Mirrormont

Aliens are taking over Mirrormont! Alien invasive weeds that is—and they are brutes. Left to themselves, some of these bullies climb trees, cover sheds, fences, and cars. They over power native plants and ornamentals until they are the only plants left growing.

Common noxious weeds in Mirrormont include English ivy, yellow archangel, Himalayan blackberry, evergreen blackberry, English holly, bindweed, creeping buttercup, and rough chervil.

These illegal aliens come from England, Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and Africa. Excellent web pages from King County have great pictures for identification, description of their biology, and strategies for prevention and control.

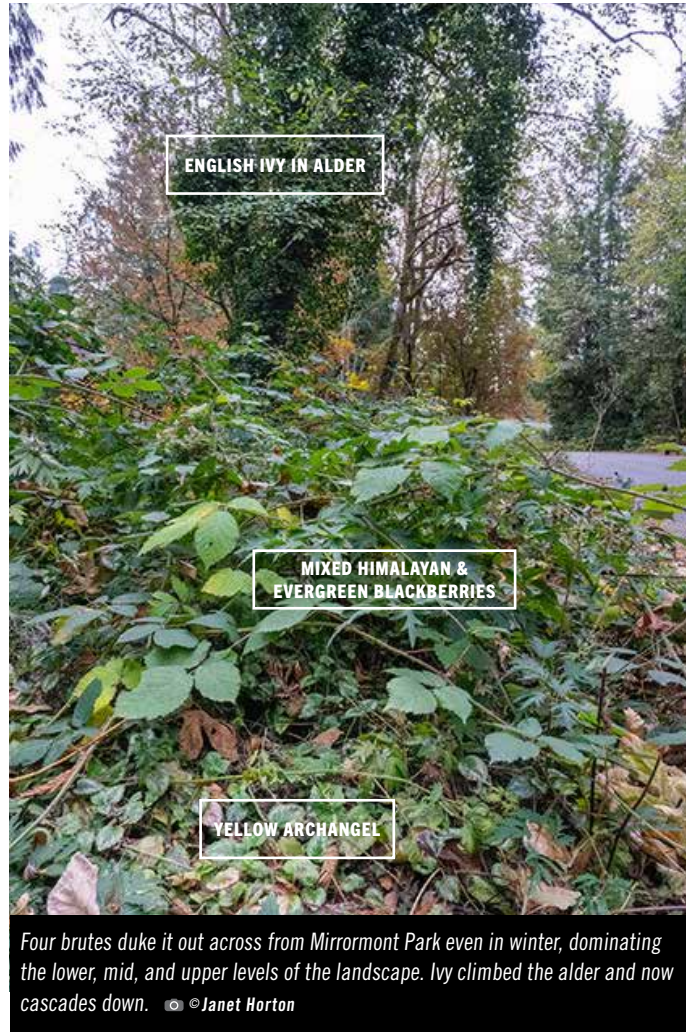
Mirrormont Park Stewards are working to remove these aliens from our park. They could use your help! Contact park@mirrormont.org. Click on the names below for photos and control info.

ENGLISH IVY is unrelenting—growing all year long and creeping from one property to the next. Like all noxious weeds, it knows no boundaries. When it grows up trees, it gets excited; its leaves change shape, and it starts to reproduce; birds eat the berries and excrete them all over the neighborhood. Eventually, ivy topples trees by adding so much weight to the upper story. First, protect your trees by removing at least six feet of ivy up the trunk and three feet around the base, then remove the rest of the ivy on your property before it smothers all other ground covers. It will take persistence.

WHAT'S A TREE'S FAVORITE DRINK?
ROOT BEER!

YELLOW ARCHANGEL is seductively evil. It has a nice name, pretty yellow flower spikes, and attractively variegated silvery foliage. But evil can deceptively lure you with prettiness. Yellow archangel smothers ferns, bleeding hearts, Oregon grape, and all other ground covers until it is the only plant in sight. It is native to Europe and was introduced as a garden ornamental. Unfortunately, it is a popular plant in hanging baskets. When people dump the contents of such baskets into compost piles, yellow archangel begins the invasion, spreading by both seed and runners. A single leaf will sprout roots and come back from the dead. It's of no use to wildlife, except maybe rats, who hide in its dense evergreen cover—as they do in English ivy. Remove it now before it takes over! Then monitor with eternal vigilance.

HIMALAYAN BLACKBERRY is native to Armenia and Northern Iran. We have the famous plant breeder Luther Burbank to thank for bringing it here in 1885, where it's spread to become one of the worst weeds along the Pacific Coast from British Columbia to southern California. Yes, the berries are delicious, but the thorny thickets become impenetrable. These blackberries will cover shrubs, fences, cars, and sheds.



Four brutes duke it out across from Mirrormont Park even in winter, dominating the lower, mid, and upper levels of the landscape. Ivy climbed the alder and now cascades down. © Janet Horton

WHY WAS THE CAT SCARED OF THE TREE?
BECAUSE OF ITS BARK.

EVERGREEN (OR CUTLEAF) BLACKBERRY is native to Europe. Like Himalayan blackberry, it forms impenetrable thickets. The two are often found together.

WHY DID THE CHICKEN CROSS THE ROAD?
TO SHOW THE OPOSSUM HOW IT'S DONE.

ENGLISH HOLLY is a cash crop in the PNW where we grow 90% of the holly sold in the U.S. While it is sold as an ornamental plant in nurseries, the City of Kirkland includes English holly on its list of plants prohibited from being planted on private property. It escapes to remote forests to form impassable thickets that dominate the tall shrub layer and suppresses germination of native trees and shrubs. Birds eat the red berries and excrete their seeds on your and your neighbors' properties. When pulling out small plants, be aware that the root has a "J" kink, where it can break off and leave the rest of the root intact. The roots can extend twice the depth of their height. **Hollies** spread by suckering and layering as well as by

seed. Before removing, be sure to distinguish holly from Oregon grape, which is a valuable native plant.

WHY DON'T ANTS GET SICK? **BECAUSE THEY HAVE TINY ANTIBODIES. THESE JOKES ARE SO FUNNY, YOU WOODEN BELIEVE IT!**

BINDWEED invaded from Europe and Asia. It's also called "morning glory," but that's too nice a name for it. It creeps and strangles until the only way to remove it may be to destroy plants it has entangled. Bindweed connects bushes and trees by cords and forms a **snarled** dense mat that becomes a trip hazard. Roots and rhizomes are fragile and can extend up to 10 feet into the

ground; seeds persist in soil 20 years or more—both factors make it extremely difficult to eradicate once established.

WHAT DO CATS LIKE TO EAT ON A HOT DAY? *A MICE-CREAM CONE!*

ROUGH CHERVIL has started growing in ditches along Mirrormont's main roads and is spreading from there. A native of Europe, it contains a volatile alkaloid that is poisonous. The sap can cause inflammation of the skin and persistent rashes. If consumed, the plant causes gastrointestinal inflammation, drowsiness, vertigo, and cardiac weakness. Animal poisonings by the plant are more common than those of humans. Pigs and cattle that have become affected exhibit a staggering gait, unsteady stance, apathy and severe, exhausting colic, ending sometimes in death.

WHERE DOES A CAT GO WHEN IT LOSES ITS TAIL? *THE RE-TAIL STORE!*

CREeping BUTTERCUP spreads by creeping horizontal stems or runners that root at the nodes. It crowds out native ground covers, where one plant can spread over a 40-sq. ft. area in a year. Each plant produces 20–150 seeds that can remain viable in the soil for 20–80 years. It is native to Europe, Asia, and northwestern Africa. It is extremely aggressive and toxic to grazing animals. Before pulling, be sure to distinguish it from native fringedcup, miterwort, piggybackplant, and foamflower.

Please be on the lookout for other noxious plants that aren't (yet) prevalent in Mirrormont, such as Scotch broom, butterfly bush, and garlic mustard—and contact me at PeaPatch@mirrormont.org if you see them. ▲ *Linda Shepherd*



Your dog told us
to send you this.

He'd like a new toy. We have toys.



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What do you love? Halloween? Easter? Christmas? Whatever happens to be your favorite time of the year, the Mirrormont Community Association (MCA) Events Committee has it covered! Every year, the MCA holds several repeating events, such as the Easter Egg Hunt, Halloween Party, Holiday Party, community-wide Garage Sales, Spring Clean-up, and more. These are typically held in the MCC Clubhouse or the Mirrormont Park, parking areas or Pea Patch garden. Around those regular events, there are other activities that get scheduled depending on what is of interest to either the community or those volunteering for the event(s).

In 2022, the Mirrormont neighborhood turned 60! To celebrate that, an anniversary party honoring those years was held on Saturday, September 17th, in the MCC clubhouse and park. There were Mirrormont history displays in the clubhouse, a live history session with several presenters, kids' games in the park along with bouncy toys, live music, plus food and ice cream available for purchase. It was well attended with over 120 people and was a great place to meet neighbors and enjoy entertainment for the kids and adults on a sunny weekend day! While a "big" anniversary doesn't come along every year, having a neighborhood gathering in the park in the summer is a positive way to connect with others, something the MCA always supports. We are hoping to hold one in September of 2023.

The Year of 2022 also featured such activities as a wine tasting in June, a newly organized New Year's Noon Balloon Drop, a Wildfire Risk Reduction Strategy Event in July, a New Neighbor Meet and Greet in August along with an outdoor movie night on the MCC clubhouse lawn for kids, and more.

For 2023, some of the one-time events will include a wine tasting/educational evening, a senior's presentation on specific issues facing our senior population and a talk about the native plants and trees. The Events Committee always welcomes new ideas about what will appeal to our diverse population in Mirrormont, so you may email events@mirrormont.org at any time with ideas for neighborhood events.

It's been proven over the years that an idea that someone is excited about doing becomes a successful event with the participation of the people who most love it, so if you see something that you want to join in on, or you have an idea you want to help bring to life, we are here to help and support! We hope you will be a part of this wonderful community called Mirrormont! ▲ *Kellie Batali*

PLEASE SLOW DOWN!

Unless you read the online [meeting minutes](#), many issues addressed by the MCA Board are invisible to Mirrormont residents. Speeding is one of those issues.

Speeding has been a problem in Mirrormont since its founding in the 1960s. Developer Rod Loveless said, “There were problems with people speeding around and learning to drive. My kids learned to drive here when they were 12–13 years old. I’d send them on errands, there was nobody around, and they were private roads at that time.”

Since these early days, the MCA and individual residents have beseeched drivers to slow down. For example, minutes from past MCA Board meetings reported:

- **January 1967:** King County denied Rod Loveless’ phone request for a 25-mph speed limit sign on 260th Ave SE due to insufficient residential density.

- **February 1967:** Woodland Properties petitioned Washington State Patrol to post 25-mph speed limit signs.

- **April 1972:** Speed limit sign installed.

- **June 1972:** The 25-mph speed limit sign disappeared.

Over the past few years, the MCA Board has continued to explore ways to deter speeding and increase safety, from pleas on our kiosks and Nextdoor, to installing humps or bumps or traffic circles, to hiring off-duty police to patrol and ticket speeders. Many residents have put “little green men” Kid Alert SLOW signs by the road to warn drivers that children are at play.

In July 2020, Jane Ulrich, a former elementary school teacher who cares deeply about the safety of children, began a campaign to deter speeding in Mirrormont. Since it takes 21 days to change behavior, she requested a radar speed trailer for Mirrormont Way for 21 days. Afterwards, she asked KC Road Services about the data collected from it and asked about possible mitigation measures.

In October, KC Roads responded. While data indicated the road qualified for rotational radar speed signs, KC Roads explained they would not install speed humps due to several negative consequences: they hinder the response time of emergency vehicles, are expensive to install and maintain, can cause damage to vehicles, can contribute to neighborhood noise pollution, and some drivers tend to increase vehicle speeds between speed humps compared to speeds before the speed humps were installed.

The MCA Board sent an alert to everyone in the MCA database about that report and asked drivers to obey the 25-mph speed limit.

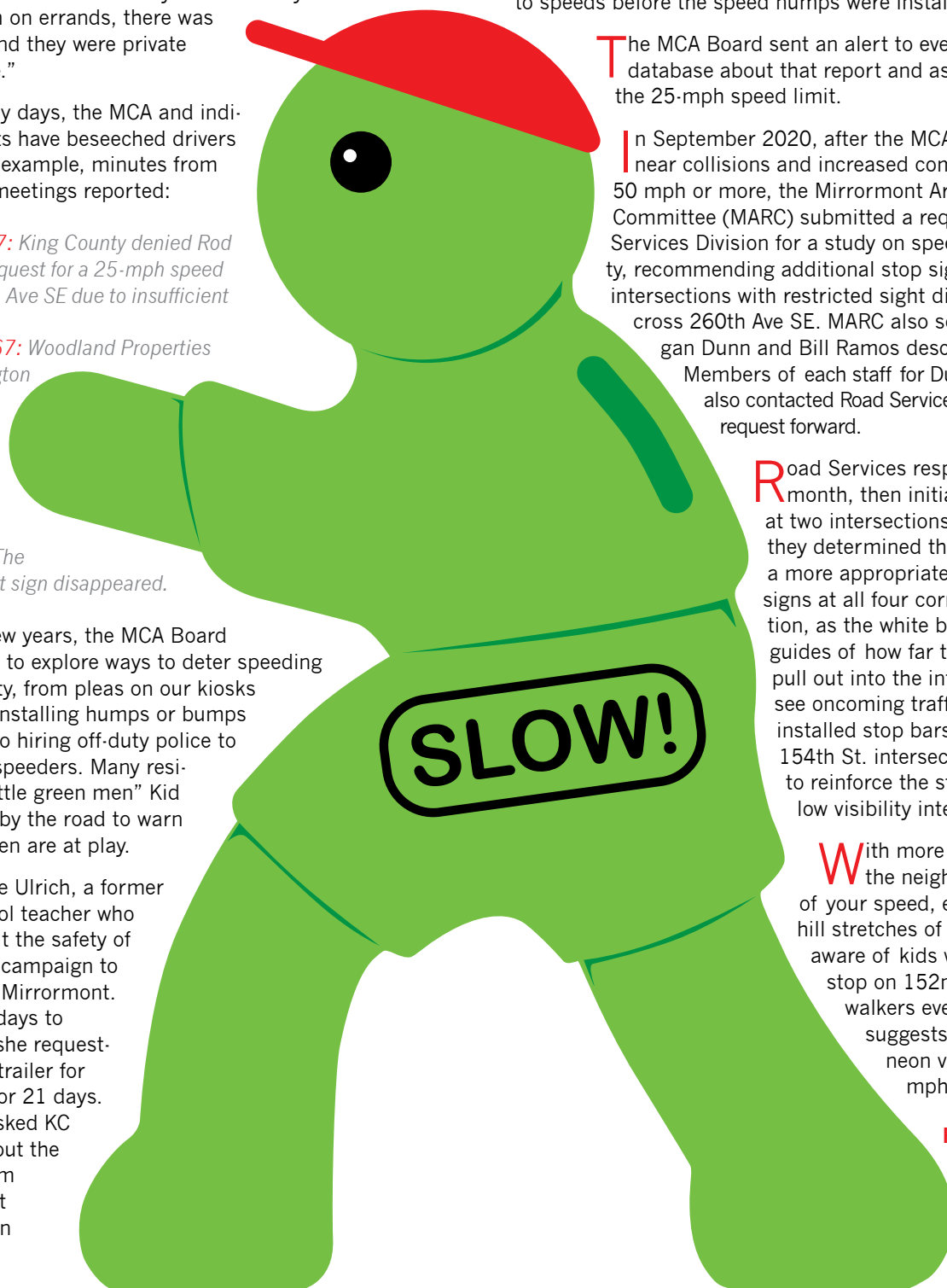
In September 2020, after the MCA received reports of near collisions and increased complaints of speeding 50 mph or more, the Mirrormont Architectural Review Committee (MARC) submitted a request to KC Road Services Division for a study on speeding and visibility, recommending additional stop signs at two specific intersections with restricted sight distances where they cross 260th Ave SE. MARC also sent letters to Reagan Dunn and Bill Ramos describing the issues. Members of each staff for Dunn and Ramos then also contacted Road Services to help nudge the request forward.

Road Services responded within a month, then initiated a traffic study at two intersections. From that study they determined that stop bars were a more appropriate solution than stop signs at all four corners of the intersection, as the white bars serve as visual guides of how far the car needs to pull out into the intersection to clearly see oncoming traffic. Road Services installed stop bars at the 152nd and 154th St. intersections in March 2021 to reinforce the stop signs at these low visibility intersections.

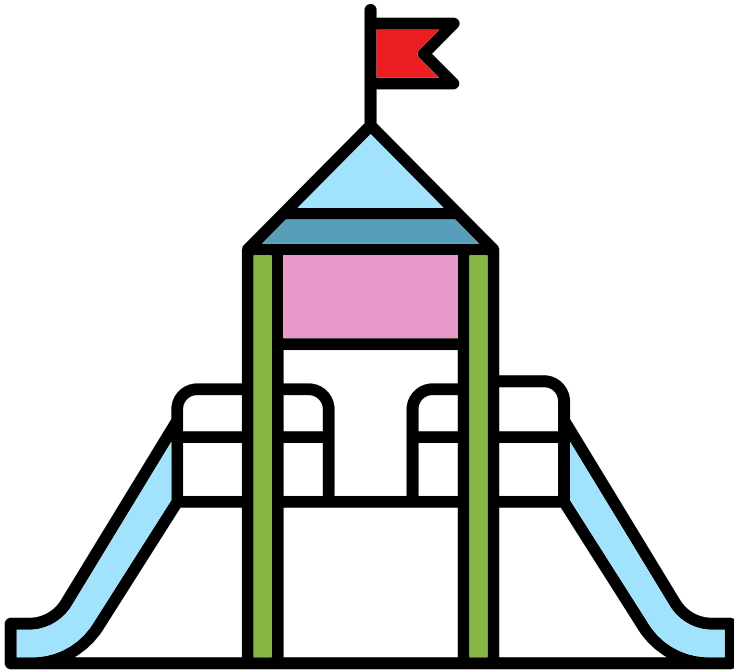
With more young families in the neighborhood, be aware of your speed, especially on downhill stretches of our main roads. Be aware of kids walking to the bus stop on 152nd—and of kids and walkers everywhere. KC Roads suggests that walkers wear neon vests and mark “25 mph” on the back.

**PLEASE
SLOW
DOWN!**

▲ *Linda Shepherd*



Play Structure for Mirrormont Park



Mirrormont Park is such an amazing place to explore! Acres of trails, so much natural beauty, and a little of something for everyone. This isn't by accident or happenstance. This is a direct result of the intentions and work done by our Park Committee. This group of dedicated community members is passionate about continuing to keep this amazing natural space a place for community and nature to enjoy and coexist for generations to come.

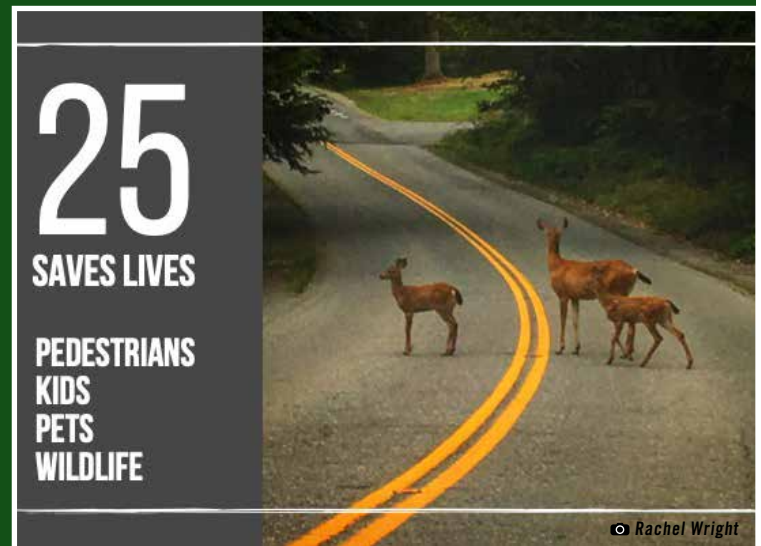
Our next major endeavor is something that has been on our minds for several years now, and we are hoping to finally see it come to fruition—a play structure! A committee has been formed to make this happen. We have been writing grants, seeking out and applying for additional funding, and collaborating with King County Parks to make this dream a reality.

Would you love to see a playground in the park? Would you be interested in taking an active part in making that happen? If so, please consider volunteering your time. We could use your engagement in helping move this project along, from providing feedback on play structures to helping write grants. If you are interested, please email park@mirrormont.org. We would love to see what we can make happen in 2023! ▲ *Carrie Mapes*

— HELP MIRRORMONT MAKE STREETS SAFE FOR NEIGHBORS — BIG AND SMALL:



© Linda Shepherd



© Rachel Wright

Keep your speed to our local limit of 25 mph, and give extra caution around blind corners and hills, intersections, and driveways. The large trees and foliage of Mirrormont can obscure a driver's view of potentially hazardous situations with pedestrians and cyclists, kids at play, pets and wildlife.



Some of the County equipment and crew

Becoming 'Roads Scholars'

During 2022, we made progress in working with King County on road maintenance issues. Four members of the community worked on this project: Ian Parker, Bryan Pflug, Ed Buffalow, and Sahba Mohandessi.

We met with King County personnel via Teams on 2/16/22 (see MCA March Monthly Meeting Minutes for notes about this County meeting). Following the meeting we developed an action plan with photos and maps identifying areas that needed attention.

In May, the County brought out equipment and began doing the work. Representative improvements are shown in the photos. One of the biggest improvements was at the intersection next to the tennis courts.

Going forward, if you see issues of concern, you can contact the County using the information and protocols given by Road Services Division Director, Tricia Davis, "The best process to address periodic maintenance is to report any unincorporated King County road issues by calling our 24/7 Road Helpline at 206-477-8100 or toll-free at 800-527-6237. For non-urgent issues, please email maint.roads@kingcounty.gov. We will continue to evaluate and address requests using many factors to delegate our work within the constraints, feasibility, and funding available." *▲ Ed Buffalow*



Intersection of SE Mirrormont Drive and 256th Avenue SE (adjacent to tennis courts)



Mirrormont Roads & Relaxed Standards

In the 1960s, roads with plats more than 35,000 sq. ft. could be built with “relaxed standards”—meaning in whatever way the developer wanted. They were not required to meet county specifications. Back then, except for the front entrance hill, Mirrormont’s roads were only gravel for many years. They were gradually converted to a bituminous surface or asphalt.

Developer Rod Loveless, who operated bulldozers, backhoes, and road graders, tells the story of almost dying while grading SE 155th Pl.’s [steep hill](#).

Laying asphalt without properly preparing the subbase can result in surface dam-

age and “alligator cracks”—one of the more serious problems that an asphalt surface can develop—which is what has been happening in Mirrormont. With our apparently shallow gravel subbase, our roads weren’t built to handle the loads of big rig vehicles that travel our roads today. Poor drainage and repeated freezes and thaws are other causes of degradation to the road base. Edge cracking can be caused by lack of support of the road edge due to poorly drained or weak shoulders. In some cases, best practices for repairing our deteriorated roads would require removing and replacing the subbase or improving it, then overlaying it with new

asphalt and including sloping graveled edges would promote good drainage.

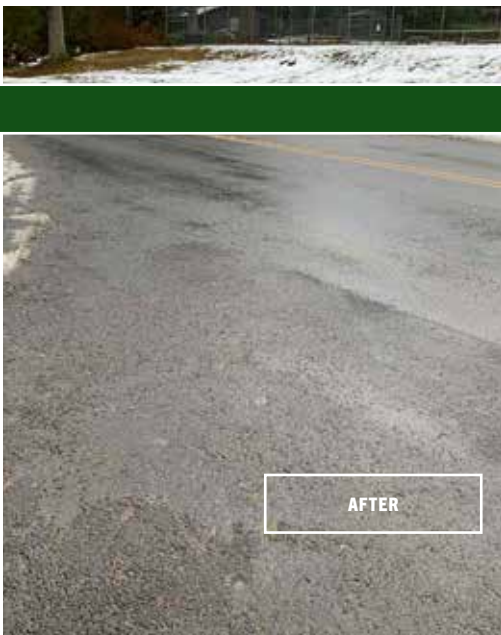
As I recall, King County resurfaced our roads only once since I moved here in 1988, and that was well over 20 years ago.

King County Roads says they don’t have funds to resurface, much less replace the subgrade of our roads, and that our only recourse is to request repairs to the worst sections. An ad-hoc committee of the MCA took on this project. [▲ Linda Shepherd](#)

**WHY DO SEA-GULLS FLY OVER THE SEA?
BECAUSE IF THEY FLEW OVER THE BAY
THEY WOULD BE BAGELS!**



Edge cracking and returning to gravel on 260th Avenue SE at the intersection with SE 157th Street



© Linda Shepherd, Ed Buffalow

Mirrormont Tour of Gardens

On a pleasant Saturday afternoon in July, 36 “tourists” shared an enjoyable day with neighbors and learned bits of garden wisdom from each other. Master Gardeners Martha Pinsky and Linda Shepherd led a tour of six Mirrormont gardens.

We began the tour at Mirrormont Pea Patch. From its first growing season in 2010, our community garden has served 77 gardening families and donated 4617 pounds of organic vegetables to local food banks. Throughout the pandemic, the Pea Patch provided a safe venue for outside activity, community, and respite. One of its goals is to serve as a demonstration garden—so please wander through to see what food we can grow in Mirrormont and learn about different gardening strategies. Please just close the gate after you!

From the Pea Patch, we drove to Mary & Karl Nelson’s home to admire their Garden Rhapsody in Blue. Moss-covered rocks, old stumps bursting with new life, and a really old trillium attest to the process of nature collaborating with Mary’s love of gardening. She is working towards perennial borders with six months of flowering plants. A blue



Mary & Karl Nelson’s Garden Rhapsody in Blue: The trail bordering the creek leads to a koi pond.

ceramics/teapot tower proclaims her affinity for blue. Wildlife—and not-so-wild humans—love the creek, shallow waterfall, and koi pond, washing away our blues as we followed the charming path around the pond. In spring, an area of bluebells gives a nod to Jane Austen.

Our next stop was Ed & Nancy Buffalo’s residence where we enjoyed a Wander through Outdoor Rooms. These gardens reflect experiments and lessons learned from almost 40 years of ‘Living in the Forest’—the theme that guided Ed, an architect, in their

house design. Main windows focus on forest views; shrubs planted along property lines buffer them from neighbors. Limbing up trunks brought in some light and extended views into the forest (also a Firewise practice). Over the years, they created a series of outdoor rooms: Forest Clearing, Fountain



Ed & Nancy Buffalo’s Wander through our Outdoor Rooms: These newest outside rooms were added with Firewise principles in mind.

Patio, Cascading Deck, New Garden, Fern Garden, and Afternoon Terrace.

From there we strolled to Jane & Bob Ulrich’s Certified Wildlife Habitat. High mountain granite stones from Marenakos Rock Center provided bones for natural landscaping that began 23 years ago. Native plants weave through areas devoted to lovely collections of hellebores, hostas, ferns, and



Jane & Bob Ulrich’s Certified Wildlife Habitat sign is surrounded by sword fern, false lily-of-the-valley, salal, red huckleberry, and starflower.

whimsical fused glass art. Garden rooms with benches or chairs provide relaxing spots to watch wildlife and contemplate nature. Water-dish rocks serve as bird baths.

We moved on to the land tended by Autumn & David Holzberg, who shared their Story of a New Garden. They moved to Mirrormont in June 2019, when the front section of the property was covered with invasive English ivy, bordered by half-dead arborvitae, and terraced by deteriorating railroad ties. Beginning in January 2021, they began their front yard project by removing



Autumn & David Holzberg’s Story of a New Garden: Polite tourists stay on the path while listening to Autumn sharing the challenges and joys in creating their new garden.

these, and starting a new garden by building a stone terrace to hold the slope and creating a river of rocks to manage runoff. They have been enthusiastically planting ever since.



Lynn English & Dick Weisberg’s Well-structured Mature Garden: Lorna Hughes and Melissa Hayakawa gasp with amazement at the size of the mature Solomon’s seal.

A few doors away, Lynn English & Dick Weisberg showed us A Well-structured Mature Garden. They began in 1995 with a landscaper installing the first hard structures and plants. Then English & Weisberg worked with another landscaper after fallen limbs from the 2012 ice storm destroyed much of their landscaping. They shared three lessons

2022


learned: (1) the landscapers installed too many plants, not allowing for their growth; (2) they didn't understand what plants would survive in a Mirrormont shade garden; and (3) native plants have a better chance of thriving. The shade garden also showcases hinoki cypress, ferns, astilbe, a waterfall and pond, and stone from Marenakos Rock Center.

We ended the day with a lovely reception on Martha & Adam Pinsky's deck after Walking through a Fairy Tale. The Pinsky gardens are a blend of natives, ornamentals, and perennials in a park-like setting. The front garden was the focus over the years but now the back and side gardens are being renovated, which is very exciting and a lot of work!



Martha & Adam Pinsky's Walking through a Fairy Tale: This beautiful garden is a work of heart with spaces to Breathe and Dream.

Two seating areas in the front garden provide places to enjoy hydrangea, hardy fuchsia, wild geraniums, epimedium and many other plantings at various times throughout the spring, summer, and fall. Their son calls it "walking through a fairy tale"!

Mirrormont has many hidden gems—botanical delights that can't be seen from the street. If you'd like to share your garden on our next tour, email peapatch@mirrormont.org. For security, only Mirrormont residents are invited to tour. We promise to be polite and appreciative!  *Linda Shepherd*  *Martha Pinsky*



 *Linda Shepherd*

Author: KING 5 Staff
Published: 12:27 PM PST August 30
Updated: 1:54 PM PST August 30
Facebook Twitter

BECOME FIREWISE!

HOBART, Wash. — State Route 18 has closed Monday around 1:30 p.m. due to a gasoline tanker crash east of Hobart triggering a large fire.

The crash occurred shortly after noon, according to the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT).

On SR 18 westbound just east of Hobart there is a collision blocking all lanes.

—**WSDOT Traffic (@wsdot_traffic) August 30**

At least five people involved have suffered serious injuries, according to Trooper Rick Johnson with the Washington State Patrol.

Here is a picture from the scene pic.twitter.com/kDZYuffmM

—**Trooper Rick Johnson (@wspd3pio) August 30**

There was no word on what caused the crash nor any additional details on the extent of the injuries. Reportedly a gasoline tanker truck was involved, igniting a large fire in Tiger Mountain State Forest. Fire officials are heading to the scene. With dry conditions and wind from the South, the King County Sheriff's Office is contemplating an evacuation order for hundreds of residents on Tiger Mountain.

Drivers are urged to seek alternative routes. Tiger Mountain residents are urged to contact KCSO for updates on the fire.

This is a developing story, Check back for updates.

IS A NEWS REPORT
LIKE THIS POSSIBLE




PERHAPS. THE POINT IS THAT IF SUCH AN EVENT WERE TO OCCUR, MIRRORMONT RESIDENTS WOULD HAVE NO TIME TO MAKE THEIR HOME FIRE-RESISTANT.

BUT HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW:

Watch the 36-minute webinar "[Managing Wildfire Risk to Western Washington Communities](#):" and then get a free wildfire risk assessment for your property. To start the process, submit your request by filling out [Wildfire Preparedness Service Request](#)

- Clean your roof & gutters: Remove fine flammable debris before July 4th, when red flag warnings or fire weather watches are forecasted, and regularly through the summer until the rains return.
- Clear the 5-foot zone around your home and decks: Rake away leaves, mulch, and other flammable debris down to bare ground. If you want to, replace mulch with non-flammable material such as rock. Prune or move plants away from this zone.
- Participate in Chipper Days (April 24–25), focusing on removing heavy accumulations of ground litter/debris, dead plant and tree material, out to 200 feet from your home.

MIRRORMONT'S FIREWISE COMMITTEE is currently working with King Conservation District on a 2023 Mirrormont Community Wildfire Risk Assessment that contains a 5-year Firewise Action Plan. This will take our [2015 Wildfire Protection Plan](#) into the future. Contact firewise@mirrormont.org if you'd like to help.  *Wayne Elson*

THE WELCOME COMMITTEE

— A PERSONAL INVITATION —

The Mirrormont Community Association (MCA) makes it a priority to personally welcome new neighbors to our community by delivering a Welcome Bag by our Welcome Committee. We want new folks to know that we are happy to have them join our vibrant community.

Our new neighbors have moved from places as diverse as West Seattle, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Houston, and Saudi Arabia! In



2022, our committee delivered 34 bags.

Comments from new families include how appreciative, and sometimes surprised, they are to receive a Welcome Bag.

A member of the committee goes over the important information in the Welcome Bag, such as joining the Mirrormont Community Association, signing up for Nextdoor

Mirrormont, the MCA Covenants, local wildlife, and how to live on a septic system. We explain how the optional \$50/year dues are used to support the Spring Cleanup, Community Garage Sale, adult social events, children's parties, and many other activities.

During our visits with new neighbors, we hear how happy they are to have moved to such a beautiful, forested community. They are interested in learning about the trees and shrubs on their property, and how to maintain them. Our Welcome Bags include an insert that emphasizes "Keeping the Focus on Nature in Mirrormont" to address that interest.

Many new families have mentioned that they have already met their neighbors, which speaks to the friendliness of our community. The Welcome Committee is happy to serve the Mirrormont community by personally welcoming new folks to this special neighborhood. Make it a point to welcome them, as well!

▲ *Connie Harris & Jane Ulrich*

GET CONNECTED/SOCIAL



@MIRRORMONTWA



MIRRORMONT
COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION

MIRRORMONT EXPERT!

Thinking of selling? I'm happy to walk through your home to give a comparable market analysis for free. The top 5 things to do to prep your house for sale & more is what I know & I only suggest projects to help you get the highest price for your property. Sell your house as is, or use one or more of my trusted contractors so you don't have to worry about finding the right help! I can assist you in purchasing a new home as well.

I live in this area & love it, & my enthusiasm translates into being the top realtor in the neighborhood for over 19 years. Ask about my staging and landscape options!



- Ten year winner of the Seattle Top 5% Real Estate Agents
- Represent buyers and sellers in the greater Eastside areas

Kellie Batali 425.260.3107 CELL
YOUR TIME IS NOW.

Fun Facts

BUY A HOME IN MIRRORMONT FOR \$30,000

Mirrormont was begun by Rod Loveless and Glenn Nordlie in 1962 with the purchase of 680 acres that were subdivided into 586 plots. Shortly thereafter, Boeing lost a big Bomarc contract (to build a missile) and property values all over the area fell. They had a hard time getting this development off the ground. Back then, houses here were selling for about \$30,000 or less and our shy-acre lots for \$2,950.

AN AFRICAN LION IN MIRRORMONT?

In May 1975, a 350-lb African lioness named Mickey was kept behind what is now the metal-and-glass A-frame house on 152nd off the end of 263rd. Her roar could be heard for blocks! For a photo of Mickey and *The Seattle Times* [story](#).

FIRE STATION #76

"Our" fire station was built in 1970 on a lot donated by the Yeisleys, who have lived in their present home next door since 1959. Back then, when an emergency occurred, a loud siren went off that could be heard all over Mirrormont. Not only could you hear the siren, but also all the dogs would start started howling. Then, since many of the fire volunteers lived in Mirrormont, cars would go racing to the fire station along with teenagers on their bicycles.



2023

Mirrormont Community Association CALENDAR

Tuesday, JANUARY 27	Annual MCA Meeting	7 – 8:30 PM
Thursday, MARCH 16	Wine Tasting Event	6:30 – 8:30PM
Wednesday, MARCH 22	Senior Planning Event—Get Your Ducks in a Row	6:30 – 8:30PM
Saturday, APRIL 8	Easter Egg Hunt	10 – 11 AM
Mon–Tue, APRIL 24/25	Chipper Days	All day
Saturday, MAY 20	Spring Clean-up/Adopt-a-Road	9 – 2 PM
Saturday, MAY 20	Pea Patch Plant Sale	9 – 2 PM
Friday, JUNE 16	Garage Sales	9 – 4 PM
Saturday, JUNE 17	Garage Sales	9 – 2 PM
Saturday, JULY 15	Tour of Homes	1 – 4 PM
Friday, AUGUST 18	Outdoor movie night	Dusk
Saturday, SEPTEMBER 9	Picnic in the Park	1 – 4 PM
Saturday, OCTOBER 29	Halloween, 0–4th grade	10 – noon
NOVEMBER 1–18	Shoeboxes of Joy	Ongoing
Friday, DECEMBER 8	Holiday Party/Adult Social	7-10 PM
Sunday, DECEMBER 31	New Year’s Noon Balloon Drop	10 – noon



Stay up to date with our monthly social events by joining our email list on Mirrormont.Org

JOIN THE SOMMELIER CLUB.

Issaquah’s Capri Cellars has 5 of the best Wine Club options in the area including The Sommelier Club.

Each month the Sommelier Club will deliver High-End Pacific Northwest Reds including Gorman, Betz, Efeste, Hightower and Andrew Will. Receive Discounts on food and wine by the glass and **20% off bottles to go.**

Capri WINE CLUB
Cellars Sommelier

88 Front Street S., Issaquah, WA (425) 369-4289 capricellars.com

MIRRORMONT NEWS ANNUAL ISSUE

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P.O. Box 476, Issaquah, WA 98027

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– x –

Circulation of 650 households

FACES OF MIRRORMONT

[CONTINUED FROM FRONT COVER]

ALI MARCUS ~ I was born in Albuquerque, NM and grew up in Fairfax County, VA. I wrote a song about this once, which you can listen to on your streaming services, “The Most Autobiographical Song” by Ali Marcus. My husband, William Cook, and I have lived in Mirrormont for five years. My favorite thing about Mirrormont is walking onto trails! Our kids are in kindergarten and first grade at Maple Hills, and we are really enjoying getting to know so many of our neighbors through our kids’ newfound friendships!



My husband and I met as professional musicians in 2008, sharing a bill together one night at a bar in Bellingham. During many years on the road, we often daydreamed about having a music and arts center of our own.

Then we had kids, moved from Seattle to Mirrormont, and finally in 2022 opened Happy Time Studio, offering music and arts classes for kids, teens, and adults. Our classes are centered around small group learning experiences aimed at building self-expression and creative discipline. We are currently offering workshops for songwriting, guitar, printmaking, and creative writing. We also offer individual lessons including piano. I am the teacher, technically, but I am learning every day from my students, and can’t imagine a better way to spend my working hours. I am also so proud of my husband William Cook’s achievements as a printmaker and now a teacher at the studio as well. See more at www.happytimestudio.com and www.williamcookprints.com.

When I am not working, I am always reading fiction, always looking for stories that take me somewhere I’ve never been before. I also enjoy hiking and cooking when I am lucky enough to have the time. I have a lot of strong opinions about music, but the older I get the more I try to mellow that out. I’m most passionate about the people I love—my family and friends—making every effort I can to keep those relationships strong and connected. There’s nothing more important.

ROSALIND JOS ~ I was born in Columbus, Ohio while my dad was in graduate school. We didn’t have any family there and moved to Tempe Arizona when I was one-year-old. I grew up there until I left for college, and my parents still live there.

My family and I moved here a little over two years ago. My favorite thing about Mirrormont is the privacy but also the feel of community. I love the park and trails and all the kids’ events that the MCA puts on. I love Chipper Days and Spring Clean-up. I love going for walks in the neighborhood because it almost feels like a hike. I love how many young kids there are in

the neighborhood for my kids to play with.

My husband and I are Aerospace Engineers and we both work on rocket engines. It is never boring because there is always a new problem to solve. I am passionate about spending time with



my family. My hobbies are taking my two boys and doggy out for new experiences. I swim, read, and try to grow things. I used to do open water swimming, rowing, and biking in the Seattle area. I played French horn through college but haven’t since.

BETH (GLISCZINSKI) KATTARI ~ My husband, Dean Kattari, is originally from La Habra, CA, and I grew up on a farm in Belle Plaine, MN. We’ve been working our way up and down the West Coast for years, finally ending up in Mirrormont in 2019. I must have looked at 100 houses before settling on the beauty and serenity of Mirrormont. We love it here!

Two things that I love about Mirrormont: The quiet and the water! We love to travel, and on our way home from whatever fabulous place we were visiting, we always turn to each other and say, “I can’t wait to get home where it’s quiet.”

And then, “The first thing I’m going to do is drink a big glass of Mirrormont water.” We also love that when there’s noise, it’s GOOD noise:

children playing in the pool, people working on their yards, etc. We feel like it’s not just a neighborhood, but a community.

I am a Mental Health Therapist and I love helping people become their best selves. I have a private practice that I run out of my home office. Dean manages an Audio/Visual team for a tech company, and also owns an audio production company—Dean K Productions—that records bands, mixes live shows, and produces a fairly famous podcast. He really loves to make musicians sound good.

We are avid travelers and pretty darn good cooks. I love literature and run the Mirrormont Book Club.

