

Mirrormont News

A beautiful community nestled in the trees
of Tiger Mountain's southwestern foothills

www.mirrormont.org



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Your Dues Being Used

JANUARY 2019

Creative Mirrormont

Introducing Katia Melkamini and Eugen Brim

By Sonya Day

Given how artistic Katia Melkamini and Eugen Brim are – she is a classical pianist and he a theatrical performer – it is no wonder their induction into Mirrormont in 2014 was unique. They moved to Washington from Las Vegas, and, at the time, Katia had a list of requirements. She wanted a house that reflected their creative process, away from the bustle of downtown Seattle. That included things such as high ceilings, big windows, and a view of nature. To make it harder, she wanted a flat parcel of land, hardwood



Creative spirits Katia Melkamini and Eugen Brim not only live in Mirrormont but impart their spirit with others in the neighborhood in many ways.

want too much! That doesn't exist here!"

But Katia knew in her gut her dream house was out there. Two weeks later, she found a listing in Mirrormont. Her realtor put a bid in for her, and they bought the house sight unseen. Despite five other offers, the owners selected them because Katia and Eugen were interesting people who would keep the house filled with life. "It was destiny," Katia believed, even though her only

knowledge of the neighborhood was obtained from an article
See Creative, Page 12

Grants Enhance Mirrormont

By Linda Shepherd
Benches Project

King County's Community Service Area Program (CSA) generously awarded the MCA a grant for \$2500 for community enhancement. After original plans to light the front entrance and kiosk reader boards proved too expensive, and art-wrapping the utility boxes at the front entrance had challenges, we used the grant to enhance our community by placing five benches along the side of the road in Mirrormont for walkers to

rest and/or chat with neighbors.

The benches idea came about when I saw a senior friend carrying a portable stool on his walk since he needs to rest frequently. Walking is one of the best forms of exercise we can get, especially as we age, and I thought it would be nice to support our senior neighbors. I also envision benches promoting more community amongst us all.

While some residents had reservations about

See Beauty, Page 9



MCA Board Candidates

President

VP Architecture

VP Membership

VP Park

Treasurer

Secretary

OPEN

Rachel Wright & Kevin Price

Lisa Lux

Mark Lundborg & Julie Hvitfeldtsen

Mary Nelson

Jennifer Schori & Ian Parker

president@mirrormont.orgarchitecture@mirrormont.orgmembership@mirrormont.orgpark@mirrormont.orgtreasurer@mirrormont.orgsecretary@mirrormont.org

Directors-At Large

Social Events

Website

Safety/Community Preparedness

Pea Patch Coordinator

Spring Clean-up

Welcome Program

Speaker Program

Firewise

Grant-writing

Mary Nelson

Lynnette Eastlake

OPEN

Linda Shepherd

Wendy Antipow

Connie Harris

Amin Kees

Wayne Elson

Linda Shepherd

events@mirrormont.orgwebsite@mirrormont.orgsafety@mirrormont.orgpeapatch@mirrormont.orgspringcleanup@mirrormont.orgwelcome@mirrormont.orgspeaker@mirrormont.orgfirewise@mirrormont.orggrants@mirrormont.org

Profiles and photos of incumbents at www.mirrormont.org.

Please consider volunteering for one of the open positions. Contact president@mirrormont.org.



Get to Know Your MCA Board Candidates



Amin Kees:

My husband Jason and I moved here in late November 2016. I immediately obtained a plot at Mirrormont Pea Patch in early 2017 and took over managing the plots growing vegetables for the Issaquah Food Bank in 2018. I'm proud to say our gardeners donated over 600 pounds!

I love our forested neighborhood and close access to hiking trails. I love watching my two children grow up. I love to cook and learn new recipes. And I love the outdoors. Being Director for the Speaker Program over the past year has helped me to learn more about the area we live in. And I love meeting new neighbors and all of our speakers!

The most interesting fact about me: I have two different colored eyes.



Connie Harris:

When my husband, Howard, and I moved here in June of 1974, we knew Mirrormont was the perfect place to raise our three children, all under the age of four. The Mirrormont Park we now enjoy was once owned by the school district and we thought, "the kids will be

able to walk to school!" A great selling point but not a reality. Back then the Issaquah-Hobart Road wasn't busy and we sometimes passed farm tractors. There were no stop lights in Issaquah and Safeway was located where the La-Z-Boy store is now. While Issaquah has changed greatly, Mirrormont contin-

ues to be a refuge of green in our busy, crowded world. Since I have retired from Issaquah School District, I miss teaching young children. So, I am grateful to live in a community that includes families of all ages and backgrounds. I love gardening and spending time with our grandchildren. Being on the Welcome Committee enables me to meet new neighbors and help them get to know our lovely area.



Wendy Antipow:

Moving to Mirrormont in 2012 was quite a change for us, having lived in bustling cities and structured suburbs up to that point. In fact, we were a tad apprehensive about living in, what seemed to us, a rural environment! Six years later I still marvel at the beauty of our neighborhood, the peaceful and natural setting, the quirkiness of its houses and the

wildlife in our backyard. A perfect urban/rural combo. I have been lucky enough to spend those six years as a stay-at-home mom and have enjoyed raising our son here, making friends, attending neighborhood fire pits and getting involved in the community along the way. In 2017, I helped our MCA President organize the annual Spring Clean-up and this past spring I took over responsibility for this event. It is wonderful to see so many of our neighbors volunteer their time and skills to help rid our community of unwanted junk, donate usable items, and clean up our streets. There are many kind and generous people hidden behind all those Mirrormont trees and I feel lucky to be a part of this unique neighborhood!

See Profiles, Page 4

Linda Passes the Baton — To Whom?

By Linda Shepherd



I've had the honor of serving Mirrormont for the past five years as MCA President and the pleasure of working with a dedicated Board. January 22, 2019 will be my last day as President. Really. It's time to pass the baton—but I'm still waiting for someone to pick it up.

I'm delighted that programs I initiated have found new leadership: Amin Kees capably took over the Speaker Program. Wayne Elson became Firewise Chair and flawlessly carried out Chipper Days with Lisa Lux. In addition, Connie Harris replaced me as Chair of the Welcome Program and has been cheerfully welcoming new homeowners with Welcome Bags, along with Jane Ulrich. And Wendy Antipow successfully led the 2018 Spring Clean-up, which had defaulted to me in 2016 and 2017.

My mission as MCA President has been to create more community in Mirrormont. Thus, the Pea Patch gives us a place to garden together. The Speaker Program is a way to learn together, with Mary Nelson adding the Happy Hour to encourage

socializing. The Street Address Program makes it easier to find each other. Garden Tours and Home Tours allow us to explore intimate spaces of Mirrormont in the company of our neighbors. Working together in the park or at Spring Clean-up builds bonds of recognition and trust. Neighborhood benches give us places to meet, rest, and breathe in the beauty of Mirrormont while chatting with other walkers.

So, what is community about, anyway? A community's well-being is dependent on the quality of relationships among the members of that community. Community builders talk about social capital, which creates a sense of belonging, thus enhancing the overall health of a community. But pressures of time, commuting, money, and the effect of electronic entertainments all erode social capital.

In the early days of Mirrormont, there were few activities outside of Mirrormont, so residents created their own amusements: baseball teams, progressive dinners, parties, potlucks, cooking classes, poker nights, card parties, book clubs.

Moms strapped their kids in strollers while they played round-robin tennis. More women stayed at home to raise their kids—and created community.

Community is even more important in these contentious times where forces seem focused upon dividing us racially, ethnically, religiously, financially, and politically. Modern society is plagued by fragmentation. As residents of Mirrormont, we share a love of our physical environment, which gives us a powerful sense of place. Rather than spend time in traffic seeking entertainment afar, look to your neighbors, share your love of wildlife and the green world, strengthen bonds, and do your bit of community building. I will continue to do so.

I'll remain involved with the MCA Board as the Pea Patch Coordinator and keep an eye out for grant opportunities to enhance our community. Mirrormont is a wonderful and unique place on this planet and I care deeply about it.

Please give your new MCA President the appreciation and support you gave to me.

Annual Meeting

Of the Mirrormont Community Association

Tuesday, January 22, 2019 — 7:00 PM — Happy Hour starts at 6:30 PM!

At the MCC Clubhouse, 25500 Mirrormont Drive

Come learn what your MCA has accomplished in 2018 and what is planned for 2019. Contribute your ideas and vote for your 2019 MCA Board. Arrive early to connect with friends and meet new neighbors.

Special Presentation: John Taylor, Department of Local Services

Beginning January 1, 2019, unincorporated King County finally has an advocate for our interests in the name of [John Taylor](#), the first director of the new Department of Local Services. Their mission is to improve the coordination and delivery of services in unincorporated areas of the county.

"There is currently no city hall for the residents of unincorporated King County, yet it's in effect a city of 250,000 people," Taylor said about what would be the second-largest city in our state. His goal is to give us that 'city hall' — a place where we can get permits in a simple way, get our questions answered, and find out what other services are available to us.

[Department of Local Services](#) consists of: a Permitting Division for development permit review, code enforcement, and subarea planning; a Road Services Division responsible for 1,500 miles of roads and 182 bridges; and the Community Service Areas program.

Come listen to John Taylor share his vision. Help him gain insight into how he can improve King County's services for us. Bring your questions, as he's in charge of our roads!

All Mirrormont residents are welcome and refreshments will be served!



John Taylor



Profiles of MCA Board Candidates

From Page 2

Mark Lundborg and Julie Hvitfeldtsen:

We moved to Mirrormont in May 2018, drawn by the open space and forest, the sense of privacy, as well as the “family” community and feeling of belonging. Together, we would like to enhance the community as joint VPs Park and contribute to the neighborhood—helping to share the history, while bringing new views to grow the community—both of established residents as well as the new younger population.



Mark: I was born in Fort Lewis and moved to Hawaii at the age of 11 and moved back to Washington later in life to start a family. I’ve been working in construction and real estate management in the Seattle area for over 25 years, the last twenty as Director of Finance and Admin for Schultz Miller Inc. supervising accounting, IT, and HR staff. Previously, I was a Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer with a real estate management software development firm. I have a BA in Business Management and am a Certified Treasury Professional (CTP). For two years, I was on the Washington State Association of Builders and Contractors Labor & Industries Retro Committee.

I am a saber fencer and certified Saber Instructor, coaching both youth and adults at the Washington Fencing Academy in Issaquah. I’ve also coached youth basketball and Little League baseball and was a Scout Leader for over ten years.



Julie: I grew up on South Whidbey Island and upon graduating high school, I moved to Seattle to pursue an education in Fashion Merchandising. I worked at Progressive Insurance as the company trainer, traveling to the west coast and out to Cleveland to train with employees and vendors. I later took an opportunity to co-own and operate a business in manufacturing custom furniture in

Redmond. To fulfill my creative side and desire to be involved with the community, I added a dog-friendly coffee shop to the front of the store where I spent most of my time.

I have two girls, ages 19 and 17. Together, we have been actively involved with Girl Scouts for over 15 years. We also began a non-profit through our church, called the ‘Grand Connection,’ with a mission to bring seniors and children together to bridge the generation gap. My girls and I adopted a lovely lady who has become “Grammie Doris” to our family. Through that rewarding experience, I discovered a great sense of joy and love in working with seniors and decided to change careers one final time, to

make a difference in the lives of others. I began working in Life Enrichment at Bellewood Retirement on the Issaquah/Sammamish plateau and since have spent the past two years working in Sales & Marketing with Aljoia, a Premier Retirement Community on Mercer Island. In my downtime, I love to garden and enjoy enhancing our new home here in Mirrormont.



Ian Parker: We moved here from South New Jersey in the summer of 2016, as I was starting a new job in Seattle. To be honest, it was a tough move especially for our two kids, aged 13 and 11 at the time, as they had friends within walking

distance in the very small town where we lived. Most people think of NJ as what they see on *The Sopranos*. But South Jersey is very rural, with agriculture being a major factor in the economy. Thanks to Nextdoor, though, we met some folks who had recently moved here who also had kids!

I like Mirrormont for the same reasons as practically everyone else: the quiet, the surroundings, and proximity to the surrounding foothills. I decided to split the job of Secretary for the MCA Board to help out my wife, Jennifer Schori, who is the current post holder, but also to give something back to the community.

I was asked to supply an interesting fact about myself. I can't think of one, except I grew up in England, but have been living away from that country for more years than I've lived there! Oh, and I'm one of the few New England Patriots fans in the area! See you around!

Many thanks to **June Schuck** for serving on the Architectural Review Committee since 2013 and as VP Architecture from 2014 to 18. Her expertise and dedication contributed greatly to our community and she'll be missed on the MCA Board.

Mirrormont Specialist!

I live in this area, and love it, and my enthusiasm translates into being the top realtor in the neighborhood for over 15 years. If you are thinking of selling, I'm happy to walk through your home to give you a comparable market analysis for free, and if needed, let you know of any suggested projects so you can get top price for your property.



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Kellie Batali

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YOUR TIME IS NOW.

Tour of Taylor: The Town That Was

By Griffin Cole

There are many interesting ghost towns in the state of Washington but there is one you probably haven't seen and it's just a stone's throw from Mirrormont.

The few remains of Taylor, Washington, once a thriving company town based on coal mining and clay products, sit cloaked in the forests of Taylor Mountain. While just a 15-minute drive from the Taylor Mountain trail-head, the ghost town is also worlds away, since it is located in the Cedar River Watershed. Only participating in a [Twilight Town Tour](#) will prevent a potential run-in with the law for stepping foot within, but sign up early since it's only conducted once a year.

Seattle Public Utilities hosts the tour of Taylor for a group of 30 lucky people in the early fall. Upon arrival, the past comes alive. Facing east, what appears to be a typical, yet beautiful hill covered in trees and vegetation is actually the first visible remnant of Taylor. But it's not actually a hill; it is a slag heap, remains of the local



Photo by Sharon Farrar

Remains of clay products produced in the company town of Taylor, located on Taylor Mountain. The products were shipped out and used locally and throughout the world. As the town was closed down, a large amount of product was never removed.

clay industry. A short walk leads to a clearing and a pile of clay products: roofing material, water pipes, and other clay objects made at the site.

Continuing on the walk captures the imagination, as the clay products, some whole and others broken into pieces, line the trail. Some are piled up and others come out of the ground, due to the wet conditions. All were made over 60 years ago and just left there when the town was finally dis-

mantled, well after the purchase of the area by the city of Seattle for the creation of the watershed. Once you tear yourself away from the products, you come upon the remains of a couple of buildings. One is part of the warehouse where product was stored before being shipped away by the town's railroad.

A short ride in the van takes you to another section of Taylor. Then, after a short walk on a trail, you can see the swim-

ming pool the town built. There's enough remaining that your mind can visualize the inhabitants at the site.

All the physical remains of Taylor gives a visual into the town that existed for about 50 to 60 years. What captured my imagination and com-

pleted the picture of more than 75 years ago were the stories of the town folk. Just as Mirrormont is not just a collection houses on Tiger Mountain, Taylor was more than a clay industry town and mine. The tour guides provided great stories of the people that shared what it was actually like to live in the town.

Being a baseball fan, it caught my attention that Sundays were a big day in Taylor. During the spring and summer, that day was set aside for baseball games. A baseball diamond was built and when teams visited from places like Hobart, Maple Valley, Issaquah, and Franklin (another ghost town!), it was a day for picnics and other social gatherings.

Another story told of how Taylor residents were isolated and dependent on the railroad that came into Taylor. Mainly

See Past, Page 11

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Next time you are in Mirrormont Park, take a closer look at this snag. You will get an education on how the wildlife takes advantage of dead and dying trees and how important they are to the habitat.

Ugly to You and Me, Snags are More than Beautiful to the Wildlife of Mirrormont

By Jen Syrowitz

Did you know those not-so-attractive looking trees in your yard may actually look extremely attractive to our wildlife neighbors? Yep! Standing dead or dying trees are called “snags” and they provide extremely important habitat for more than 100 species of birds, small mammals, reptiles and amphibians in Washington state (including 39 species of birds and 14 species of mammals in Western WA). In fact, standing dead trees are often called “wildlife trees” because animals such as owls, northern flickers, brown creepers, bats, and squirrels use them as hunting perches, for nesting, roosting, shelter, storage, denning and foraging/feeding.

As you prune and landscape your property, please consider creating more wildlife habitat in our neighborhood by leaving dead or dying trees standing in your yard. In Western WA, favored snag species include Douglas fir, Western red cedar, big-leaf maple, and cottonwood (though any species will do!). You can promote their use and reduce wildfire hazard by removing branches and topping or girdling dying trees. Once dead trees fall over, they continue to provide important habitat and food resources on the ground.

Please visit the tree that King County Parks inhabited for us along the east side of the meadow at Mirrormont Park last summer. See the big holes that woodpeckers have created, and the small ones drilled by sap-suckers looking for food. More information about snags, their importance, and how to use them to create great wildlife habitat is available at <https://wdfw.wa.gov/living/snags/snags.pdf> —and there is a box of flyers mounted on the Mirrormont Park snag.

Jen has lived in Mirrormont since 2015, has worked for Audubon Washington, and is currently the Executive Director of the Washington Wildlife Federation.

Tiger Mountain Village

By Michele Ferguson

Are you hoping to retire on beautiful Tiger Mountain? Are you concerned about getting some help as you age, if you stay in your own home?

Many of your neighbors are pondering these same questions. Over the past year, some of us have been participating in a fact-finding venture to learn about the Village concept (see p. 4 from our [2018 newsletter](#) and a national non-profit organization called the [Village to Village Network](#). We have paid a fee to have access to Network bylaws and other information about forming our own Tiger Mountain Village. While each Village is as unique as its members and its geography, a common goal is to help people stay in their own homes if they so choose.

Villages are member-driven organizations focusing on:
See Village, Page 13

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Tiptoe Through the Beautiful Mirrormont Gardens

By Linda Shepherd and Martha Pinsky

Well, tulips are done by July, but come tiptoe through the fuchsias, hydrangeas, hostas, roses, dahlias, crocosmia, lilies, ferns, sedums, cacti (!)... and fun garden art. Breathe in Beauty. Get ideas for water features, hardscapes, enhancing paths through the woods, using native plants and deer resistant plantings. Exchange tips about gardening. Learn what thrives here. Meet new neighbors and enjoy the company of friends.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆
Mirrormont Tour of Gardens
July 27, 2019
1—4 PM 
 ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

Better yet, share your garden with your neighbors. We are seeking gardens to give your neighbors ideas, not necessarily OMG showplace gardens, although those are more than welcome. Or let us know of a garden you admire and would love to tour. Only Mirrormont residents will be invited to tour.

Please contact us at peapatch@mirrormont.org

As we did in 2017, we will meet at Mirrormont Pea Patch,



Tourists stroll through Tom Hurley's "man cave" garden, one of six on the 2017 Mirrormont Tour of Gardens. Paths wind through his almost grassless garden featuring different textures, blooms, and attractive native plants.

carpool to tour six gardens, and end the day at the Pinsky home for refreshments and socializing. Save the date now!

Tender Loving Care for our Grand Canyon Trail

By Wayne Elson

When I recently asked Christopher Jones (Snoqualmie District Trail Steward for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources) for volunteer service projects, he recommended sprucing up the [Grand Canyon of Fifteen-mile Creek Trail](#). As many in Mirrormont have discovered, this 1.1-mile secluded trail leads up to a surprising waterfall.

On a Saturday in September, eleven members of Trail Life Troop WA-0242 of Fall City met Christopher at the fire station. He opened the steel gate, so that we could drive to the trailhead on Road 1000, and provided the tools for cutting growth along the trail edge. We also replaced a bench and pulled scotch



Wayne Elson, far left, with members of Trail Life Troop WA-0242 out of Fall City. The group provided service on the Grand Canyon portion of the Fifteen-mile Creek Trail. Volunteers are the key to keeping the trail in great shape. They are carrying wood for a replacement part for a bench.

broom, an invasive species. The boys had fun and ended up at our house for a hotdog

roast. This trail and others on Tiger Mountain State Forest need more work. You may

contact Christopher at christopher.jones@dnr.wa.gov for service project opportunities. It's a great way to get outdoors and do some good with friends, family or a service group.

During the incredibly colorful and balmy fall season, many of us in Mirrormont enjoyed hikes on the Tiger Mountain State Forest.

Community volunteers play a large role in maintaining the trails. Check out what the Trail Life Troop did to improve our closest trail—it's an easy family hike!

Wayne Elson has been a Mirrormont resident since 1987. He has retired from USEPA and continues his interest in hiking, climbing, skiing and volunteering at church youth programs.

Fostering Friendships: A Mirrormont Conundrum

By Sonya Day

One of the things I love most about living in Mirrormont is the privacy. I'm not staring out my window at the wall of my neighbor's house, or worse, into their bathroom. The trees are gorgeous, and I feel like I'm living in a secluded cabin in the woods, a not-so-easy feat in the midst of the Seattle-area congestion.



Sonya Day

However, this seclusion is also one of my least favorite things about Mirrormont. It makes it nearly impossible to meet your neighbors or build community. You are limited in how you connect with others, and those ways are often faulty. If you work, fellow dog walkers may never see you in the park, because it's dark by the time you traverse the Issaquah-Hobart Road. And, you can't just swing by with a plate of cookies anymore. What if the neighbors are gluten free? Vegan? Allergic to sugary goodness?

Fear not! For those who also want community within Mirrormont, I've discovered a few ways to conquer this seclusion conundrum:

⇒ Join the Nextdoor Mirrormont group. You can chat online with neighbors and learn about events. You can also off-load

all those moving boxes.

- ⇒ Join the MCA and attend a Speaker Program event. Nothing breaks down walls like a little wine at happy hour. See the last page of this newsletter for a list of 2019 events.
 - ⇒ Get to know Mirrormont and other homeowners on the Tour of Gardens and Tour of Homes. You might even get inspiration for those home improvements you've been toying with.
 - ⇒ Meet each and every one of the 30 or so Garage Sale hosts and maybe find a treasure or two in the process.
 - ⇒ Volunteer. You really get to know someone when you're sweating beside them at a park work party or Spring Clean-Up Day.
 - ⇒ The park is still available on the weekends. Go for a stroll and introduce yourself to another explorer. Bring your dog or kids. They need friends, too.
 - ⇒ Wander through the Mirrormont Pea Patch and meet a gardener. Or, better yet, get a plot of your own. I could barely keep houseplants alive. But my plot became an adventure, and other gardeners shared advice and encouragement. And the potlucks have the freshest and best food.
 - ⇒ Attend a MCA Board meeting and meet Board members. You can even run for office or lend support to a committee. Follow a few of these tips, and it won't be long until you're firing up the barbeque with a few of your Mirrormont friends!
- Sonya Day moved to Mirrormont in 2017. She's an artist/writer and wins her friends over with her killer spinach and artichoke dip.*

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Howard and Connie Harris relax on a newly installed bench. Howard provided the inspiration for the benches.

Beauty and the Grants

From Page 1

the project with regard to possible vandalism and liability issues, many homeowners embraced the idea.

Christine Sample said, "Love this idea, it brings community together and adds character to the neighborhood...I would think one in each loop would be great."

Heidi Kayler agreed. "A bench would be a perfect complement to our Little Library corner. It would be nice to have a spot for all of the kids and families that stop by. We would help maintain it. Thanks, Linda/MCA. What a nice idea."

Kellie Batali said, "I think this is a wonderful idea! Walking through the neighborhood is such a great thing to do for so many reasons, and I love the idea of benches... Happy to help with this project."

Jody Fang said, "I think they will look nice in the neighborhood and I can see regular walkers using them."

Finally, Nicoal Berryman said, "I think they are lovely! A bench is nice practically anywhere."

As you walk around Mirrormont, look for sage green benches. Pause and sit. Invite the next walker you see to join you. Get to know your neighbors. Ask what they're most passionate about, what they've been reading, what they'd do with a million dollars—or how they'd like to change the world. Help build more community one conversation at a time.

CPR-First Aid

As leader of the MCA's Safety/Emergency Preparedness Program, Lynnette Eastlake applied for a CSA grant to co-sponsor two CPR-First Aid classes. We give thanks to King County's Community Service Area Program for awarding us a \$1200 grant. This enabled 34 Mirrormont residents to receive a 4-hour \$75 training for only a \$21 co-pay. The training included First Aid, CPR and training in use of an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED), such as the one hanging by the kitchen entrance at the MCC clubhouse. It benefits us all to have neighbors with these skills.

Coexisting with Bears

By Katie Knutzen

One of the reasons many people continue to live in Mirrormont is because of the abundance of wildlife that surrounds us. In our awe of nature, though, we sometimes don't realize how much we can affect it. The nonprofit Bear Smart WA educates neighbors about coexisting with wildlife.

Food is such a potent attractant for bears that they can easily be manipulated and habituated with it. That means if humans give a bear some food, they are agreeing to continue to feed it (in the bear's mind). The bears who eat garbage live very short lives; the garbage itself damages their digestive system. Plastic is often found in the guts of dead bears and balloons are very commonly found in cubs that are starving to death. Increased calories can cause bears to grow very large, but, despite their size and apparent success, they live short lives and do not die well.

So, what can we do to help prevent bear-human conflicts in our day-to-day lives?

- Store garbage in the garage until the morning of pickup, if you can. Even a simple bungee cord can help keep a can closed and deter a bear.
- Take down bird feeders between April and December. Put out a bird bath instead of a feeder. Hang a suet feeder with nesting material such as pet fur or hair (no dryer lint).
- Put electric fencing around beehives and chicken coops.
- Drain the fat from BBQs and clean the BBQ after each use.

See Bears, Page 15

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Speaker Program Provides Plenty of Interesting Topics

By Amin Kees

Being new to the neighborhood in 2016, I realized I had a lot to discover about our area. I went to a few of the Speaker Programs in 2017 that were very informative about our region, and I enjoyed meeting our neighbors.

At the beginning of 2018, Linda asked me if I would like to take over the Speaker Program. Wanting to get more involved with our neighborhood, I said YES.

This has been a fun year for our Speaker Program. I have met some great people and learned a lot. We started the year with our annual meeting. Issaquah City Councilmember Bill Ramos discussed the Issaquah-Hobart Road traffic study, a very heated topic around here.

Attendees expressed frustrations and asked many questions, and Bill gave us some good information. For more about the I-H corridor study and updates, see <https://www.issaquahwa.gov/index.aspx?nid=2922>.

In March, Stacey Kelley, a neighborhood attorney, talked to us about her legal toolkit. Definitely keep her in mind for any legal issues you might have.

From Tereza Marks, Director of Eastside Audubon, we learned about the birds in our neighborhood and how to create a bird-friendly yard. There are many wonderful native plants that provide food and nesting places for birds, such as salmonberry, Indian plum, salal, Oregon Grape, bitter cherry, beaked hazelnut, and Pacific dogwood. See <https://www.audubon.org/native-plants> for Audubon's Native Plants Database.

In June, we had a fabulous time wine tasting with Don Bergenty, a Mirrormont resident and District Manager for Total Wine & More. We enjoyed ten Washington wines and learned about our state's wine growing regions, how grapes are processed, and how to evaluate wines. We hope to make this an annual tradition!

Dave Kappler and others from the Issaquah Alps Trail Club (IATC) gave a presentation in August about hiking in our area.



Photo by Sharon Farrar

On the bottom branch of a tree, a barred owl sits holding its dinner, a gray squirrel. The picture was taken at SE 158th Street and 260th Avenue SE. Gray squirrels are an invasive species to the area and are a challenge to the native Douglas squirrels.

They outlined the club's history and recommended great hikes for all skill levels. Many of our trails in the Issaquah Alps were made with the help of IATC volunteers. They have weekly free hikes, so if you are new to the area, or just want to go hiking with a group, check it out! <https://www.issaquahalps.org/>.

In preparation for Chipper Days, our September program featured an informative Firewise talk. A panel of speakers from DNR, Urban and Rural Forest Health, and Eastside Fire and Rescue explained what we should be doing with our yards to keep our beautiful neighborhood safe from catastrophic fires. At the end, Mirrormont resident Jen Syrowitz showed how snags can be used to create wildlife habitat.

Living so close to Tiger Mountain, we are all very familiar with the wild animals that share Mirrormont with us. Dakota Spear spoke in November about the Wild Wise program, "Coexisting with Carnivores." This interesting and interactive talk taught us how to prevent future carnivore conflicts in our neighborhood.

I am looking forward to next year's speakers. Is there anything you would like to learn? Do you have a suggestion for a speaker? Contact me at speaker@mirrormont.org.



Scouting: A Great Family Experience!

By Krista & Tim Holmes

Is your family ready to meet new friends, learn new skills, and enjoy the outdoors? Then Family Scouting may be right for you!

Mirrormont is fortunate to have access to both [Cub Scouts](#) (for boys and girls in K-5th grade) and [Scouts BSA](#) (for boys and girls from 6th-12th grade, until age 18).

Cub Scouts do "parent-led" activities that introduce kids to hiking, camping, first aid, cooking outdoors, and community service. They also have some important age-appropriate lessons in dealing with cyber-bullying and youth protection skills.

At age 11, kids can join the local Scout Troop. These pro-

grams are "Scout-led" with youth leaders doing most of the planning and coordination with some parent coaching. All of the traditional Scout skills you might think of are still there. Backpacking, archery, and canoeing are very popular. Some new skills have also been added in the last few years: game design, emergency preparedness, and wilderness survival.

A few things to know about Scouting:

- ⇒ Kids can join ANY time, new Scouts of all ages are welcome at any meetings or events, and there are no prerequisites to join.
- ⇒ It is a great way for kids to make new friends, younger and

See Scouting, Page 15

Year in Review

By Linda Shepherd

2018 was another busy year for MCA. Our biggest events came again in May: First, the two-day MCA Garage Sales extravaganza led by Sheldon Esteb and Michelle Naglee allowed over 33 MCA members to sell their past purchases to bargain hunters. It also provided a chance for the rest of us to wander along their driveways, admire their landscaping, meet new neighbors, and chat with old friends and acquaintances.

Second, Wendy Antipow led a successful [Spring Clean-up](#) in its expanded form with paper shredding and electronic recycling. Despite Nextdoor, Craigslist and BuyNothing ways of giving new life to our past purchases, we sent more junk to the landfill than ever since Goodwill and other charities were unable to take remaining good stuff at the end of the day. Here are the numbers:

- ◇ 128 homeowners used this service, including 27 curbside pickups
- ◇ 80 homeowners sent 14.38 tons to the landfill (compared to 11.12 tons in 2017)
- ◇ 46 homeowners recycled 2,827 pounds of electronics

Past Comes Alive In Tour of Taylor

From Page 5

used to take out the goods that were made, it also brought food and medical supplies needed, along with an opportunity for visiting other places.

To me though, Taylor was a story of the development of Seattle. The growing "big" city to the east needed to make sure the water they were drinking was clean.

With the purchases of land to create the Cedar River Watershed, Taylor eventually became the ghost town, remains and stories that make up the yearly Seattle Public Utilities tour.

Griffin Cole has lived with his wife Sharon in the oldest house in Mirrormont since 2004 and has helped produce the Mirrormont News since 2013.



Yibing Cai waves to her husband, drone photographer Bryan Beatty, who documented seasonal progress at [Mirrormont Pea Patch](#). This year, Amin Kees led our garden's Issaquah Food Bank program, resulting in Pea Patchers donating over 600 pounds of fresh organic vegetables.

- ◇ 56 people recycled 4 trailer loads of metals
- ◇ 29 homeowners used the shredder truck
- ◇ 49 people volunteered, including 8 who adopted a road to clean up litter
- ◇ Liberty High Choir Textile Drive went home happy with a full pickup truck of textiles
- ◇ \$3365 cost, about 25% of member dues

The same day, Pea Patch gardeners held a plant sale, providing heirloom tomatoes, herbs, native plants, and horticultural varieties of perennials—that all succeed in Mirrormont. Proceeds go to Pea Patch maintenance and projects.

Be sure to see Bryan Beatty's 15-minute drone view of the

See Year, Page 13

MK
Moran Kelley
PLLC

Whether it's a cup of sugar or practical legal advice you need, we are happy to help. With more than 20 years of experience in all civil matters, including personal injury, estate planning, business formation, family law, and much more, please feel free to call on me first for any needs as your neighborhood attorney.

Mirrormont discounts available

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Creative Couple Hears Call of the Arts

From Page 1

detailing copious amounts of snow and electricity issues!

For the first two years, they lived in two separate worlds. Eugen was still performing with Cirque du Soleil, in their Vegas production *Love*. So, their calendars filled with trips back and forth between Seattle and Nevada. But after over fifteen years and more than 8,000 shows, Vegas was taking its toll. Eugen found the repetition allowed artists to become comfortable which made creativity go out the door. "My creative mind was freezing, like it was in the cemetery," Eugen told me. When his contract came up for renewal, Eugen turned down their new ten-year contract – an unheard-of offer for Cirque du Soleil, which usually only offers annual or two-year contracts – and joined Katia in Issaquah.

It was a huge decision, as Eugen's job offered excellent medical benefits and financial stability, and they had two daughters in college. But the couple saw greater reward in pressing forward. "Most will never risk it," Katia said, "...but we're not young and there's only so much time left for us to be who we truly are. He [Eugen] always allowed me to be who I am. I never had to take students just for money.... Now I'm so happy to support him." She went on to tell me, "We are made such that we can't do art purely for profit. It will always make us betray our ideals...betray ourselves."

Together in Mirrormont, they are unleashing their creative spirits. Eugen says they "want to make [their] home a school of art, to house a more creative way to

live." So, their home is a television-free zone, and Eugen has turned their garage into an indoor/outdoor theatre. They dream in terms of each room of their house becoming a representation for a different form of art. Katia, who attended a school for musically gifted children for eleven years, teaches piano, and her students' parents brave the Issaquah-Hobart Road traffic to gain her expertise. Eugen is currently working on a one-man show, called *People*. In it, he's created eight characters – encompassing everything from a policeman to a homeless man, professor, and a woman – who collectively reflect society and ask open-ended questions about humanity. At times, they will invite others over and the evening will morph into an artistic collaboration, bringing what Eugen calls a "different dimension, a different world" into their midst.

Their calling within the arts, according to Katia, is to "discover people for people" and then to "lift them up above the sameness of life." It is not about entertainment. They want to help others look inside, know and fully understand themselves, and recognize the creativity that lives within them. In doing this, Eugen says it "shows the beauty of personalities," or what he dubs "the way of true humanity," and allows everyone to learn something new.

It's no wonder art drives them so wholeheartedly. It was their artistic expression that first drew them to each

me, "we found each other's talents could speak." All these years later, they still find they learn from each other.

They learn from others, as well. Katia finds great inspiration in her youthful students. "My five-year-old student teaches me," she said. Her students bring their unique and childlike logic, and, in the midst, she often sees "something more than a child in their eyes and you want to help them not to forget." Eugen finds inspiration in humanity around him, whether good or bad. Wherever he travels, he learns from the country's residents and uses first-hand narrative to create his theatrical roles. His fusion of humanity with the arts has taught him his

"... we're not young and there's only so much time left for us to be who we truly are. He [Eugen] always allowed me to be who I am."

— Katia Melkamini

greatest lesson: acceptance. Both Eugen and Katia have learned to welcome people's flaws and to work for the process, allowing differences to make each other stronger.

And now they are finding ways to show acceptance of the neighborhood, and to impart their creative spirit to others. Katia held a lecture for kids on classical music at the MCC clubhouse and devotes one day a week to teaching Mirrormont students needing at-home instruction. She even reaches out to the most senior of Mirrormont residents. After meeting Fran Walton, Mirrormont's resident 90-year-old cellist, conductor, and founder of several area symphonies, Katia's spent many a day playing Bach and Beethoven together with Fran and her musical friends. Eugen, for his part, has hosted a theatrical kids camp on his converted stage. Rigging ropes in the trees, he taught them about fly systems and showed them how to raise and lower backdrops. With each opportunity they encourage others to keep challenging themselves artistically. "Everything is against art now," Katia said. We "have to take it further."

If you want to find out more about Eugen's work, you can visit his [website](#). For more about Katia, her teaching style, and to listen to some mesmerizing music, check out this [youtube](#) video.



Walk on the Wild Side Native Plants of Mirrormont Park

This field guide features 40 native plants in King County's Mirrormont Park. Each plant profile features four or more color photos and descriptions of the flowers, leaves, fruits, and whole plant, along with fun facts, ethnobotany, value to wildlife and landscape value. Cost is \$15. Email president@mirrormont.org for pickup.

other. They met years ago when they still lived in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, at a theatre where Katia was working as a music director. Eugen watched Katia practice her solo recital piece and Katia caught Eugen rehearsing his role in Peter Shaffer's *Equus*. "Little by little," Katia told

Year in Review: Lots of Community Involvement

From Page 11

Clean-up/Plant Sale phenomenon, compressed to a hilarious 1-minute video, at the annual meeting.



Wayne Elson and Lisa Lux magnificently managed [Chipper Days](#) 2018, our next biggest event. Since no grant funds were available to support the project this year, MCA contributed \$2374 and participating homeowners paid \$20 each toward making Mirrormont safer in the event of wildfires. Over the past four years, 163 families participated in Chipper Days. Once again, we are a member in good standing with Firewise USA. In fact, we've been so successful that King Conservation District's newsletter featured an article about us: "[Mirrormont: A Model Fire Adapted Community](#)."

In our ongoing mission to provide more opportunities for community building, the [MCA](#) sponsored a number of programs. None of these happens without wonderful volunteers who donate their time, energy, and creativity.

Mary Nelson capably organized our traditional social events for kids—the annual Easter Egg Hunt and Halloween Parties—as well as the MCA-MCC Picnic and Swim. For each, she found great volunteers to help run these events. For the Holiday Adult Social, she recruited Connie Wais, Martha Pinsky and Nancy Buffalow, who splendidly decorated and managed the event. Once again, Keigh Flack organized the Shoeboxes of Joy project, resulting in 120 going to Catholic Community Services for distribution to homebound people in need.

Kellie Batali and I arranged a fun October afternoon Tour of Open Houses for 19 "tourists," complete with [historical displays](#) and snacks at the MCC clubhouse.

Connie Harris and Jane Ulrich welcomed 31 new homeowners with Welcome Bags containing information about Mirrormont and the Issaquah area, maps, MCA newsletters, Mirrormont decals, license plate holders, and dish towels.

The Architectural Review Committee—June Schuck, Rachel Wright, and Kevin Price—advised homeowners on compliance with [Mirrormont Covenants](#) and reminded community members with boats and RVs that "After You Play, Put It Away."

Lisa Lux reported that the [MCA membership](#) reached 296 in 2018, not quite half of the 633 homes in Mirrormont.

Once again, MCA dues paid Bryan Stempson's Solstice Landscaping for beautifully maintaining our [front entrance](#). Volunteers Don Bergenty, Gary Reum, and I spread wood chips—a Master Gardener's favorite mulch—to conserve water, protect the soil from leaf-blower erosion, and provide long-term nourishment for the plants.

Efforts to find mentors for a Youth Council in Mirrormont failed.

This year's Community Service Area project had challenges, which resulted in moving up the planned 2019 project to install community benches in 2018. Everyone is welcome to sit and enjoy the Beauty of Mirrormont.

Please help to keep our community vibrant and do your bit to make our 2019

It Could Take a Village to Remain Home

From Page 6

- ⇒ Services—One service provided in some Villages is to have one central phone number to get members the help they need, such as a trip to the grocery store, a ride to a medical appointment, or a question answered about available county or state resources.
- ⇒ Activities—A robust social life is a great antidote to boredom and to mental deterioration and depression. Many Villages have social clubs (bridge, book, opera, dining out, etc.). Joining a Village is a great way to feel connected to neighbors.
- ⇒ Governance—Each Village is incorporated as a non-profit under the national umbrella organization, the Village to Village Network.

Each Village decides what services it wants to provide and how the organization is set up. But the purposes are clear. Villages help solve problems members have that cause them to feel incapable of staying at home. They cultivate enough familiarity among members so that, when losses come one won't feel alone. And they develop a rich social environment with enough activities so members feel they are flourishing.

If you are interested in finding out more about Villages or attending our next meeting, contact village@mirrormont.org.

AFTER YOU PLAY PUT IT AWAY

REMEMBER: MIRRORMONT HAS RULES
ON STORING RV'S & BOATS
KEEP THEM SAFE & SCREENED FROM
STREET VIEW & YOUR NEIGHBORS

SCREENING GUIDELINES

PARK IN GARAGE



BEHIND FENCE



NATURAL
SCREENING



NO TARPS



NO TEMPORARY
STRUCTURES

The Power of Mirrormont Park

By Sonya Day

Lately, there seems to be a ton of controversy over [Mirrormont Park](#). As a plea goes out for dog owners to clean up after their pets, another group takes to Nextdoor to express their desire for a playground structure, dog park, or ball field. But, in its current state, what is so great about the park? After polling the Mirrormont community on Nextdoor, I've found the uses for [Mirrormont Park](#) are as vast as the trees are tall.

Not surprisingly, the largest reason to use the park is our four-legged friends. Many Mirrormont residents enjoy giving them the space to roam and sniff out the nature around them. So much so, they'd love to see a designated area devoted to off-leash time, where dogs can take full advantage of the beauty of the park without taking advantage of the passing joggers and bikers. It would also protect them from Sasquatch, who many believe to dwell there, and who we all hope cleans up after himself.



Beyond pets, the advantages of the woodsy Mirrormont Park are clear. Folks love it for the ability to get out into nature without having to hike PooPoo Point. It's a stroll through the Great Outdoors in our backyard, whether as a leisurely escape or for pulse-racing exercise. The towering trees, the native plants, and the quiet that brings introspection and renewal can all be found within its borders. Don't believe me? See what Mirrormont resident, Rachel Wright (see sidebar), has to say about the wonder that is Mirrormont Park and just how rare a woodsy wonderland it is.

Perhaps you have yet to experience the park for yourself. I'd encourage you to strap on your coat, don some waterproof boots, and go discover what makes the park magical for you. Not a fan of winter walks? Mirrormont Park's ever-changing beauty will still welcome you with all its potent and au naturale power in Spring, Summer, or Fall.



Galen and Teresa Trail regularly accompany Dore on her enthusiastic exploration of nature. Galen and Teresa are also dedicated to maintaining the trails. Galen had no problem sharing the enjoyment they get from the park. "Teresa and I enjoy the early mornings [at the park] when the sun is shining through the trees and lighting up the mist coming off the grass. It is a great place to meet neighbors, and, when our son comes up to visit during the summer...to play softball."

Forest Bathing

By Linda Shepherd

A simple walk in Mirrormont Park can make you happier, healthier and more creative!

Research into the Japanese practice of *shinrin-yoku*, which translates as forest bathing, reveals that nature can boost immunity and mood and help reduce stress—all without removing your clothes. Forest bathing involves cultivating your senses: smell the spicy resin of a cottonwood bud, listen to the song of a chickadee, watch a squirrel scamper, taste a sweet-tart red huckleberry, feel a fuzzy thimbleberry leaf. Evergreen trees such as cedars release essential oils into the forest air that are beneficial to us. We are fortunate to have 11 acres of Forest Therapy Trails within minutes of our homes.

For more on the science behind nature's positive effects on the brain, read *The Nature Fix: Why Nature Makes Us Happier, Healthier, and More Creative* by [Florence Williams](#) (2017).

Rachel Wright and the Discovery of Something Special

While Rachel Wright and Kevin Price were waiting nine months for their house to be remodeled, they visited Mirrormont every weekend to see the progress. It was a stressful period. They were living in downtown Seattle and craved quiet and an escape from the noise and congestion of the city. One weekend after checking on the house, they decided to explore the park. Unsure if they'd be welcome (as non-residents), they shrugged their shoulders, "It's a King County park—it must be okay!"

Rachel said, "On entering, we felt like we had walked into a precious wonderland. A small, simple, elegant clearing within a circle of great trees. Nothing like that existed for us in Seattle. We lay on the grass, admiring the sky, watching the dragonflies, and marveling at the quiet, and the feeling like you could be deep in the woods, even though it is a neighborhood. You didn't have to hike for miles to get to it. It was a turning point for us—we couldn't believe how special the space was—and were grateful (and surprised) that someone had the design sensibility to keep it so simple and natural. In funny ways it reminded me of how you feel when you enter Central Park in NY. From a city, you can step into another world. It was so unusual to experience the Mirrormont Park—everywhere else seemed like parks were forced to conform to a formula of amenities whether neglected, used or abused. The absence of structures—and the accessibility to experience just nature—was delightful."

Mirrormont Community Association

Household Annual Dues Notice \$50 — Due February 1, 2019

Please clip this notice and submit with payment to:

Treasurer, MCA, P.O. Box 476, Issaquah, WA 98027 or by

PayPal or with credit card at www.mirrormont.org/product/mca-annual-membership/



New member: ____ Renewing: ____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Please volunteer to help keep Mirrormont a wonderful place to live! (Indicate below)

Socials

- ____ Easter Egg Hunt
- ____ Halloween Parties
- ____ Holiday Adult Social
- ____ Community Picnic and Swim
- ____ Speaker Program
- ____ Variety Show
- ____ Tour of Homes
- ____ Tour of Gardens
- ____ Welcome Committee

Services

- ____ Spring Clean-up
- ____ Electronics Recycling
- ____ Paper Shredding
- ____ Adopt-a-Road
- ____ Park Committee
- ____ Park Work Parties
- ____ Pea Patch
- ____ Plant Sale
- ____ Annual Newsletter
- ____ Front Entrance Beautification
- ____ Garage Sales
- ____ Firewise Committee
- ____ Chipper Days
- ____ MCA Board Director-at-Large
- ____ Website
- ____ Safety/Emergency Prep
- ____ Map Your Neighborhood
- ____ Charitable Endeavors

Scouting Is a Fit for All Family Members

From Page 10

older. We really liked that our kids already knew some older kids from Scouts when they moved up to Middle School.

⇒ Scouts is one of the few groups that allow both boys and girls over a large age range to participate together with their families—parents only have to drive the kids to an activity that the whole family can participate in!

Krista and Tim Holmes are Scout leaders and Mirrormont residents.

Take Action for Bear-Proof Cans

By Katie Knutzen

Currently, wildlife-resistant cans are available in 36, 64, and 96-gallon sizes for rent for a minimal monthly amount. Bear-proof cans are not yet available. The likelihood that they would eventually become available in Mirrormont would increase if we could get a response from residents who demand them.

Since very few residents in unincorporated South King County even have wildlife-resistant cans through Republic Services, it is unlikely Republic will purchase bear-proof cans, because they think the demand

will be even lower. If we can prove otherwise, we may have a chance to get them to order them.

If a Republic rep is telling you that they will not offer a wildlife-resistant can, tell them they are required by law to do so. King County made it illegal for garbage haulers NOT to provide some kind of wildlife-resistant containers in the areas that need them.

It is up to us to continue to contact Republic and demand bear-proof cans. Wildlife-resistant cans are not enough to protect our wildlife in Mirrormont.

Bears and You

From Page 9

- Pick fruit as it ripens in the autumn. Don't let it fall on the ground around the tree. A bear will not just eat your fruit but will come check out your garbage, your house, and your neighbor's house.
- Drive slowly at dusk and dawn to give animals time to clear roads when crossing.

We are lucky to live among such beauty and wildlife. We need to protect it as much as possible.

For more information, go to <https://www.facebook.com/BearSmartWA/>.

Katie is a volunteer Bear Technician with the Bear Smart WA organization and a Mirrormont resident.

MIRRORMONT NEWS

P.O. Box 476
Issaquah, WA 98027-0476
www.mirrormont.org

Label Here

Mirrormont Community Association 2019 Dues Notice Inside

2019 Mirrormont Community Association Calendar

Tuesday, January 22	Annual MCA Meeting	7 PM*
TBD February	Paint & Sip Wine	7 PM
TBD March	Speaker: Issaquah Mayor Pauly	7 PM*
Saturday, April 20	Easter Egg Hunt	10 to 11 AM
Friday, May 10	Garage Sales	9 to 4 PM
Saturday, May 11	Garage Sales	9 to 2 PM
Saturday, May 18	Spring Clean-up/ Adopt-a-Road	9 to 2 PM
Saturday, May 18	Pea Patch Plant Sale	9 to 2 PM
Saturday, July 27	Tour of Gardens	1 to 4 PM
Saturday, August 24	MCA-MCC Picnic	4 to 7 PM
TBD October	Tour of Homes	
Saturday, October 26	Halloween, 0-4 th grade	10 to Noon
Saturday, October 26	Halloween, middle schoolers	7 to 9 PM
Friday, December 6	Holiday Party/Adult Social	7 to 11 PM

*Join us before the MCA and Speaker Programs for Happy Hour at 6:30 PM
MCA Board meetings: First Tuesday of every month, 7:00 PM at the MCC clubhouse

Mirrormont News Annual Issue

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