

Mirrmont News

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

www.mirrmont.org



In This Issue:

MCA Board
Candidates
Page 2

Notice of the
Annual Meeting
Page 3

Pets in
the Pandemic
Page 3

Mirrmont
Country Club
Page 4

Chipper Days
Popular Again
Page 4

A Great Place:
Mirrmont Park
Page 5

Obsessed with
Tomatoes
Page 6

Sanity Saved
by Genealogy
Page 7

Annual MCA
Dues Notice
Page 9

MCA Calendar
of Events
Page 10



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Your Dues Being Used

JANUARY 2021

Random Acts of Kindness

Surprises in the Mailbox

During weary Covid Times, a creative Mirrmont carver amped up spreading joy with anonymous gifts. Neighbors have been opening their mailboxes to discover lovingly carved pins depicting a bear, shark, salmon, butterfly, hummingbird, cat, dove, orca, otter, turtle, pig, and various Halloween pins for kids.

Numerous Nextdoor posts expressed recipients' surprise and gratitude for the uplifting thoughtfulness, skill, and generosity of the mystery carver, who brought a ray of sunshine to illuminate their Covid gloom. "Made my day!" many wrote. "My whale with the sparkling eye made me



A selection of wood carvings that have found their way into Mirrmont neighborhood mailboxes thanks to an anonymous carver. The joy starts with the carver and continues with those who receive the special surprises.

smile for hours!!!!" exclaimed Nicoal Berryman.

Our mystery carver has a few words in response:

Hello Mirrmont neighbors, I'm your mystery carver.

I like to do simple wood carvings and found a friend to discretely and randomly place my carvings into neighbors' mailboxes around Mirrmont. I

[See Carver, page 8](#)

A Note from the MCA President

By Amin Kees

I think we can all agree that 2020 was an extremely challenging year! The MCA was unable to host many of our much-loved activities due to COVID-19 restrictions, but we did still get some very important projects done.

On March 15th, Meg Wade organized a Mirrmont Park Work Party to weed, remove invasive plants, plant native plants, improve trails, and add a small climbing structure on the hill next to the meadow. Our dedicated Mirrmont Park Stewards and volunteers were socially dis-

tanced and safe. Meg and Linda Shepherd also worked on an important maintenance agreement between King County Parks and Mirrmont.

The Pea Patch continued growing wonderful vegetables and in 2020 gardeners donated 439 pounds to the Maple Valley Food Bank. Considering all the hardships some people are having, we were blessed to be able to donate so much fresh organic food to the food bank.

Our annual Chipper Days was also a success with 56 households participating, 66 piles total,

[See Kees, page 8](#)

2021 MCA Board Candidates

We opened up several positions on the Board in the hopes that more of our community will get involved—and several people volunteered to serve! Current Board members will help them through the transition. If the Safety/Emergency Preparedness position interests you, please email president@mirrormont.org.

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VP Architecture
VP Park
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David Holzberg
Lisa Lux*
Rachel Wright*
Peter Mayer
Jen Brazas
Ian Parker*

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Meg Wade*
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safety@mirrormont.org

* Incumbent profiles and photos at www.mirrormont.org



Introducing the Mirrormont Board Candidates

David Holzberg

My wife Autumn and I chose Mirrormont in June 2019 as the neighborhood for our first home purchase. With the densely wooded surroundings, abundant wildlife, and a great community feel, it reminded us of Alaska where we originally met.



A little about me: I enjoy helping my wife (handing her tools) with home remodeling projects, spending time with our mini dachshund, and I'm an avid car enthusiast. Having traveled to over 50 countries and having lived in many places, Mirrormont is the one place that puts a smile on our faces each time we drive in — and I'm proud to call it home. I am excited to meet all the members and I'm looking forward to dedicating my time to continuing the growth and support of the community.

Pete Mayer and Jen Brazas

We moved to Mirrormont in November 2020. We found the house listing before our August, 2020 wedding and knew it would be our home. For us 2020 has been a pretty great year! We share our home with Pete's two children: Zack and Isabel. We look forward to becoming part of this Mirrormont community.



Pete Mayer: I was born and raised in Anacortes and attended Washington State University (WSU) where I pursued undergraduate and graduate degrees in parks and recreation administration. I've served in senior and executive leadership roles in parks and recreation, public health and city management throughout Western Washington and I currently serve as the

Deputy Executive Director with the Metropolitan Parks District of Tacoma. I look forward to serving as the Mirrormont's VP of Parks! I enjoy swimming, mountain biking, kayaking, trail running, racquetball, soccer, hiking, camping, and traveling with our family. Family memory-making is a passion.

Jen Brazas: I also have generations of Anacortes heritage, and my parents moved into their current Fidalgo Island home on my 5th birthday. At WSU I studied business with an emphasis in accounting, and upon graduation started my career at PricewaterhouseCoopers. I then moved to the corporate world with extensive time at Washington Mutual, Microsoft and Expedia, serving in various finance roles, managing budgeting and reporting. I also worked as the Director of Operations for a home care agency in Seattle. I now find myself back at Microsoft doing what I love — finance work

[See Candidates, page 6](#)

Pets in a Pandemic

By Ian Parker

That 2020 was a tough, horrible year is an understatement! The U.S. is a nation of pet lovers, so I started thinking about the impacts of the pandemic on pets.

How about the risk of COVID-19 transmission?

According to the Center for Disease Control, "At this time, there is no evidence that animals play a significant role in spreading the virus that causes COVID-19. Based on the limited information available to date, the risk of animals spreading COVID-19 to people is considered to be low."

As reported by the USDA (November 15, 2020) there are a total of 49 cases of the virus in cats and 35 in dogs, with NO cases in Washington State. Also, there have been no reported cases of virus transmission from pets to humans.

What are pet owners saying? BetterCitiesForPets™, in conjunction with Mars Petcare, conducted a survey of pet owners and these are some of the key findings:

- 86% said that companionship has been a top benefit of owning a pet
- 1 in 3 owners got another pet during the pandemic
- 50% of owners working from home said that spending more time with pets is a benefit

However, it's not been all positive:

- 20% of owners considered giving up their pet due to pandemic hardships, with lack of access to veterinarians, groomers, dog parks and the costs of pet ownership cited as some main reasons

And here's another thing to be mindful of: a recent study by Blue Pearl Specialty and Emergency Pet Hospital found that in 2020, 52% of dogs treated and 54% of cats were overweight. As owners are spending more time at home, overfeeding and overtreatment is a greater possibility.

Here are some tips for pet owners:

- Avoid giving pets human food. Even in small quantities human food can



Jennifer Schori's kitty Clouseau hangs out in a favorite spot to get some attention.

represent a large percentage of your pet's caloric intake.

- Don't give in to begging! It's tough looking at those big pleading eyes but be strong!

Take your dog out for walks as often

[See Pets, page 8](#)

Annual Meeting

Of the Mirrormont Community Association

Tuesday, January 26, 2021 — 7:00 PM — Virtual
Via Zoom — Watch your email for the Zoom link



Join us to learn what your MCA Board, local neighbors and volunteers accomplished in 2020 to make Mirrormont an even better place to live. We'll also review plans for 2021. We hope you'll contribute your ideas and vote for your 2021 MCA Board.

Presentation: Daniel Ulatowski, Epidemiologist, Healthcare & Life Sciences Advisor, Teradata

Daniel, a Mirrormont resident, focuses on quality, compliance, and care delivery outcomes. His expertise is in data and interpretation, and many of his initiatives focus on quality and safety of healthcare and life sciences through innovation, data strategy and improved statistical analysis. At the Annual Meeting, Daniel will talk about several interesting studies that highlight methods that have been successful in preventing the spread of the COVID-19 virus as well as talk about the vaccines and their implications.



Daniel Ulatowski

All Mirrormont residents are welcome to join on Zoom!

Check Out the Mirrormont Country Club

Did you know Mirrormont has its very own Country Club?

The [Mirrormont Country Club](#) (MCC) opened in 1969, was incorporated as a non-profit in 1976, and has been a staple of the community ever since.

Our clubhouse has a large kitchen, BBQ, showers/bathrooms, and a great room with a ping pong table, foosball table, AV equipment and some comfy furniture to lounge on. As a member you may rent exclusive use of our great room for your event with tables and chairs available for your use.

Over the last year we worked to improve the facility while looking forward to a great 2021 year. We painted the exterior and the interior, and we are going to start working on updating the kitchen and bathrooms. Our hope is that these improvements will support our members year-round activities.

A general membership for your family includes unlimited use of the pool during open hours, tennis courts, and playground. There is lots of space to run and play, relax in the sun around the pool, or have a barbecue.

In the summer we offer lap swim and water aerobics for the adults and swim lessons for the kids.

We are a volunteer managed club, so you and your family have an opportunity to serve a few hours each year.



Members and friends enjoy a dip in the Mirrormont Country Club pool.

The Mirrormont Country Club is a great way to meet your neighbors or enjoy a family meal outdoors.

Membership Options:

General Membership:

- ◆ \$25 application fee
- ◆ \$1000 initiation fee (which is fully refundable upon departure pending good standing and full membership)
- ◆ Dues are \$700/year (Due bi-annually January 31 and July 31)
- ◆ \$250 maintenance fee, waived if volunteered 6 hours per family

Tennis Membership: (includes unlimited use of tennis courts) Dues are \$100/year due in January.

Discover more about the Mirrormont Country Club and membership at <http://www.mirrormontcountryclub.org/membership.html>.

Chipper Days Are a Success Once Again

by Linda Shepherd



This past summer, smoke from wildfires kept us inside for days on end. We were deprived of the exercise benefits we get from walking around the neighborhood, the solace of gardening, and the pleasures of outdoor socializing. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we couldn't even find refuge in malls or movie theaters. Smoky days also brought home the reality of the increasing dangers of wildfires in Western Washington, exacerbated by longer summer droughts than in

[See Chipper, page 9](#)

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Do You Know about Our Beautiful Park?

By Meg Wade, VP Park

Mirrormont Park is eleven acres of nature waiting for walkers to explore the forest trails and the sunny playfield/meadow, or for riders to cycle around the bike path. You may not know that Mirrormont Park is separate from the Mirrormont Country Club, for which membership includes use of the pool, swing set, tennis courts, and clubhouse. However, MCC allows park visitors to use both of its parking lots.

The park's main entrance is located on 256th Ave SE, with other entrances off Mirrormont Place and Mirrormont Way. The King County (KC) park rules are posted at the entrances. KC Natural Resources and Park Division owns the park property and the MCA partners with them to maintain the park.

I have been on the [MCA Mirrormont Park Committee](#) for twenty years, ever since residents began organizing to create a park out of "Elder Field." Property taxes paid for the purchase of the land from the Issaquah School District, who had decided to not use the property.

The MCA was the first in King County to receive a [Community Partnership Grant](#) (CPG). The grant helped to develop the park property, install a playfield/meadow, trails, benches, picnic tables, dog poo bag dispensers, and also allowed for a shelter and bathrooms. The King County Park Division has had a CPG Agreement with the MCA since 2005. Over several years, Park Committee Stewards worked with KC grant managers, obtained bids from private contractors to do the work, and supervised the installation of the playfield and amenities. Every year we hold work parties as well as do individual volunteer projects to maintain and improve the park. The MCA Park VP communicates with KC to pre-arrange for the projects. The county provides staff to help.

Since 2005, KC Parks maintenance staff has mowed the grass, removed garbage, cleaned up the park after wind-storm damage, and watched for vandalism. I'm happy to report we now have a

new Agreement for Operation and Supplemental Maintenance for the next five years.

MCA Park Stewards and volunteers created and maintained the wood chip trail, remove invasive plants, and plant more native plants in their place. We made educational signs to demonstrate where our native plants grow and even published a book! Volunteers help make the park a special place for us all. Special thanks to Linda Shepherd for planting many new native plants over the years and for helping me with the new park Agree-

ment. Thank you to Galen and Teresa Trail, Mike Paulson, Chas Wade, Todd Fuque and Mary Nelson for chipping our trails.

There is a "Discovery Area" on the north side of the playfield/meadow with a little trail going up to a play area with a wooden climbing structure and benches and a loop trail for young kids to discover the ferns and forest on their own. It has also been a quiet retreat area for many adults this last year. Thank you to Dan Ulatowski and Mike Paulson for creating our log-climber at our work party last March. This area could be developed more, if we had an interest group.

The Meadow Area has four benches and three picnic tables for resting, lunch breaks or soaking up the sun. The flat gravel trail gives handicap and emergency access into the meadow area of the park. Inside the park, dogs on leash is KC law.

This summer, with the bears and cubs in the neighborhood, we asked owners to be sure to keep dogs leashed, and luckily, I didn't hear of any problems. Thank you for complying dog owners!

In the late 1980s, the "Bike Area" on the west side of the park, along Mirrormont Place, was built and used by neighborhood kids with small BMX bikes. Now, young mountain bike riders learn some



A local child enjoys the log-climber, a recent addition to Mirrormont Park provided by Dan Ulatowski and Mike Paulson.

skills on the hilly figure 8 loop dirt trail. Since it became a King County Park, no hole digging or removal of plants are allowed. We are adding wood chips and plants to the berms in this area to restore the roots of the huge beautiful trees. We need some parents of young bikers on our Park Committee. Please volunteer!

At our Park Committee meeting last February, we talked about the fact that the original grant included projects for a shelter and a toilet. The Steward group expressed an interest in having an open-air shelter built in the park, but everyone rejected having the responsibility of a toilet. The shelter will take some research and several bids in order to make a decision, and then we will go through the county approval process. Come help us!

Please come walk through our park, look at our new trail map on the kiosk (thanks to Ed Buffalow) or do laps around the meadow...even greet a neighbor! We need ALL residents to keep the park going— young, strong ones and old, wise ones too. We can consider many uses of our park. Please, share your ideas! And please volunteer to be a Park Steward or a volunteer.

Thank you to all our volunteers over the years!

Questions? Ideas? [Email](#) me.



Candidates Bring Range of Experiences to Board

[From page 2](#)

with their Human Resources group. I look forward to serving as Treasurer. Travel is a passion. In these times of staying home I find myself baking (probably a bit too much). If you ever want some cookies, I'm here for you!

Michelle Warm

I was born and raised in Idaho but have spent 30+ years in the Puget Sound region. I moved to Tiger Mountain from Cougar Mountain in 2017, and love living in Mirrormont!



I enjoy traveling, cooking, crafts, boating, paddle boarding and all kinds of sporting events. Recently, I received my open water diving certification, which means more tropical vacations to enjoy.

As the Speaker Program Director, I will be responsible for identifying speakers of interest for the residents of Mirrormont and subsequently bringing neighbors together to get to know each other and make new friends. Some of the activities I scheduled last year but were impacted by

COVID-19 include: KonMari (the art of decluttering), wine/beer tasting, cooking classes, painting and other craft projects. Please contact me at events@mirrormont.org if you have suggestions for speakers.

Lana Cory Bear

My husband and I moved to Mirrormont three years ago, returning home to Washington. We thought this would be the perfect neighborhood to start a family. Now with our 1.5-year-old and another on the way, I've transitioned out of my full-time job and currently juggle my own business and being a full-time mom. I love spending all day, every day here in the neighborhood and it was about time I got involved. I love community, sustainability, good food, learning new things and baking. I've met many of you on our daily walks. I'm excited to help support events in the neighborhood and hopefully meet even more of you!



Jen Inman

My family and I moved from San Diego, California to Bellevue, Washington in

2014 and bought our lovely home in Mirrormont in 2019. Mirrormont intrigued us, starting with the beautiful home and property we purchased, the breathtaking urban/rural community, the park, pool, nearby hiking trails and what we heard about the community and social events.



I love spending time with my family, pets, hiking, snowboarding, boating on Lake Sammamish, camping in the PNW in our Airstream, golfing, shopping, dining, wine tasting, planning events and entertaining.

This year, having a lot more time on our hands and working from home, we have been learning a lot about all the beautiful PNW plant life in our yard. We started a garden, and took on smallish remodel projects, including adding a custom walk-in closet.

As the one of the MCA Social Directors, I am excited to help continue to make the community events special for all to enjoy. I cannot wait for my family and I to get out and meet new people and be a part of Mirrormont community.

The Obsession with Growing Tomatoes

by Linda Shepherd

I love tomatoes. In 2020, between those I started from seed and those I obtained by exchanges with two other (masked) growers, I planted a total of nineteen different varieties of tomatoes at the Mirrormont Pea Patch. Yeah...way too many varieties! But some were for immediate consumption and never made it to the kitchen, while some were for salads and several others were best suited for spaghetti sauce. I chose others just because heirloom varieties have such cool names. After all, who could resist one called Dancing with Smurfs? So, I indulged myself in this obsession. At least it was safe!

It was hard to get seeds unless you ordered early. The popular Sungolds sold out from all local stores and seed cata-

logs. So, Yvette Cardozo ordered some from Amazon. When they arrived, I discovered they came from Israel via Houston—not exactly local!

Beginning in March, I planted twelve seeds each of nine different varieties. In six-packs, they didn't take up much shelf space in my guest bedroom. I germinated them on heat mats and eagerly watched for the appearance of cotyledons and the first true leaves, raising the grow lights to maintain them just an inch or two above the plants to keep them from getting leggy.

These tomato kids were my companions during Covid Times. I talked to them, cheered them on, praised each new leaf. The immigrant Israeli Sungolds started out stunted and needed more encourage-

ment than the others. As each variety reached three-inches tall, I transplanted them into 4-inch pots. More than a hundred plants took over my guest bedroom, my laundry room, and a neighbor's sun-room. When my seedlings outgrew my capacity to house them, NextDoor gardeners and PeaPatchers adopted the ones I had no space to plant. To socially distance, we did a porch pickup.

Also, in May, I traded some of my varieties for four different ones from a Fall City friend and another six varieties from PeaPatcher Jennifer Schori. Yeah, I was truly obsessed. But I had visions of a Pea Patch Tomato Tasting at the end of the season. Besides, it's fun to observe their uniqueness and have salads decorated

[See Tomatoes, page 10](#)

Genealogy Saved My Sanity in 2020

by Cathy Cadd

The year 2020 started out good (January and part of February). My husband Bob had a new contract job with Princess Cruises to set up their data centers. When he found out the data centers were on the cruise ships, he thought he had landed a dream job. In February he boarded the Grand Princess to Hawaii. Then COVID-19 hit the Diamond Princess in Japan. Suddenly, two days out of port from Honolulu, a passenger on Bob's ship got sick and they turned back. Boy, were our text messages flying! They never determined what was wrong with the passenger, but it wasn't COVID-19. Once safely home, we discussed job options. It turned out to be a moot discussion because they canceled Bob's job and shut down.

To save my sanity during the pandemic, I decided last March to focus on my genealogy. I had been researching Bob's family since the 1970s. In those days I wrote letters and waited months for replies. Over the decades, we discovered that Bob and I are cousins with shared French-Canadian grandparents in Canada in the 1600s–1700s (it grossed out our sons when we told them that). I also learned that our sons' 11th great-grandfather, Timothy Stidham, knew his wife's 10th great-grandfather Joran Kyn back in Wilmington, Delaware. They were in a trial together.

We have done the DNA thing with the National Geographic Genographic Project and found which Daughter of Eve we come down through, and 23andMe revealed what illnesses we might be prone to. We also found cousins galore with Ancestry.com.

Last June, DNA went to a whole new level when I discovered



Thanks to Christine Sample for organizing Thai, Mexican, Italian, Moroccan, seafood, BBQ and ice cream food trucks to come to Mirrormont to provide much needed sustenance during a difficult year.

MyTrueAncestry (MTA), which compares your raw DNA data to ancient DNA samples retrieved from archaeological dig sites all over the world. One of the interesting things Ancestry told me was that I had connections to Iceland. Me? No, that can't be right! How can that be? Then, MTA showed me how.

I have about seven matches to Iceland, possibly including one of the first settlers to Iceland. I also match the Bronze Age Golden Boy (Amesbury, 1515 BC) and have about seven matches to the Viking St. Brice Massacre (Oxford, 1002 AD). My earliest match is to Cheddar Man in Somerset, England in 7150 BC.

The matches are called Deep Dives and those are the ones that you share DNA with. So somewhere way back they could be a sister, aunt, cousin, brother, or grandparent. They also give you Archaeogenetic matches. Those mean that I share a familial bond to that civilization.

I am so glad that I got into this! I have spent more time playing with these dead ancestors as I look them up and discover more and more about our Ancient History. It has given me a whole new appreciation of how we are all connected.

Best Approaches to Fence Design



There is an old adage, referenced by the poet Robert Frost, that "good fences make good neighbors." But in Mirrormont, the spirit of our [architectural covenants](#) call for the preservation of

the natural wooded landscape. The intention behind the covenants is to keep the street views feeling like you are within the forest. So, when considering adding a fence, think about the design with a slight twist on the adage—hidden fences make good neighbors.

The covenants suggest that fencing be considered an extension of your home and hidden from the immediate street view. Picture the fence design as an extension of the building, part of the home architecture. At most, it should travel from the house to the back of the lot, respecting property setbacks.

If you're looking to keep your pets contained within your yard, consider wireless electric fences. These are quick to install and can be set at the perimeter of your property. The Mirrormont Architectural Committee reviews fence layouts and materials for compliance with the covenants. Please contact architecture@mirrormont.org for questions.

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Teemis and Jon Eastlake share a close moment. The joys of a pet are wide-ranging. It's important for an owner to also keep in mind the health of their pet for a long, high-quality life.



Celebrate Your Pets and What They Provide You

[From page 3](#)

as possible. Exercise and fresh air are good for both of you. With access to safe toys, cats can be exercised too!

In conclusion, pets not only bring us companionship and joy, but they also offer us many health benefits, including decreased blood pressure, lowered cholesterol levels and decreased levels of triglycerides in our bodies.

We should all enjoy our pets and celebrate their companionship and their unconditional love for us. And I encourage you to take time during these dark and wet days for a snuggle or two!



Biscuit

Carver Provides Joy; Remains Anonymous

[From page 1](#)

really appreciate all the kind feedback I've read on Nextdoor. Posts of how receiving a pin puts a smile on your face also puts a smile on my face.

I first started carving in order to make salmon pins to hand out to fishermen I met when my son and I would travel by float-plane for our annual salmon-fishing trip to a lodge in Canada. The fishermen we met were always a fun group of people who liked to brag about "the one that got away." Every evening after a long day of fishing the fishermen would gather to tell their tall tales. Even the lodge cook got in on the storytelling.

I once asked the lodge cook in my broken French, "*Aujourd'hui, je veux attraper un gros poisson. Où est le poisson?*" (Today I want to catch a big fish. Where is the fish?). The cook replied as he pointed to the water, "*les poissons sont dans l'eau*" (the fish are in the water).

I find it fun to give my pins to unsuspecting strangers. Handing out a pin to the cashier on one of my grocery trips is a favorite activity of mine. However, the kind and friendly neighbors of Mirrormont are first on my gift list. I liken myself to being one of Santa's elves working in the toy shop and my friend being Santa doing the distribution. I hope we eventually give everyone in Mirrormont a carving because everyone in Mirrormont is nice.

Anonymously yours,
Mirrormont's Mystery Carver

Kees: Here's to a More Normal Year in 2021

[From page 1](#)

and three piles of chips donated to the park for the trails. This is a great program we run every year to ensure our neighborhood continues to be a Firewise Community.

Mary Nelson and her volunteers put together a socially distanced Halloween Trick or Treat stand so that our children could enjoy some Halloween spirit while staying healthy and safe.

Lastly, the Shoeboxes of Joy Charity Project donated 85 shoeboxes filled with donations from our marvelous Mirrormont residents.



Amin Kees

Sponsored by Catholic Community Services of Western Washington, their Volunteer Services delivers shoebox gift packages to elderly and disabled members of our community who may be isolated from family and friends during the holiday season.

I have lived in Mirrormont since the winter of 2016. I decided to become involved with the MCA in the Spring of 2018 and take on the Speaker Program. We live in such a beautiful neighborhood, and I was looking for ways to meet more of our wonderful neighbors. Being involved with the Speaker Program helped me to meet new neighbors at our wine socials (before each presentation). I kicked off wine tasting and paint nights which were also fun ways to get to know new people. In 2019, I took over the re-

sponsibilities of the MCA President, although I didn't make it official until 2020.

Each year I looked forward to all of our great programs for the neighborhood, like our Spring Clean-up, Easter Egg Hunt, wine tastings and Chipper Days, just to name a few. Then the COVID-19 pandemic changed all our plans.

It is my sincerest hope that in 2021 we are able to get back to our normal programs, visit with our neighbors and meet our newest residents. We have made a tentative events calendar and are gearing up for a fun-filled 2021, as long as we can do it in a safe and healthy manner.

I still look forward to meeting neighbors and do so as often as possible. I often walk the neighborhood with my dog Dakota, and always wave hello.

Please take care and stay healthy.

Mirromont Community Association

Household Annual Dues Notice \$50 — Due February 1, 2021

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.mirromont.org/product/mca-annual-membership/



New member: ___ Renewing: ___

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

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

Socials

- Easter Egg Hunt
- Halloween Parties
- Adult Holiday Social
- Mirromont Park Party
- Speaker Program
- 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

Enthusiastic Response by Residents to Chipper Days

[From page 4](#)

the past.

In 2015, when wildfires began to be of concern in Western Washington, the MCA sponsored a speaker from King County DNR's Forestry Program to educate Mirromont residents about their Firewise Program. Afterward, the MCA formed a Firewise Committee and members worked with the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks to develop a 51-page [Community Wildfire Protection Plan](#).

Soon after, Chipper Days began as Chipper Week. With an overwhelming 117 participants stacking big branch piles along our roads (one was a densely packed 12'-wide pile that took half a day to chip), our commitment to be a Firewise site commenced. As the first such event, many of us had a backlog of brush and branches and we were excited to have this new MCA membership benefit. Chipper Week extended to a total of ten days!

The same year, we applied to become one of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)'s Firewise USA sites, which made us eligible to receive additional grant funding. To remain a member in good standing, our community needs to:

1. Hold a yearly event, which we call Chipper Days
2. Host an educational Firewise event
3. Devote at least 600 hours annually to local Firewise actions, which can include time residents spend on pruning, removing debris and cleaning our roofs.

In 2020, 57 families participated in Chipper Days, creating 66 branch piles and devoting 1,292 hours to Firewise activities. Over the past six years, a total of 199 families have participated in Chipper Days with a total of 385 piles chipped, reducing wildfire fuels and thus making our community safer for all.

Thanks go to Wayne Elson and Lisa Lux for managing Chipper Days 2020 last October—our biggest event of the year, and the only one that that we could hold under COVID-19 restrictions. Issaquah Tree Care did the chipping at a cost of \$4400 paid from \$20 co-pays and MCA dues.

We are applying for grants to help pay for Chipper Days to be held in both April and October 2021. Watch for more information on our website and on Nextdoor.



Tomatoes with Love

[From page 6](#)

with red, yellow, green, blue, purple, and black tomatoes. But it was a slow, late year for ripening. Alas, we had to cancel all of our potlucks due to COVID-19 restrictions and the smoke kept us indoors during the prime time for an outdoor tomato tasting.

The tastiest ones to me were German Lunchbox and Japanese Black Trifele for their depth and complexity of flavor. Slugs preferred the Beaver Lodge Plum. Black Krim, an early beefsteak heirloom originating from Crimea, produced the most fruit for sauce.

During September and October, I made spaghetti sauce from all of these tomato kids that I'd known since they were seeds. Spaghetti is now my honey Gary's favorite meal, made with love.



One of the big benefits to paying your Mirromont Community Association dues is the ability to participate in Chipper Days. Certainly one of the most popular events and extremely important; more information is available in the [Mirromont News](#).

Mirromont Community Association 2021 Dues Notice Inside

2021 Mirromont Community Association Calendar

Tuesday, January 26	Annual MCA Meeting via Zoom	7 to 8:30 PM
Saturday, April 3	Easter Egg Hunt	10 to 11 AM
Monday, April 26	Chipper Days	
Tuesday, April 27	Chipper Days	
Saturday, May 22	Spring Clean-up/ Adopt-a-Road	9 to 2 PM
Saturday, May 22	Pea Patch Plant Sale	9 to 2 PM
Friday, June 11	Garage Sales	9 to 4 PM
Saturday, June 12	Garage Sales	9 to 2 PM
Saturday, July 17	Mirromont Park Celebration	2 to 6 PM
Saturday, July 31	Tour of Gardens	1 to 4 PM
Monday, October 25	Chipper Days	
Tuesday, October 26	Chipper Days	
Saturday, October 30	Halloween Party 0-4th Grade	10 to 12 PM
Sunday, October 31	MCA Goodie Bags & Photoshoot	6 to 7:30 PM
Friday, December 3	Holiday Party/Adult Social	7 to 11 PM



Mirromont News Annual Issue

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