

# Richmond Beach COMMUNITY NEWS

Four Time First Place Winner of Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA) Neighborhood Newsletter Award

FEBRUARY 2024

## Shoreline tool library now open for lending tools to Richmond Beach residents



ANNA WILSON, OPERATIONS DIRECTOR OF THE SHORELINE TOOL LIBRARY  
- PHOTO FROM SHORELINE TOOL LIBRARY

By Lewis Brown

We have a tool library which lends high-quality, brand-named tools and equipment so neighbors can borrow expensive tools! Yes, a location which provides a way to reuse and share tools has become part of our community. SeattleREconomy has opened the Shoreline Tool Library at 166<sup>th</sup> and Aurora. Thousands of tools for projects of all kinds are available at 16610 Aurora Avenue N.

Rather than a costly rental agreement, the concept is a yearly membership as a supporting donation, using a yearly, sliding-scale membership to include all residents. Current hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Phone during those hours to ask more questions: (206) 524-6062. Browse their extensive catalog of tools: [neseattle.myturn.com/library/inventory/browse](https://neseattle.myturn.com/library/inventory/browse).

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## Bloodmobile returns to Richmond Beach March 2

By Tom Petersen

After an exactly-four-year absence, the Bloodworks Northwest mobile unit returns to its long-accustomed spot in front of the Fire Safety Center at the corner of Richmond Beach Road and 20th Avenue NW on Saturday, March 2.

The bloodmobile will be open for whole-blood donations from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Appointments, which are strongly encouraged and much preferred, are made at [bloodworksnw.org](https://bloodworksnw.org) or by calling (800) 398-7888. Walk-ups are possible, but only if they occur when there is an opening or cancellation at that time—there is no waiting in the bus.

Most healthy adults are probably eligible to donate blood. Recently, the FDA, after 40 years of careful tracking of the safety of

See Bloodmobile, page 2

## A diverse music scene thrives in RB's backyard



MEMBERS OF THE BASEMENTS PERFORM ON NEW YEAR'S EVE AT DARRELL'S  
- PHOTO BY ROBIN FLEMING

By Robin Fleming

When I moved to Richmond Beach nearly three years ago from my hometown of Seattle, I anticipated a boost in car mileage to continue frequenting the clubs and venues where the music that soothes my soul plays. The mileage has indeed increased, but not for want of good music or the welcoming atmospheres in which it's performed.

My first discovery—less than two miles from my home—was Darrell's Tavern. Billed as the bar “where your dad used to drink,” Darrell's opened in 1967. The retro décor reflects that era—carpeted walls, a velvet Elvis portrait, soft colored lights, beer signs from the 1970s, and a horseshoe-shaped bar—remains, along with a large red neon “D” hanging on a wall behind the stage. Created originally for Darrell Morrison who opened Darrell's 47 years ago, the D stands in well today for Dan Dyckman, Darrell's' owner for the past 14 years.

Within this cozy and intimate space play a variety of artists with genres featuring rock, pop, ska, country, soul, blues and other genres every Friday and Saturday and some Thursdays. Some artists are well established, such as the rocker Randy Weeks (who wrote *Can't Let Go*, Lucinda Williams's best-selling song) who played regularly at Darrell's for more than a year, and Ike Willis, one of Frank Zappa's songwriters and bandmates. Dyckman notes that many famous musical genres and artists—from the

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## The 133 year old Dalby house has seen many changes



THE DALBY HOUSE IN 1930.  
-FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE SHORELINE HISTORICAL MUSEUM; USED WITH PERMISSION.

By Susan Storer Clark

We live in the historic house known as the Dalby house. Our house does not look its best in late winter. The siding needs its spring power wash, and the trim needs its spring retouch. Despite these nits, it's still standing strong and sound. Pretty good for a house that's 133 years old.

When the state of Washington listed it on the Historic Inventory in 1994, the recorders wrote, “Although extensively altered, this house has been included in the inventory because it is the

oldest house identified in Richmond Beach. Built in 1891, the home is associated with the first phase of the community's development following the construction of the railroad along the shoreline.”

The year the house was built, 1891, was the year the Great Northern Railway arrived along the shores of Puget Sound. An early arrival later noted that there were “a number” of Indigenous people living in what is now Richmond Beach. “They camped on the beach, digging and selling clams and fish.” The

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Being well

Eight things to give up if you want to be happy

By Carol Frieberg

Happiness isn’t just about doing the right things. It’s also about not doing the wrong things. You might not even realize the things you’re doing that sabotage your chances for happiness. Consider these things that keep happiness away:

**Complaining.** Too much complaining worsens our mood, makes us feel helpless and is exhausting to others. If you can’t resolve an issue, why waste your time and energy complaining about it? The number one solution to reduce your complaining is gratitude. Find something in the problem or issue that leads to something positive or recognize how the situation could actually be a lot worse. This changes your negative outlook.

**Blaming others.** One thing that creates endless fights and unhappiness, is finding fault in others. Try this—the next time you have a disagreement with someone, consider one or two things *you* could have done differently that would have changed the outcome. When practiced, self-accountability really changes one’s perspective.

**Perfection.** You’ll rarely do anything perfectly. Rather than setting yourself up for disappointment, set your sights on consistent improvement. If you’re a perfectionist, you might try little tricks like setting a time limit for tasks you continuously work at to be perfect or next time you begin a project, aim for 80% perfection.

**Comfort.** If you are trying to be comfortable all of the time, you’ll never be happy. Personal growth is an integral part of happiness and often occurs during times of challenge and discomfort.

**The need to impress others.** We spend far too much time worrying about what others think (about our clothes, our car, our jobs, our kids, literally everything). If you constantly focus on impressing others, their approval makes you totally dependent on them. Rather, try focusing on impressing yourself. Start by doing good deeds and thinking good thoughts about yourself and those around you.

**Negative self-talk.** If you had someone in your life that insulted, doubted and undermined you all day long, how happy would you feel? You might have that person in your life and not even realize it. It’s you! Try avoiding negative self-talk for one month and see if you notice more positivity in your life.

**Negative people.** The quality of people in your life has an impact on your happiness. Seek out positive people that support you and challenge you in ways that make you grow. (At the very least, include only the people in your life that don’t sabotage you or make you unhappy.)

**Resistance to change.** Life is full of change. Change is coming whether we want it or not—kids will move away, friends pass away, we grow old and need to adapt to new ways of doing things. Change is one of the few constants in life. To be happy, we must adapt, pivot and tell ourselves we are resilient.

From Bloodmobile, page 1



BLOODMOBILE AND EXHUBERANT DONOR - PHOTO BY TOM PETERSEN

the blood supply, lifted the long-standing deferrals on people who had traveled in the British Isles and on gay men, expanding the pool of potential donors. All donors are carefully screened for health issues and medication usage.

Donating blood takes an hour or less, from greetings to cookies. The need for blood is constant, so first timers are encouraged, and it’s always hoped that experienced donors come back and bring friends!

The modern era of blood donations in Richmond Beach began in 2007 and quickly became another great neighborhood tradition, an every-eighth-Saturday party in the parking lot. People loved doing a positive thing with their friends and watching the numbers roll up: In 13 years, the Richmond Beach community drive collected 200 *gallons* of life-saving blood! The bloodmobile’s return in March gets the neighborhood back on schedule to celebrate the 75th drive later this spring.

The Shoreline Fire Department continues being an enthusiastic host for the blood drives, and Blackbird Cafe is the gracious new partner business for the bloodmobile staff, taking over from D’s Barbershop of old.

Welcome new contributor, Robin Fleming



- PHOTO BY BETTY NGAN

By Robin Fleming

As a new (almost three years) Richmond Beach resident, I am enjoying discovering the obvious and hidden gems of this beautiful community. Faves so far are Kruckeberg Gardens; Richmond Beach Saltwater Park; the miles of lush, wooded trails that are all within walking distance and waking to birdsong in the morning. I’m also a huge fan of Blackbird Café and of the Boeing Creek dog park, where my bullmastiff has attained legendary status for his goofy playfulness.

I work as an Assistant Teaching Professor in the School of Nursing and Health Studies at UW Bothell, where my teaching and research focus on community and public health, school health, health policy and civic engagement. I serve on the Advisory Committee of Northwest Neighbors Network, which serves to help elders—in Richmond Beach and surrounding areas—maintain good health and age in place in the comfort of their own homes.

My two sons are grown—one is a jazz musician, and the other is an executive at the Y of Silicon Valley.

Music has always been my solace and, as a dancer, my inspiration. I have been dancing—mostly ballet and modern—for decades and am a certified Balletone instructor.

As I approach that transitional time of life called “retirement,” I envision myself engaging more deeply in the arts and in reviving my first career of journalism. What better way to learn about and share the richness of this community, and to dust off my journalistic writing chops, than by doing both.

RICHMOND BEACH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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# Richmond Beach

COMMUNITY NEWS

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The RBCN welcomes submissions including articles, letters to the editor and kudos. Submissions must be relevant to our community, copyright-free and submitted by the 13th of the month prior to publication. Electronic submissions are preferred.

For verification purposes only, submissions must include name, address, email address and phone number. Submissions are subject to editing.

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## Lewis at large in Richmond Beach



- PHOTO COURTESY DORIS MCCONNELL

### Interview of Doris McConnell

**(1) You have been involved in the Richmond Beach community for many years. How did that start? How does a single mom become a city council member?**

We moved into the area years ago when my first child was seven months old. This community helped me grow as a person as opportunities for involvement came my way. Prior to coming to Shoreline, I worked my way through Washington State University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology, and later attended a Western Washington University’s master’s program in school psychology. My working career involved serving as a school psychologist in the Bremerton School District, supervising employees in an ATT computer room, the Boeing Company and an agent at Windermere Real Estate.

In 1998, my husband died of cancer. As a single parent, I turned my focus on raising my family. My children attended Syre Elementary School where I first became a PTA chair, helping with events. Eventually I served as their president for several years. I did a lot of fundraising during my time there. My tangible legacies are recreating the fundraising Walk-A-Thon into a full participation school event (staff and students) as well as fundraising and completing the playground that is on the property today. I served on the Klahaya Swim and Tennis Club Board and on numerous school district committees to manage money and resources. My collaborative skills eventually brought me into several executive positions on the Shoreline School District PTA. Working with a very supportive group of parents, we set off to reinvent the clothing donation room, which is now “The Works,” as well as creating other events such as the Back-to-School district event, which is now managed by the YMCA. I also saw a need in our district for holiday gifts for our deserving teens and so developed the Teen Gift Drive, which ran for many

years with gifts and now runs on gift cards.

Each step taught me how to navigate within governing agencies to help people and provide a need. I was supported by my growing children as I gave my time to serve. They knew they were my priority; and even as teenagers, they urged me to get involved.

The big decision to become a candidate and serve on the Shoreline City Council came in 2007. With the economy in trouble and big changes coming to the Pacific Northwest (and Shoreline), particularly in the corridor between Seattle and Everett, the City of Shoreline’s leadership was struggling. I was encouraged to run for the city council. I became part of those who eventually dismantled the dysfunction out of the council and formed a council who embraced the coming changes, discussed them and then acted. We prepared forward-looking plans to manage the growth. Of course, not all changes were embraced by all. Change is difficult for some to embrace.

**(2) What do you identify as the most important contributions you made as a councilwoman?**

I like to work with others to make things happen. I am a collaborator, a cheerleader if you will. Setting things in motion behind the scenes takes more work sometimes, but the results far exceed everyone’s expectations. Everyone owns the outcome when many participate in its creation. I look back at the finished projects and issues that have come up over the 16 years I served on the council and know that I was part of many councils that successfully moved Shoreline into the future.

All the councils I have been on have been ardent supporters behind our many park bonds, which are meant to upgrade and add to our parks and services. I supported, both publicly and privately, the city’s efforts to assume the Ronald Wastewater District utility service by helping two candidates win seats on the commission, which resulted in a collaborative assumption of that utility into the city. I served locally on the Regional Water Quality Committee, the Domestic Violence Initiative Regional Task Force and the Seashore Transportation Forum. I served on the National League of City’s APAMO Board (Asian Pacific American Municipal Officials), their board of directors and later their advisory council, and the Transportation and Infrastructure Services Committee (TIS).

See Lewis at large, page 8

## Save the date for the Strawberry Festival - June 8



- PHOTO COURTESY BIANCA WILLIAMS

### By Katie McNeil

Save the date for Richmond Beach’s beloved annual tradition! The 2024 Strawberry Festival will be held Saturday, June 8, from 12:00-5:00 p.m. at Richmond Beach Community Park. Last year’s festival was a huge success, and we are looking forward to another day of music, food and community gathering.

#### Volunteer opportunities

From set up to clean up and everything in between, the Strawberry Festival cannot happen without volunteers! If interested in volunteering, please reach out to us at [strawberryfestival@richmondbeach.org](mailto:strawberryfestival@richmondbeach.org). Specific volunteer opportunities will be posted soon on the RBCA website event page: [richmondbeachwa.org/events](http://richmondbeachwa.org/events).

#### Sponsor opportunities

If you or your local business are interested in sponsoring this event, please reach out! Sponsoring offers a great opportunity for exposure in our Richmond Beach and Greater Shoreline community.

Stay tuned for more updates about this year’s festival. For now, mark your calendars—June 8 from 12:00-5:00 p.m!

## Thank you from the Friends of Richmond Beach Library

### By Karen Thielke

The Friends of Richmond Beach Library would like to thank all those who made a purchase at the lobby sale in December. We reached our \$500 goal! In February 2024, we are sponsoring a HALF OFF sale. Everything on the hallway shelves will be half off the marked price! By the end of February, we will be looking for donations of your best **recent** fiction and non-fiction, CDs and DVDs, cookbooks with pictures, Northwest gardening titles and even a few vintage titles in good condition. Bring books to the library during open hours—please do not put donated books in the book return drop slots.



From Music scene, page 1

Beatles to Pearl Jam—were born in dive bars. He takes pride in offering a space that “provides a spawning ground for new artists” by giving them a venue to cultivate a following and grow their careers.

Darrell’s also provides opportunities for the singer/songwriter in all of us to let loose on Wednesdays at open mic, hosts jazz jams on Sunday nights and offers trivia Tuesday with tacos and prizes. Dyckman describes Darrell’s as an “old friendly neighborhood bar that has seen the test of time and shows its beauty and imperfections and links to the past but is fully relevant in the present.”

If Darrell’s is the place where your dad used to drink, Aurora Borealis is the place where your mom (my mom, at least) used to dance. Once known as the Drift On Inn, this place opened in 1930 and featuring the likes of Frank Sinatra and Bing Crosby (who coincidentally was a good friend of Dan Dyckman’s dad), the venue’s latest incarnation opened in 2019. The large stage, seating

capacity of 450, and extensive menu lend Aurora Borealis the scope to accommodate large crowds and large bands. As such, the venue provides the Richmond Beach community access to well-known musical artists representing a variety of genres. For example, Aurora Borealis participated in 2023’s Earshot Jazz Festival featuring notable performances from both local and world-renowned artists. Big band jazz groups are regularly featured at Aurora Borealis, as well as those who play rock, funk, blues and “themed” music—such as bands that play music from select decades. Most of the bands are well-established with loyal fan bases. In December I met a *Petty Thief* enthusiast who had traveled all the way from Kennewick that day to see his favorite band.

In addition to music shows, Aurora Borealis offers select sports watch parties on its multiple screens and social dances featuring salsa, bachata, merengue and cumbia dance instruction followed by dancing on Thursdays. My mom would love it!



DAN DYCKMAN, OWNER OF DARRELL’S

-PHOTO BY ROBIN FLEMING



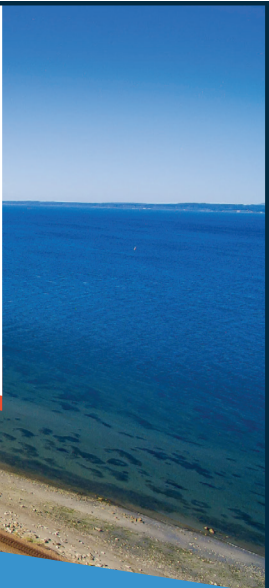

MEMBERS OF THE PETTY THIEF AT AURORA BOREALIS

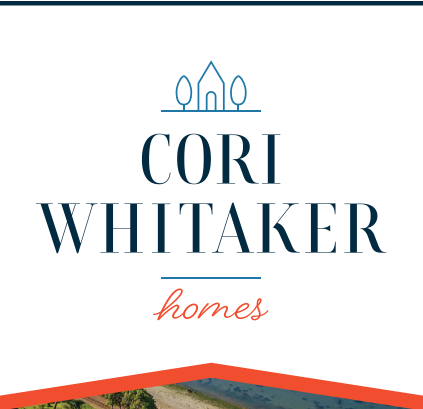
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THE INTERIOR OF AURORA BOREALIS

-PHOTO BY ROBIN FLEMING






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From Dalby house, page 1

house was standing before the North Trunk Road was paved and long before it was called Aurora Avenue. It was here for 20 years before the first business took hold in Shoreline. That business was the Rogers General Store, which now houses the Shoreline Historical Museum.

First owners

The first owners were Martin and Priscilla Holloway, parents of John Holloway, who was prominent in the early development of Richmond Beach. John was the father of Lena Vorheis, who described herself as “the first white child born in the Richmond Beach area.” Martin Holloway was a member of the first school board, which built the first schoolhouse in Richmond Beach. It was also built in 1891, but is now long gone.

Martin Holloway was listed as the owner of the land in the King County tax rolls from 1891 through 1905. Several different owners were listed until 1927, when “O.W. Dalby et ux” purchased the property. “Et ux” was a common abbreviation for the Latin “et uxor,” meaning “and wife.” In this case, it referred to Minnie Dalby.

The lively Dalbys

Minnie Dalby was much more interesting than the Latin abbreviation would indicate. She and her husband Oscar traveled widely, visiting 35 states and several Canadian provinces. She was a founding member of the Shoreline Historical Society; local papers carried accounts of civic groups

meeting at her home and of her performing a duet at the Library Club with her sister Bessie Walloch. Minnie donated her personal photo album to the Historical Society; it is now a charming piece of the collection held by the Shoreline Historical Museum.

Pictures show her taking her first look at Puget Sound, bringing chickens from Nebraska to her home in Washington State and her delighted smile as she fires a small rifle. Her recipe for peanut butter cookies is in *Cooking Up History*, a cookbook published by the Shoreline Historical Museum in 2007. I made those cookies and served them at the housewarming party when our renovation was finished in 2013.

Oscar and Minnie Dalby did considerable renovations of their own. The house appeared in the King County documentation of all the county buildings, done in the late 1930s with New Deal Money. It shows the addition on the west side of the house, to the right of the door in the photograph. Those rooms were a living room and dining room, still in use today. French doors that the Dalbys had installed still open into the living room, which has a two-tone floor. This was typical of middle-class houses in the 1920s and 1930s; high-grade lumber was used around the edge, and lesser-grade lumber was used for the middle,

See Dalby house, page 7



TOP - THE DALBY HOUSE EXTERIOR TODAY;  
BOTTOM - THE LIVING ROOM FLOOR WITH DIFFERENT WOODS  
-PHOTOS BY SUSAN STORER-CLARK



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**Inflation is subsiding and interest rate reductions have finally begun. This is expected to continue throughout 2024. Prices will remain where they are and perhaps increase as interest rates fall.**

**The overall number of homes for sale remains at a historic low. Many “would be sellers” find themselves leasing their homes instead of selling since most have interest rates between 2.5% and 4.5%. New construction housing is also at a historic low.**

**The combination of these factors is what keeps housing prices. Ask me or your lender about a 2/1 loan buydown or seller credits towards lending. These are helpful strategies for buyer’s payments during the first two years. The plan is to refinance once interest rates further decline as expected in 12 to 18 months.**

**Overall, I expect 2024 to be a really good year for real estate!**

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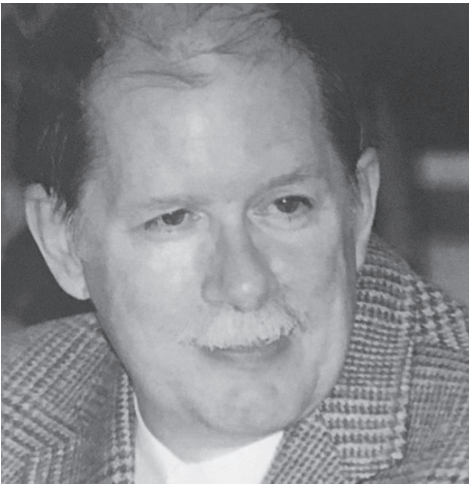


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# The RBCC Players’ founder, Dan Shelhamer



DAN SHELHAMER  
- PHOTO COURTESY CAROL COLT

By Fia Gibbs

Last month, I shared snippets of my journey with the RBCC Players (The Players). The RBCC Players would not exist without its founder, Dan Shelhamer and Carol Colt. Colt met Shelhamer at RBCC in 1985 and married him in 1987. Colt became The Players’ producer and administrator. For 33 years, Shelhamer and Colt nurtured and grew The Players. Colt continues in her roles today, collaborating with Shelhamer’s successor director, Cyndi Thomsen. In this issue, I write about Dan Shelhamer who started it all. Keenly interested in music and piano from early childhood, Shelhamer graduated cum laude

from the University of Montana in Missoula with a BA in Music/Applied Piano, earned his Master of Music and Conducting from, and was a Doctor of Musical Arts/Opera candidate at the University of Washington. After graduating with his BA, he worked with the now nationally famous Missoula Children’s Theatre (MCT), then in its nascent years. Shelhamer’s work with MCT sparked his lifelong belief that children had important roles to play in music and theatre. His belief drove his passion to teach and direct them as his career. He did so at many local public and private schools, music and theatre organizations. His kind, patient and positive “you can do this

See RBC Players, page 8

## Kudos

By Allison Taylor

Our February Kudos goes to our ever expanding core group of event coordinators. Richmond Beach Community Association is known for its long list of events throughout the year, all of which take hours (days! weeks! months!) of preparation prior to the actual day-of celebrations. Historically our executive director handled much of the coordination for these activities. With the elimination of this role in 2022, board members have assumed the responsibility of being event liaisons, relying on community members to shoulder the bulk of preparation for the fun.

In 2024, we’ve confirmed non-board coordinators for the Garage Sale (yay **Elisabeth!**), Garden Tour (**Kris**, you are amazing!), Strawberry Festival (thank you **Bianca and Sarah!**), Beach Blanket Bingo (go **Brian and Tom!**) and Halloween Carnival (one more year of greatness for **Tasha, Julie, Sherry and Brittany!**). As of yet, our Oktoberfest, Turkey Day Fun Run and Tree Lighting events are all board run. If you are interested in participating in the fun, email [board@richmondbeachwa.org](mailto:board@richmondbeachwa.org), and we’ll connect you with the event liaisons so you can learn more about the opportunities available.

A big shout out goes to the members of our community who take advantage of the city reporting service **SeeClickFix**; it’s a great way to draw the city’s attention to areas of concern, whether it be graffiti, downed trees, abandoned vehicles or anything else. Reporters have the option of remaining anonymous, and there is an easy way to upload photos of the problem area. I follow the notifications for the neighborhood, and it’s fantastic to see not only what is reported, but also how quickly the city’s customer response team responds. Thank you, **Bob, Gina, Rob, Ryan and Susan** from the **City of Shoreline**!

## Board Busy-ness

By Chris Youngs

Your RBCA board closed out 2023 with a wrap-up of the year, reviewing all the wonderful events the Richmond Beach community sponsored and helped bring to life for the neighborhood. But after some fond reminiscing, we turned our thoughts to 2024.

Each year, in January, the RBCA board holds an annual full-day retreat. So these conversations centered around the topics we’d address when we met in the new year. At the top of our list:

**Community engagement:** How can we better engage our neighbors in our event planning, to help our coordinators locate and organize the volunteers we need for each of our amazing events? We haven’t had a community meeting since the board elections in May. How do we bring them back in a way that is both effective and engaging for the community?

**Events:** How do we ensure our events are sustainable beyond our tenure, so they can scale and flourish as they grow and evolve with our community?

**Communication:** How do we best leverage our means of communicating with Richmond Beach? What can we do to better leverage the tools at our disposal, from the paper to our website to our social media accounts?

**Purpose:** Is our purpose as a board still accurate and meaningful, and are we doing everything we can to meet our mission?

These are among the topics we will have discussed at the retreat (held within the week at the time of this writing). We’ll draft a statement of focus for 2024 after the retreat and share it with each of you here and on our website. As always, we’d love your thoughts and feedback. Please feel free to reach out at any time at [board@richmondbeachwa.org](mailto:board@richmondbeachwa.org).

# RICHMOND BEACH DIRECTORY

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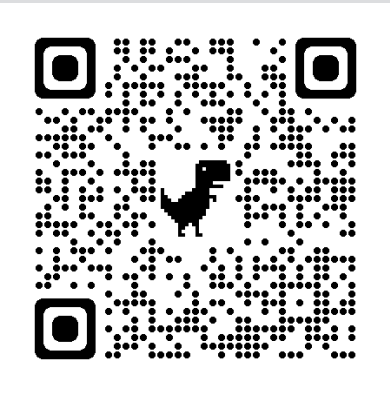
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BE A RBCA VOLUNTEER  
GO TO THE RBCA WEBSITE





From Dalby house, page 5

which would, in theory, be covered by a rug. We like to leave it visible because we think it’s interesting.

Oscar Dalby often worked as a driver. Pictures held by the historical museum show him driving the truck for his brother-in-law’s hardware store and a local jitney that took visitors to the beach. He worked for the Standard Oil Company in Richmond Beach for 37 years. He was also appreciated as a handyman and frequently did carpentry work for his neighbors. The Dalbys seem to have had sophisticated technical interests; when we removed the old knob-and-tube wiring in 2013, we recovered outlet covers adapted for a radio antenna, or “aerial.” These were typical of radio equipment in the 1920s and 1930s, and were likely used in their renovation.

1970s renovations

Minnie Dalby lived to be 100, although she moved away from their house after Oscar died in 1968. The house was purchased by Arthur and Gertrude Mason; in 1972, the house was sold to Gary Rickert and his wife Kathryn. They renovated the house extensively, starting in 1975. Kathryn Rickert wrote in an email to me: “[W]e added the front porch, tore off and replaced the old bathroom with two bathrooms, added the kitchen and turned the old kitchen into the family room. We also took out the old stairs to the upstairs, turned it into stairs to the basement and added the current stairs to upstairs.” Changing the staircase meant they didn’t have to walk around the outside of the house to get to the basement to do the laundry.

There is still a stub of stairs where the old staircase used to be. The house also has a leaded window in its first-floor landing, created for it by Kathryn’s architect brother, Dan Ganfield.

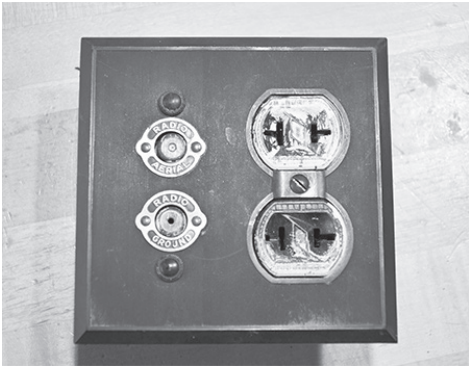
2013: Clarks move in

When my husband, Rich, and I purchased the house in 2013, we thought the cross-gabbling on the second floor, part of the original structure, was charming. But we wanted to put up solar panels, and such a roof was not suitable for that. Besides, my six-foot husband had to stoop down to walk in most of the rooms, and we decided that was far less than ideal. So we decided to renovate.

Before we could do that, we had to satisfy the requirements for changing a house on the Historic Inventory. That is a story all its own, and I plan to write it for an upcoming issue of the Richmond Beach Community News.



MINNIE DALBY SMILINGLY AIMS A SMALL RIFLE. FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE SHORELINE HISTORICAL MUSEUM; USED WITH PERMISSION.



RADIO ANTENNA/AERIAL CONNECTORS FOUND DURING THE 2013 RENOVATION. MOST LIKELY INSTALLED BY OSCAR AND MINNIE DALBY, CA. 1934.

Welcome new writer Susan Storer Clark



-PHOTO BY BETTY NGAN

Susan Storer Clark spent most of her career as a broadcast journalist and public affairs officer in “the other Washington” (DC). She and her husband, Rich, moved to Richmond Beach in 2013 and love their view of Puget Sound and the Olympics. They live in the historic Dalby house and enjoy their quirky home and colorful garden, as well as their pleasant neighbors. Susan has published one historical fiction novel, and written several drafts of her second, and is thinking it would be fun to write historical fiction about Richmond Beach. Anything she writes for the Richmond Beach Community News, though, will stick to the facts.

From Tool library, page 1



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOSH EPSTEIN (RIGHT) HELPS A TOOL LIBRARY USER - PHOTO BY LEWIS BROWN

One of the advantages of being a community-supported, non-profit organization is that you can make services available to those who cannot afford expensive rentals or classes. Residents can have an account and borrow tools without making a membership donation. Residents can also make donations well beyond the \$60 yearly membership to actively support this effort to protect the environment, share tools and skills and help others improve their homes and their lives.

What is the idea behind such a service? SeattleREconomy is a non-profit agency leading the way in reusing and sharing in innovative ways. One of these ways is to repair and repurpose tools which would end up in the trash and send expensive equipment into the landfills. Repurposing tools and equipment has multiple benefits, since neighbors can donate tools, share their skills and make tools available to others who can make, repair and repurpose products for their homes and families. To learn more about the tool library, visit [seattlereconomy.org/stl](http://seattlereconomy.org/stl).

To enable the community to benefit, local volunteers have actively committed to repair and maintain the equipment, to staff the

tool library and to teach classes. Part of the service are classes where neighbors can learn how to fix things in their homes, how to use tools and plan home improvements. Here is an opportunity to give back to the community and share your life experiences and skills. The tool library could use more avid volunteers. Join the volunteer team at [seattlereconomy.org/volunteer](http://seattlereconomy.org/volunteer).

This endeavor is a non-profit service. The Shoreline Tool Library is being supported by member donations. A yearly membership supports the function of the tool library and establishes an account to use the tools throughout the year. Members can attend classes, obtain bike repair, have access to help repair their tools, share in a seed library and use workshops.

Local organizations committed to environmental and economic preservation have provided generous grants to support the initial costs: Washington State Department of Ecology, King County Solid Waste and the cities of Shoreline and Lake Forest Park. However, the engine behind the daily operations is local memberships. To become a supporting member, visit [seattlereconomy.org/support-us/membership](http://seattlereconomy.org/support-us/membership).



OPERATIONS DIRECTOR, ANNA WILSON, AND VOLUNTEER, DOMENICK DELLINO - PHOTO BY LEWIS BROWN



From Lewis at large, page 3

Perhaps the most important thing I did was participate in management and voted for the big changes in Shoreline. The upgrades on Aurora Boulevard in Shoreline meant infrastructure and traffic pattern redesigns for safety and future growth. The council proactively rezoned sections along Aurora and other major thoroughfares to manage housing development, particularly in preparation for Shoreline’s future two light rail stations. The preparation of the area for the light rail Sound Transit developments required rezoning and methodically coordinating the plans and building projects. The years of my tenure on the council were demanding, requiring consistent efforts of teamwork to prepare the future for all of us.

(3) How do you see the future of Shoreline and Richmond Beach in the next few years?

The next five years will see the fruition of all the work we have done. The housing developments on the major streets and especially the transit-oriented housing developments along the light rail zone will provide homes for many new families coming to Shoreline. Simpler and easier public transportation for many Richmond Beach residents into Seattle will become part of our lifestyle here.

(4) What are the important things the residents in our Richmond Beach community could do to maintain and improve life here as we move forward?

The Richmond Beach community must continue their active involvement in local events and city activities. Their volunteer efforts will enrich our community life and support the continuing legacy of this special neighborhood. If you appreciate what we have here, “you” will have to help us reinvent what volunteer service looks like in the future of this community.

Our younger families will have to find ways to participate in the planning, staffing, fundraising and sponsorship of the events that enrich the lives of your children and neighbors. There are so many demands on families today, they will have to share the work, working in teams and supporting each other. Many hands make the work lighter!

We live in the most active and admired neighborhood in the city of Shoreline. I do not say this lightly or to brag. You know this. The Richmond Beach community is a driving force among the 14 neighborhoods in Shoreline, and we will continue to be the example for other Shoreline neighborhoods as the city evolves.

From RBCC Players, page 6

and I’m here for you every step of the way” approach earned him this affectionate title: “Dan the Man.” In 1984, Shelhamer was both music and choir director at Richmond Beach Congregational UCC. He wanted to do something more, something fun, something to bring people together. Might the choir give acting a go? Perhaps in a play? A musical? Yessir! The RBCC Players were born.

Along with numerous singing and acting roles with other local groups, Shelhamer also created his original musical “Miracle at Macy’s.” He also was both the music composer and the lyricist-dramatist as well as playwright for this work. Shelhamer produced “Miracle at Macy’s” for The Broadway Theatre in 1984 and twice directed The Players in it, 1985 and 1996.

His passion for and involvement in directing, singing and acting was lifelong. Colt says, “Dan was inexhaustible in his passion for music and theatre. He believed everyone could perform and did everything in his ability to help young and old discover their talents. But especially kids. He was a kid magnet because he was so in tune with his own inner kid. He always found a role for every kid who auditioned, even writing one in where none existed.”

After being diagnosed with a glioblastoma in 2016, Shelhamer died on March 20, 2018. One last time, the curtain came down on his generous, giving and gifted life. He was 73.

While Dan Shelhamer’s life’s curtain closed, his influence on our community’s local theatre remains.

A future story will cover his impact on some Players, why Cyndi Thomsen is his successor and where Cyndi and Carol hope to take our “as local as local can be” community theatre.

Let’s Get Ready to Garden!



ALLIUMS FROM 2023 GARDEN TOUR  
-PHOTO BY KRIS FORDICE

By Kris Fordice


While we are in the midst of winter and, as I write this, expecting cold and snow, I’m thinking about gardens and the Richmond Beach Garden Tour. I enjoy the downtime for the garden so I can plan what’s

next. I have a section of my garden that is ready for planting, and I’m having fun working on a design and choosing plants. If you have walked on the new sidewalks on 20<sup>th</sup> headed to the Richmond Beach Saltwater Park, you have walked by my project. There will be a water feature and plants soon, I hope. Stop by and say hello when you see me out there.


I’m also starting to plan for the garden tour. This year the tour will be on Saturday, June 1, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please consider being a garden host this year . . . and if you have neighbors who have gardens you admire, encourage them to be on the tour. You can reach me by email at [kfordice@gmail.com](mailto:kfordice@gmail.com).

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