

# the bark



connecting students and permanent residents in the north of 45<sup>th</sup> neighborhood



## STAYING SAFE ON HALLOWEEN

-- Make sure your costume is maneuverable. If you had to, could you run in it?

-- Walk on well-lit or visible streets, and never walk alone.

-- Costumes should look fake! If your character has a gun, be sure it doesn't look too real.

-- Be aware of yourself and your surroundings.

-- Don't enter any unknown residences.

-- Designate a sober person if you're going bar- or party- hopping.

-- Halloween can get pretty intense; now may not be the time to experiment.

## INTRODUCING *your friendly* husky neighborhood assistants!



Welcome to the first edition of The Bark, created by the University of Washington's new Husky Neighborhood Assistants (HNA) Program! We're a group of eight students and staff members at the UW aiming to improve community relations and living standards in the area north of NE 45<sup>th</sup> Street. We intend to increase communication between students living off-campus and permanent residents, as well as provide information on staying safe, being a better neighbor, and making your living experience as positive as possible.

We're looking forward to learning about and serving your new – or long-appreciated – neighborhood. Elizabeth Higgins and Aaron Hoard, the program's directors, are both "excited to work with dedicated students... this year's HNAs will make a positive impact on the North of 45<sup>th</sup> community." Aaron loves working for the program because, "I like to see students take leadership in improving the area... their enthusiasm will make a real difference in the neighborhood."

Last spring, Elizabeth and Aaron chose six UW undergraduates to serve you and your neighborhood: Brittney Hoffman, Drew LaCombe, Maneezeh Lotia, Julie Mendel, Sydney Safley, and Kevin Wu. "We've got a great mix of perspectives and talents, and I can't wait to see the kinds of community ties we can bring to the neighborhood," said Julie.

We'd like to see this newsletter become a resource for you! This month, we've got tons of tips on how to stay safe, have a blast on Halloween, and even save some money on your utility bills. If you've got questions or suggestions, shoot us an email at [huskyN45@uw.edu](mailto:huskyN45@uw.edu). Wishing you a safe and happy Halloween, and looking forward to the coming year,

The HNA Team

# welcome to your new home!

Here are some important things to keep in mind as you settle into your new (or old) abode for the school year.

-- *Smoke Detectors.* Your landlord is legally required to provide a functioning fire alarm in every room – so remember to check that you have the appropriate number of smoke detectors and that they all have batteries. Exercise your right to be alarmed!

-- *Window/door locks.* Big-city living requires big-city precautions – so make sure you take them. Check that all doors and windows properly and with ease. The use of dowel rods in window sills and doorways can help make your home a secure one, and they're easily available in most hardware stores.

-- *Mold.* Seattle is a wet city and mold develops easily, which is bad news for your health *and* your pockets. To avoid getting charged, open up a bathroom window or turn on an exhaust fan after showering to let some air in.

-- *The people next door.* Introduce yourself! Issues about noise, parking, or trash will be easily resolved if you've already established open channels of communication.



## *get 50% off your utility bills!*

Here's a little known fact: the city of Seattle offers a 50% discount on electric, water, sewer, and garbage bills to customers who make less than 70% of the state's median income – which, let's face it, is a lot of students. Call the Seattle Human Services Department at (206) 684-0268 to see if you qualify!

## *goblins, ghouls, and witches... oh my!*

What to do when the Emerald City goes orange-and-black.

-- *Haunted House @ Georgetown Morgue, Georgetown.* A haunted house, in a real morgue? Get ready for the nightmares!

-- *Field of Screams Corn Maze @ Stocker Farms, Snohomish.* A corn maze in the shape of Washington. You know you want to.

-- *Freak Night @ WaMu/Chase Theater, SoDo.* 18+. Dancing, beverages, and fun activities: bring your best costume!

-- *The Ultimate Halloween Bash @ Showbox, Downtown.* 21+. Showbox throws a party on Halloween, so you don't have to.



## **HOW TO THROW A GOOD PARTY FOR YOUR FRIENDS... AND YOUR NEIGHBORS**

It's October, and we all know what that means – pumpkins, new pencils, and people roaming the streets in creepy masks and spandex shorts. If you're planning on throwing a party to complete the evening, here are a few tips to ensure that everyone (even the family next door) has a great time.

– **Only invite the number of people your house can reasonably hold.** No matter how cool that one guy's costume is, keeping your party open to random, uninvited guests is a sure-fire way to ensure you'll be cleaning up for days to come. – **Food and water are key.** Fact: people congregate around food. If your party's just getting started, lay some snacks out and encourage to people to nibble. Make sure plenty of water is available, too, to help compensate for whatever over beverages you might be consuming. (Another fact: salty snacks can make you drink more, so throw some fruit on the table too.) – **Music is awesome; noise citations aren't.** The soundtrack to your soiree can make the evening, but a noise citation will break your piggy bank. Noise is restricted from 11pm to 7am on Friday and Saturday nights, so go ahead and play "Party In The USA", but remember – if the noise associated with your residence can be heard from 75 feet away, you could be looking at a \$250 fine. – **Make sure you can do it all over again next year.** That means drinking responsibly, picking up the trash in your yard the next afternoon, and making sure your neighbors are cool with your shindig in the first place. If you show some consideration, they're more likely to ask you to keep it down instead of calling the cops.