



The Wright kids get Halloween "right"... while Mom & Grandpa cheers them on.

**"The Birdie"
November 2007**

website and latest calendar: <http://brae-burn.org>

Upcoming Events		
November 29 th (Thurs.)	Winter Social and "White Elephant" Auction	Clubhouse. 6:00 pm; kids event @ 6:30 pm; auction at 7:30 pm. Flyer on p 7
29 th (Th.)	Garden Club Wreath and Yule Log Workshop	7:00 pm Tam O' Shanter Clubhouse
December 13 th (Th.)	Garden Club Winter Garden Tour	9:45 am TOS parking lot to carpool. Dress for the weather.
31 st (Mon.)	<i>Brae Burn Annual New Year's Eve Progressive Dinner</i>	Start at 7:00 with hors d'oeuvres and cocktails at the Clubhouse, walk to a neighbor's home for salad and then on to another neighbor's for a delicious entrée then back to Clubhouse for dessert and to ring in the New Year.
January 10 th (Th.)	Garden Club Tour of Volunteer Park Conservatory	10:20 am TOS parking lot to carpool then lunch at SAAM

Special November Feature:
Halloween 2007 at Brae Burn (see p. 5)



Board News

Note: all Board meetings are open to Members. They are held the **second Tuesday** of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Clubhouse. *Next meeting is on December 11th.* Contact Jack Caldwell if you want to present an idea to the Board or have it added to the agenda.

Minutes of November 13th meeting. Submitted by Joanne Jeppesen, Secretary.


The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

President - Jack Caldwell
Vice President – Greg Johnson
Secretary - Joanne Jeppesen
Social Trustee – Kim Brown

Treasurer – Rich Detering
Maintenance Trustee - Walt Wollny
Golf Trustee – Steve Birchler
Associate Rep – Pete Wright - *absent*

Community members in attendance: Darlene Sobieck; Dawn Clarke; Steve Clarke

The minutes of the October Board Meeting were approved as written.

The  icon indicates Board action. – Ed.

Course Superintendent's Report - Josh Soden:

The walkway is now useable on #5. The next project is spraying behind #1 tee box. The wall between #1 tee box and the pool will not be fixed until next year. Fusarium (fungi) has appeared all over the course and will be treated.

Regarding our rough mower, the main deck is broken and will cost approximately \$5,000 to rebuild. A new one would cost \$50,000. Josh has been looking into a used one at Jacobson that would cost \$8,000 and is currently trying it out. [See Update from the President on this below. –Editor] Josh also needs a top dressing rake rather than borrowing from Tam O'Shanter. We could get one now and not pay the \$2500 until 2008.

The weeding and feeding of the course is done and Josh is looking into the fertilizer/iron/fungicides that are needed. The City of Redmond is being scheduled to trench out the stream on #1.


Josh wants to say, "**Thank you to the homeowners who are cleaning their leaves off of the course.**"

Vice President's Report - Greg Johnson:

Two Associates are leaving: the Craddocks and the Wallboms. Bob and Kathryn Montgomery will move from the waiting list and are starting this month. There are no more on the waiting list. Kim Brown knows someone who is interested in joining as an associate. Greg will make sure pool and bathroom keys and tags are turned in when Associates/Emeritus leave.

Debra Holman keeps updating the Roster to reflect the changes. Susie Adams has volunteered to be the primary Lost and Found contact. Thank you, Susie! (Contact Susie with Lost & Found questions: Lot #26. 425.885.6067)

Secretary's Report - Joanne Jeppesen:

A letter was sent to the Duffins regarding his paintings that are hanging in the clubhouse. Payment will be made to him after the first of the year. The Social Fund will pay part of it. 

Treasurer's Report - Rich Detering:

Rich presented the proposed 2008 budget to the Board. We've received more interest on our savings this year therefore will need to pay more taxes for the year. Members and Associates have been more timely in paying dues since the late fee was initiated.

Social Trustee's Report - Kim Brown:

20 people attended the Pumpkin Carving Contest at the Clubhouse. There were 45 people at the Halloween Party. Upcoming events: Winter Social, 11/29 and New Year's Eve Party, 12/31. Only 5 persons responded to the request of where people wanted the Social Fund to go. Of those 5, all said the funds should be used to buy Ken Duffin's paintings.


New Business:

Walt made a suggestion that Brae Burn update our insurance on the clubhouse and equipment. Details will be posted in December along with suggestions of the 10 year Long Range Planning Committee.

The Nominating Committee has been working on names for the 4 Board members who will replace outgoing Board members in 2008. If you are called or wish to volunteer, you *are* needed.

A letter will be going out the third week in December notifying all members of the Annual Meeting in January.

Old Business:

Regarding the families who are in violation of the community Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (CC&Rs) by parking vehicles with commercial signage in driveways or on the street, some have conformed and some have not. A motion was made that Jack see those still in violation and present a letter regarding their violation. The motion passed. 

Ruth Ann Blundell, Emeritus Member, has requested to be dropped from membership and return in two years. A motion was made to allow her to withdraw as an Emeritus and apply for re - entry at a later date. The motion passed. ✓

It was reported that an outside group has played the course without permission more than specified in the original agreement. The group will be contacted to discuss the solution.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 PM.

✓ **Update Message from the President.** Since the regular meeting Josh has finished evaluating the used Jacobson rough mower. The Board has discussed the repair vs replacement options for our rough mower based on Josh's input. The consensus of the Board is that we should purchase a mower and that the used Jacobson Josh has tested is the best alternative, but we did not want to make the purchase without notice to the community. I have authorized Walt/Josh to make the best deal they can with the seller, but to make the purchase contingent on Board approval at the next meeting, December 11. Please contact a Board member before then if you have questions or comments. – Jack Caldwell.

Upcoming Social Events



Annual Winter Social and “White Elephant” Auction. November 29 (Thursday). Kids and adults this year. Starts at 6:00. There will be a fun kids event (6:30 pm, secret Santa) followed by one for the adults (7:30 pm, “white elephant” auction). **Hosted by the Wollnys.** See flyer p. 7. Want to help out? Think about joining the decorating crew or donate ornaments for the tree on Tuesday, November 27th. (Eggnog and cookies for the decorating group!) Questions: call the Wollnys 425-653-2215.



Brae Burn Annual New Year’s Eve Progressive Dinner. December 31st starting at 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse for cocktails and hors d’oeuvres, then “progressing” around the neighborhood to members’ homes for salad and entrees then back to the Clubhouse for dessert and bringing in 2008. **Margaret and Walt Wollny** are chairing the event. (You can call them to sign up or wait for the December flyer.)

Member News

Don “Bionic Man” Aho (Lot #8) will soon be able to leap tall buildings in a single bound with his pair (yes, 2!) of new knees. Don sez, “Thanks to all our wonderful friends for the phone calls, cards, prayers and visits following my bilateral knee replacement. I was operated on October 29th at Virginia Mason Hospital in Seattle. I am now at home gaining strength and mobility each day.” (Don’t even think about asking for a higher handicap in April, Don. – Ed.)

Friday, October 19th, marked **Ron and Vera Campbell’s fiftieth wedding anniversary.** Here’s Ron’s report: “Our plans for an intimate dinner at a local restaurant were discarded when our children Bruce, Alison and Victoria announced that they had plans for a family dinner at an unspecified restaurant.

Bruce and his wife, Joan, acted as chauffeur for the evening which allowed us to partake of libations with a free conscience. On arrival at the mysterious restaurant, which turned out to be Ponti’s in Seattle and when ushered into the private dining room, Vera and I were delighted to see Ron’s sister and brother-in-law from Bellingham as well as our daughter, Victoria, and her boyfriend, Paul. Daughter Alison was missing, but it was assumed she was working late as usual. Later we were stunned to see Alison escorting grandson, Kyle, and granddaughter, Caitlin, into the room. Caitlin had flown in from Tucson, Arizona and Kyle had come up from Portland, Oregon. This was the best present that we could have received and there was joyous reunion by all.



After a delicious dinner, we were given the great news that the grandchildren would be spending the weekend at our home to get caught up on all the news. All in all, a wonderful celebration and looking forward to the next 50.”

New Grandpa. “My daughter is expecting and due Dec 7th. This is my first grandchild [granddaughter] so, needless to say, this is the big news in our family.” -- **Tom Easley** (Lot #12).

Associate Departure. **Dave and Annelie Wallbom** have reluctantly resigned after nearly 20 years as associates. Dave’s severe back problems have prevented him from playing golf, but he and Annelie wish to express their thanks to the community for all the great times they’ve had here and for all the wonderful friends they’ve made.

New Associates. Welcome to the Johnsons and the Montgomerys. Here is their contact information for your rosters.

- **JoAn & Charles Johnson**, 921 178th Place NE, Bellevue, WA 98008-3428. Phone: 425.747.3362. johnson921@aol.com and joanofarc98008@msn.com
- **Bob and Kathryn (Kay) Montgomery.** Sponsored by **Pete and Nancy Wright**, who submitted the following: "Bob is originally from Ohio. He came out here to work for Boeing as an engineer. Worked for the big "B" for 36 years, including a stint of 4 years in Wichita. Bob & Kay have three grown daughters who begat 8 grandsons! Kay is not a golfer, but Bob has been at it since he caddied as a young lad. He's been a neighbor of Pete Wright for 37 years and attends the same church as the Thompsons did. We hope he joins the Tuesday men's group." 1010 178th PI NE, Bellevue, WA 98008. Phone: 425-746-0658. No email.

Brae Burn's Website Gets a Make Over. Webmaster, **Pat Holman**, reports that the new website is now online at www.brae-burn.org Check it out. It looks great! Thanks, Pat.

Looking for gifts that will make a difference this holiday season? "Consider checking out the **online charity auction** for the National Eating Disorders Association, which is the nonprofit organization where I work You can make a difference in someone's life by bidding on a variety of items thus helping to support individuals and families in finding hope and recovery. Not to mention, for the golfers in our community there's a Puetz Golf certificate and other memorabilia! The auction goes through Dec. 2 at www.nationaleatingdisorders.cmarket.com where you'll find new items added often. Thank you for your time and support!" --**Tonia Brown** (Lot #57).

Garden Club News. Submitted by **Caroline Clark** (Lot #94).

- Garden Club welcomes **Jennie Disney** (Lot #74) as our newest member!
- We attended Ikebana International's **Bonsai Program** on October 18.
- You are invited to Ikebana International's Sumi-e painting program on November 15, at 10:30 am, in the Japanese Presbyterian Church. Midori Thiel shares her sumi-e painting demonstration AND she will demonstrate a classic Japanese "Kyougen Komai" dance accompanied by singing. Bring an apron.
- **Holiday Wreath and Yule Log Workshop** is on November 29 at 7:00pm. in the Tam O' Shanter Clubhouse. Bring your greens, a wire cutter and a pruner.
- December 13 at 9:45 am we carpool to our **Winter Garden Tour**. Meet in the TOS Clubhouse. Dress for the weather, we will see the bright red bark of acer grifeum, blooming Chinese Witch Hazel and Camillas. We lunch TOS Clubhouse. I will reschedule if it is pouring down rain.
- Join us at our meetings! Email or call Caroline Clark with questions. railcone@earthlink.net 425-445-2031

"Bob" the Coyote. We've had multiple sightings around community (but no photos for the Birdie!). Associate, **Jerry DiNino** reports, "the coyote's name is "Bob." He took up residence about 2 1/2 weeks ago in the back yard. Saw him again on 11/1 prancing around the cul-de-sac. Called animal control, they said the county passed an ordinance to protect the wild life, and bob is included. So unless he hurts a human, we are not to trap him."

Dispose of Your Old Electronics and Do a Good Deed. Thanks to Board Secretary, Joanne Jeppesen, for reporting this service: http://www.recycleforbreastcancer.org/about_rfbc.htm. This recycler donates "all profits to support the fight against breast cancer." Just ship (free) old electronics (e.g. cell phones, empty toner and ink cartridges, laptops, PDAs) for recycling. Free shipping labels can be downloaded at their site: <http://www.recycleforbreastcancer.org/>

Safety Committee Tips. See printouts at pp. 8-9 for Red Cross advice on Holiday and Winter Safety, including what to do to before and during the dreaded power outages. *Remember last year??* Thank you, **Kathy Heinemann** (Lot #64), for providing this information. For more information see <http://seattleredcross.org>

Editor's Featured Tips & Links.

- Video. Fun for all ages. <http://snipurl.com/1tula>. Shadow Puppets have come a long, l-o-n-g way.
- Early bird offer: <http://snipurl.com/1tul3> 500 GB (really) Maxtor One Touch external hard drive. \$80. The catch: starts at 5 am on so-called "Black Friday," the day after Thanksgiving (Nov. 23 for those who are counting).
- Intriguing offer: unlimited phone service; anywhere you can get on the Net. \$40 upfront; \$20/year after that. <http://snipurl.com/1tul0>

Editorial Staffing Upgrade. **Tonia Brown** (Lot #57) has graciously volunteered to put her youthful skills to work as the next Birdie Editor. She will fly solo starting with the February 2008 issue. **Thank you, Tonia.** –Editor.

Halloween 2007 at Brae Burn

The 1st Annual Pumpkin Carving Contest. October 27th. Twenty (20) brave souls, wielding safety knives and fiendish imaginations, created a variety of ghoulish gourds for display on Halloween night. The contest for best pumpkin ended up in a multi-way tie for first place. Thanks to all the Moms and Dads for participating and to Denni Shefrin for her inspiration and photos. *Related link:* <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MnY2SR4uOqk&> (Extreme pumpkin carving. Yes, innovative uses of power tools are demonstrated.)



Brae Burn Halloween Party. October 31st found 45 (!!) family members, all dressed in Halloween costumes, gathered at the Clubhouse for pizza, games and crafts before heading out through the neighborhood for trick or treating. Everyone enjoyed the evening. **Thanks to Carol Helland and Kim Brown & their helpers** for another great family-friendly event. More photos are posted to <http://snipurl.com/1tujx> (on the Brae Burn website).



Brae Burn, Inc.
TREASURER'S REPORT
Date Prepared: OCTOBER 2007

	October ACTUAL	YTD ACTUAL	2007 BUDGET	% of Annual BUDGET
DEPOSITS				
Dues	\$ 11,720.00	\$ 124,378.00	\$ 141,645.00	88%
Reserve	\$ 680.00	\$ 6,115.00	\$ 7,315.00	84%
Clubhouse Reservations	\$ 550.00	\$ 2,450.00	\$ 2,000.00	123%
Waiting List Deposits/Joining Fees	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	214%
Special Assessments	\$ -	\$ 20,400.00	\$ 19,800.00	103%
Investment Income	\$ 55.00	\$ 407.65	\$ 100.00	408%
Member Donations, Golf Tags & Other	\$ -	\$ 415.00	\$ 200.00	208%
TOTAL DEPOSITS	\$ 14,005.00	\$ 161,665.65	\$ 174,560.00	93%
EXPENDITURES				
WAGES				
Superintendent	\$ 3,962.00	\$ 37,167.50	\$ 44,000.00	84%
Medical Benefit	\$ 157.00	\$ 1,570.00	\$ 2,700.00	58%
Seasonal Personnel	\$ 1,833.01	\$ 11,426.91	\$ 10,000.00	114%
Payroll taxes	\$ 758.93	\$ 5,032.30	\$ 5,500.00	91%
Total Wage Expense	\$ 6,710.94	\$ 55,196.71	\$ 62,200.00	89%
COURSE EXPENSE				
Repair & Maintenance	\$ 2,583.06	\$ 12,038.18	\$ 14,500.00	83%
Water	\$ 2,135.10	\$ 12,480.60	\$ 13,000.00	96%
Utilities	\$ 108.10	\$ 1,351.84	\$ 1,800.00	75%
Fertilizer/Seed/Sand	\$ -	\$ 5,957.81	\$ 13,000.00	46%
Fuel	\$ 500.98	\$ 2,272.31	\$ 2,700.00	84%
Other	\$ -	\$ 318.06	\$ 2,000.00	16%
TOTAL COURSE EXPENSE	\$ 5,327.24	\$ 34,418.80	\$ 47,000.00	73%
CLUBHOUSE & POOL				
Electricity	\$ 210.30	\$ 2,110.53	\$ 3,600.00	59%
Garbage	\$ 57.10	\$ 603.29	\$ 550.00	110%
Gas	\$ 473.01	\$ 3,743.94	\$ 3,000.00	125%
Telephone	\$ 42.65	\$ 425.58	\$ 510.00	83%
Water	\$ 177.70	\$ 2,182.09	\$ 2,400.00	91%
SUBTOTAL UTILITIES	\$ 960.76	\$ 9,065.43	\$ 10,060.00	90%
Clubhouse Repair & Maintenance	\$ 226.89	\$ 1,928.42	\$ 2,500.00	77%
Pool Maintenance	\$ 779.56	\$ 5,875.98	\$ 4,600.00	128%
Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500.00	0%
SUBTOTAL Maintenance	\$ 1,006.45	\$ 7,804.40	\$ 7,600.00	103%
TOTAL CLUBHOUSE & POOL	\$ 1,967.21	\$ 16,869.83	\$ 17,660.00	96%
GENERAL EXPENSE				
Taxes				
Property	\$ 2,122.58	\$ 4,245.16	\$ 4,100.00	104%
IRS Income & Tax Preparation	\$ -	\$ 335.00	\$ 750.00	45%
Insurance	\$ -	\$ 4,168.00	\$ 5,000.00	83%
Birdie & Office	\$ 34.21	\$ 1,092.63	\$ 2,000.00	55%
Golf	\$ -	\$ 13.07	\$ 250.00	5%
Legal review of CCR's (2005) / CCR Registration (2006)	\$ 612.50	\$ 612.50	\$ 100.00	613%
Other	\$ -	\$ 359.12	\$ 1,000.00	36%
TOTAL GENERAL EXPENSE	\$ 2,769.29	\$ 10,825.48	\$ 13,200.00	82%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 16,774.68	\$ 117,310.82	\$ 140,060.00	84%
NET CASH (DEPOSITS-EXPENDITURES)	\$ (2,769.68)	\$ 44,354.83	\$ 34,500.00	
PROJECTS				
Paint Clubhouse	\$ -	\$ 891.90	\$ 4,500.00	20%
Course Equipment	\$ -	\$ 32,550.00	\$ 30,000.00	109%
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
TOTAL PROJECTS	\$ -	\$ 33,441.90	\$ 34,500.00	97%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 16,774.68	\$ 150,752.72	\$ 174,560.00	86%
NET CASH (DEPOSITS-TOTAL EXPENDITURES)	\$ (2,769.68)	\$ 10,912.93	\$ -	

Total Funds - Beginning	\$ 66,600.47	\$ 52,917.86	
Net Cash (Deposits-Total Exp.)	\$ (2,769.68)	\$ 10,912.93	
Total Funds - End of Period	\$ 63,830.79	\$ 63,830.79	

Balances	
Checking	\$11,240.41
CD	\$ 31,000.00
Savings	\$ 21,590.38
Cap Equip Res	\$ 6,115.00
Emer Reserve	\$ 15,475.38
Total	\$ 63,830.79

Total Members/Associates Past Due on "NOV 6" 3 dues at \$510 and 1 late fee \$75

BRAEBURN WINTER SOCIAL

Date: Thursday, November 29th

Time: 6pm

Location: Clubhouse

Bring your favorite Christmas appetizer to share.
A Special Christmas Homebrew, hot buttered-rum, hot chocolate, coffee, and tea
will be provided

Kids Secret Santa at 6:30pm

"White Elephant" Auction at 7:30pm
Bring a wrapped gift to be auctioned off by this years auctioneer,
Greg Helland



Anyone that wants to help decorate our tree or donate tree ornaments....
Please join us Tuesday, Nov 27th. Between 5:30 and 7pm
Eggnog and cookies will be served.

PS. BRING SOME CANNED GOODS FOR THE FOOD BANK!

RED CROSS OFFERS SAFETY TIPS FOR THE HOLIDAYS AND COLD WEATHER

The holiday season is upon us, and the Northwest winter along with it. The American Red Cross Serving King & Kitsap Counties offers some safety tips to prepare you and your family for a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

Exposure to cold can cause injury or serious illness, including frostbite and hypothermia. The likelihood of injury or illness depends on such factors as physical activity, clothing, wind, humidity, working and living conditions, and a person's age and general state of health. But we can all be a bit safer with some forethought.

Follow these tips to stay safe in cold weather and enjoy your holiday season:

- Holiday traveling and winter can be a dangerous combination. Allow extra time when traveling. Monitor weather conditions carefully and adhere to travel advisories.
- Keep a winter storm survival kit in your car. This should include blankets, food, flares, chains, gloves and first aid supplies.
- Designate a driver. When attending a party, always designate a non-drinking driver. If you are the host of a holiday gathering, be sure there are non-alcoholic beverages available for guests who are driving.
- Buckle up. During the holiday months, people travel more than ever. Wearing a seat belt is the easiest and best way to prevent injury in a motor vehicle collision. Ensure that all passengers are also wearing safety belts.
- Dress appropriately before going outdoors. The air temperature does not have to be below freezing for someone to experience cold emergencies such as hypothermia and frostbite. Wind speed can create dangerously cold conditions even when the temperature is not that low. If possible, dress in multiple thin layers so you can adjust to changing conditions. Avoid overdressing or overexertion that can lead to heat illness.
- Always be careful with holiday candles. Avoid using candles during parties. Take special care when burning candles and make sure they are never left unattended. Be sure they are kept away from decorations and other combustible materials. Don't leave children unattended in a room with lit candles, and always keep candles, as well as matches and lighters, out of the reach of children. Never display lighted candles in windows or near exits.
- Decorate only with flame-retardant or noncombustible materials. If guests will be smoking, provide them with large, deep ashtrays and check them frequently. After the party, check inside and under upholstery and in trash cans for cigarette butts that may be smoldering. If you plan to hang stockings on your fireplace, do not use the fireplace for fires.
- Keep Christmas trees fresh. Choose a fresh Christmas tree and secure it in a sturdy stand. Place the tree away from heat sources and exits, and water it daily. If you purchase an artificial tree, be sure it is labeled as fire-retardant.
- Enroll in a First Aid and CPR course. Although these tips can help prevent an emergency, it is also important to be prepared should an emergency situation arise. To enroll in a First Aid or CPR course, contact your local Red Cross. (This would also make a wonderful gift!)
- Get your furry friends a special gift. The American Red Cross and the Humane Society of the United States have teamed up to help people help their pets. Pet First Aid is an important reference guide for anyone with a cat or dog. Contact your local Red Cross at (206) 323-2345 or (360) 773-3761 to purchase your copy, or ask for Pet First Aid at your local bookstore.
- Giving the gift of Preparedness is a great way to show you care. Purchasing or putting together 3-day Disaster Supply Kits is a wonderful way to help the friend or family member who 'knows they should' but never quite gets around to creating one for themselves.

RED CROSS POWER OUTAGE SAFETY TIPS

Take Control in Restoring Power to Your Home – Electrical fires sometimes occur when there is a power surge upon restoration of electrical service to the home. Turn off all electrical appliances and devices that were on before the power went off, including television sets, washers, dryers, space heaters, and lighting. Leave one lamp on so you know when the power is restored.

Do Not Use Candles or Camping Lanterns – Flashlights are the safest form of alternate lighting to use. Candles are frequently forgotten, and when they burn down or if they are placed too close to combustibles, they can cause a fire. Also, candles invite child fire play. When you're not looking, a child may play with a candle and cause a fire or get burned. Camping lanterns are designed for use in very well ventilated areas only. They produce large amounts of Carbon Monoxide (CO), which is an odorless, tasteless gas that kills quickly and silently. If you are unsure whether a gas-fueled water heater or furnace is working, use a flashlight to look for the pilot light. Some people have been injured or killed while using a candle to check a gas appliance.

Be Cautious With Portable and Space Heaters – Place heaters at least three feet away from anything combustible, including wallpaper, bedding, clothing, pets, and people. Never leave portable or other space heaters operating when you are not in the room or when you go to bed. Don't leave children or pets unattended with space heaters and be sure everyone knows that drying wet mittens or other clothing over space heaters is a fire danger and should not be done.

Be Very Cautious When Using Alternate Heating Devices – Be sure a wood or coal stove or liquid fuel heater bears the label of a recognized testing laboratory and meets local fire codes. Follow manufacturers' recommendations for proper use and maintenance. Follow the same safety rules for wood stoves as you would for space heaters. Burn only wood, and be sure the wood stove is placed on an approved stove board to protect the floor from heat and hot coals.

Refuel Portable Liquid Fuel Heaters Carefully – Let the heater completely cool off before refueling. Refuel it outdoors, following manufacturer's recommendations. Do not refuel a portable heater while it is operating or if it is hot!

Never Using Cooking Equipment For Heat – Stoves and ovens are designed for cooking, not heating a home. Fires and deaths have occurred in winter months from people using cooking equipment to heat a home. This is a dangerous fire hazard, and should not be done.

Do Not Open the Refrigerator or Freezer – Perishable foods should not be held above 40 degrees for more than 2 hours. Tell your little ones not to open the door. An unopened refrigerator will keep foods cold enough for a couple of hours at least. A freezer that is half full will hold up for 24 hours and a full freezer for 48 hours.

Pack a Cooler – If it looks like the power outage will be for more than 2 – 4 hours, pack refrigerated milk, dairy products, meats, fish, poultry, eggs, gravy, stuffing and leftovers into a cooler surrounded by ice. If it looks like the power outage will be prolonged, prepare a cooler with ice for your freezer items.

Eat Shelf-stable Foods – Shelf-stable foods such as canned goods and powdered or boxed milk should be safe to eat. These can be eaten cold or heated on the grill.

Use a Food Thermometer - Check the internal temperature of the food in your refrigerator with a quick-response thermometer. A liquid such as milk or juice is easy to check. Spot check other items like steaks or leftovers also. If the internal temperature is about 40 degrees, it is best to throw it out. If the food in the freezer is not above 40 degrees and there are still ice crystals, you can refreeze.

For more information, visit www.seattlredcross.org.