

A Hopeful Whistle Stop

By Rhona Baron

Some days are harder than others. On the tough days, I've just learned that another citizen has given up trying to effect change, that they've relinquished the notion of trusting our city's representative government when it comes to neighborhood and land development. They might be saddened by the loss of duck filled meadows along Pine Street. They might be gritting their teeth every time they glance up Tumwater Canyon toward the reflective "roller coaster" that now interferes with the historic view.

When we launched The Whistle, I didn't realize the extent of hopelessness within the community. But I get it. Some days I also have a hard time believing that my single voice can make a difference. So this quick Whistle Stop is for all of you who have become disillusioned, disenfranchised, discouraged and numb. Time to dust off the sludge and recognize that no matter what, your thoughts and voices matter. You, dear voting citizen, are crucial to a healthy community!

On November 1st, the residents of Leavenworth will have a unique opportunity to gather and be heard by the city staff and elected officials at the City's Community Engagement night. Since the city is advertising how much they "value your feedback" and want to provide people an opportunity to "let your voice be heard" the event seems designed to recognize locals.

I've contacted the City for details on the comment process and I am waiting to hear back. In the next Whistle column on October 26, I'll provide details and organize your citizen concerns in writing. In the meantime, we have a request for you! Please contact The Whistle Team through the comment portal at LWhistle.com and let us know what's most important. The Whistle is blowing; climb aboard! There is still strength in numbers.