

# Location key to Vuecrest's success

**By Camilla Sparks**  
Special to HOME

Location, location and location. It's not just the top concern of home buyers, real-estate agents say, it's the top three.

One Eastside neighborhood with an excellent location is Bellevue's Vuecrest, which shares a private perch on Northeast Eighth Street across from Bellevue Square. In fact, if the word location were listed in a real-estate dictionary, a picture of Vuecrest would be right next to it, says Kathy Hodge, agent for John L. Scott Real Estate and a resident of neighboring Clyde Hill.

Vuecrest's 18 square blocks include 250 homes on the southwest side of Clyde Hill, providing 30 percent of its homeowners with views of Seattle, Lake Washington and the Olympic Mountains. Some even have views of Mount Rainier.

The neighborhood's west Bellevue location assures its residents of escape from the commuters' crawl which plagues residents in neighborhoods east of Bellevue. No home in Vuecrest is more than a few blocks from Bellevue Square or the Bellevue Post Office. Even Clyde Beach Park on Lake Washington is less than half a mile away.

In October, as the lunar eclipse drew moon watchers outdoors, Hazel Dahlgren stood in front of her Vuecrest home watching the moon disappear over the Bellevue skyline. This surreal scene ascended from her dahlia garden as if part of the landscape, assuring Dahlgren once again that Vuecrest residents enjoy the best vantage point anywhere.

Dahlgren is retired, but she still industriously tends the mums, dahlias and shrubs around her Vuecrest rambler. She is one of many retired residents in Vuecrest, nearly 20 percent of whom are original owners in this 45-year-old neighborhood, Hodge says.

These original owners share pride in having bought into one of the Eastside's first planned communities and being among the first communities to have utility wires put underground.

Original Vuecrest residents drew up covenants which still govern maintenance of the community's three entrances. These covenants have protected homeowners' views and guarded the architectural integrity of their homes for nearly five decades.

Newer residents like Tim and Mardi Myre feel lucky to live in Vuecrest. Tim is a teacher. His wife Mardi stays home to raise their children, and

admits it would be difficult for them to buy in Vuecrest today, when homes range between \$250,000 and \$1 million. They bought their home 15 years ago, when older homes in prime neighborhoods were still affordable.

Over the years, Tim Myre has developed a small clientele of older neighbors, who hire him to maintain their yards. Landscaping standards are high in Vuecrest. Trimmed lawns, sculptured shrubs and weed-free flower beds characterize most yards.

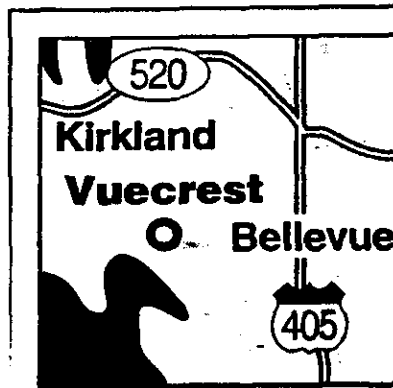
Tim's wife Mardi enjoys their access to Bellevue Square, which allows her to leave the car home in

nice weather. When the holidays roll around, however, Mardi says Vuecrest's proximity to Bellevue Square can be troublesome. The shopping mall's holiday traffic virtually locks in Vuecrest residents by blocking their Northeast Eighth Street entrance.

Mardi is also aware that their 2,400-square-foot rambler in Vuecrest is small by the standards of friends who have bought newer homes east of Bellevue. But she laughs when noting the number of friends who ask her to watch for a house they could buy in Vuecrest.

When asked why, they tell her, "location, location and location."

November 10, 1996



Clay Frost/HOME

## Vuecrest

**Location:** North of Northeast Eighth Street, between 92nd Avenue Northeast and 100th Avenue Northeast in Bellevue

**Price range:** \$250,000 to \$1 million

**Home size:** 1,200 square feet to 4,000 square feet

**Schools:** Bellevue School District; Medina Elementary School, Chinook Middle School, Bellevue High School

**Shopping:** Bellevue Square one block east, QFC shopping center one block east

**Area amenities:** Bellevue Post Office, Bellevue Library, Downtown Park, Clyde Beach Park, Meydenbauer Park

**Freeway access:** Interstate 90 three miles south; Highway 520 two miles north; Interstate 405 one mile east