

FAIRGROUNDS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Bridget Schwarz
Executive Board
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March 2011

PO Box 61905
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360-573.5873

Dear neighbors,

There are 3 important topics on our agenda for our March 10 meeting.

First, we will have a quick update from Jilayne Jordan with Vancouver/Clark Parks & Rec. The road improvement costs for the Kozy Kamp neighborhood park cuts into the park development budget. With that in mind we need to prioritize the amenities we want in the park.

Planning has begun for the Salmon Creek Community Club neighborhood park on NE 159th Street at NE 20th Avenue. We will get a brief overview of the project so we can prepare to provide input about the development.

Both of these park developments will be the subject of open houses in the next couple months.

Our guest will be county commissioner Tom Mielke. Tom is nominated by us (District 1) and then elected by a county-wide vote. Tom will share his concerns with us and listen to ours.

Finally, we will update you on the status of the many code enforcement complaints against one of our neighbors. We'll show you the map that indicates where thefts have occurred.

Sincerely,
Bridget Schwarz
on behalf of the Executive Board

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

FGNA meets with the County Commissioners
Community of Christ meeting room, 400 NE 179th ST
Thursday, March 10, 2011 @ 7 pm
Tom Mielke
Thursday, April 14, 2011 @ 7 pm
Marc Boldt

This is our traditional series of meetings with our elected Clark County commissioners. They will come to us with their most important concerns. You bring yours!

FGNA monthly meetings

Second Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM

Do you have a topic to discuss? Come to our meetings. Do you have a speaker you want us to invite? Call Vicki Fitzsimmons at 360.573.6604 or e-mail her at vicki.fitzsimmons@edwardjones.com.

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UPDATE

Here's where we were at last month.

One property owner is running up an enormous bill (at taxpayer expense) as Clark County deals with all these code enforcement complaints:

Noxious weeds; starving horses; escaped horses killed on the road; overgrown vegetation; broken fences; junk and debris; occupied trailers; illegal burning; abandoned vehicles; and fire hazards.

Imagine the cost! And there are a dozen neighbors convinced that these same folks are responsible for numerous thefts from their garages, vehicles, tool sheds, shops and storage buildings.

Here's where we are at today.

Thanks to an FGNA member we have a map the size of my kitchen table. Each parcel is shown with an identifier number. He also got us a 2 mb spreadsheet with names and addresses and that same identifier code.

We have outlined the impact area for these nuisance neighbors as I-5 east, 41st Avenue west, 159th south and 199th north. We have filtered and sorted the spreadsheet to prepare a call list.

The theft victims and other nearby homeowners have spent hours looking up phone numbers and calling our neighbors to warn them about the local crime spree. In the process we have identified more victims.

Here's what's next.

At our FGNA meeting March 10 we will report the results of the various code enforcement complaints. (For investigations that are still open that is all we will know.)

We will bring our map so you can see what is going on. We will try to compare our feedback from neighbors to the call stats the Sheriff's office keeps.

We will brainstorm ways to halt this crime spree.

The bottom line.

Unfortunately, the property rights that protects us also protects them. Solving this problem is not going to be a sprint. Prepare for a marathon.

FAIRGROUNDS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

George Vartanian
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Greetings –

Sheriff Garry Lucas is considering putting together a program very similar to the Neighbors On Watch (NOW) program being used by the city of Vancouver police. The program involves volunteers from various areas around the county who are willing to volunteer their time and drive around a generally assigned area to “keep an eye” on things which may look suspicious.

The objective is to put more eyes on the community. There will be training and radios given during tours of “duty”. There will be no engaging with potential problems, only to observe and report.

As yet the program is still in the early consideration stages. No amount of volunteer time has been identified and specific training has not been determined. At this point the Sheriff is only trying to find out the level of interest out there. If you are interested please e mail me at gvart@comcast.net with NOW in the subject line and include your name and phone number.

Thank you,
George Vartanian
For the Executive Board

FGNA EXECUTIVE BOARD

Our neighborhood association is unique. We do not elect officers. Instead we have a 9 member Executive Board (EB) that serves a 2 year term.

For 2011-2012 we have open positions. Consider joining the Executive Board! Contact George or Bridget.

We communicate mostly by e-mail. We usually only meet face to face to prepare our newsletter mailing. Each board member has projects and issues they care about. They pursue those interests on our behalf. Other concerns are addressed as they come up.

The Executive Board relies on the results of our annual member survey for direction. When that is not possible we ask for feedback at our monthly meetings. If that is not possible - due to time limitations - the Executive Board works to reach a consensus decision.

Our experience on the Executive Board makes us knowledgeable about a wide variety of issues that impact our neighborhood's quality of life. We are happy to offer help and advice.

But we all lead busy lives! Often we hear good ideas from our members. In many cases you will be expected to take the lead in pursuing your plan (with our help). The FGNA members that are victims of our local crime spree are a good example.

If the people most impacted by a problem are not involved in the solution why would anyone else jump in?

FAIRGROUNDS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

2011 FGNA EXECUTIVE BOARD

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GENERAL MEETINGS :

WE MEET at 7 PM ON SECOND THURSDAYS AT THE COMMUNITY of CHRIST MEETING ROOM
400 NE 179TH STREET, 1/2 MILE WEST OF I-5

OUR BOUNDARIES :

NORTH: 219th Street WEST: Lake River EAST: NE 72nd Avenue
SOUTH: *West of I-5*, NW 151st Street to NW 41st Avenue to 164th Street; *East of I-5*, NE Kline Road to NE 119th Street to Salmon Creek Avenue to Salmon Creek Street to Salmon Creek to NE 72nd Avenue.

The fine print:

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