



# THE VOICE OF THE HILLS

## NEWSLETTER OF THE East Fork Hills Rural Association

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March 15, 2011

### Neighborhood Meeting Set for April 17th

We are planning a meeting of the East Fork Hills Rural Association on April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 pm at the above address.

We will have two speakers. Carolyn Gordon, coordinator of the WSU Master Gardeners Volunteers, will tell us about the programs offered, and will share some information about raising Christmas trees. Carolyn is also a neighbor and has held some gardening classes at her farm.

Richard Dyrland, president of the Friends of the East Fork, will describe his group's efforts to preserve the fish runs in the East Fork of the Lewis River.

The Master Gardeners' program has classes in the fall, open to anyone who has an interest in horticulture. It's a 12 week course and consists of on-line lessons, classroom lectures and hands on activities. It's a way to gain some extremely useful information for those interested in growing vegetables, landscaping, and maintaining their properties. More information is available at: <http://clark.wsu.edu/about/>.

Friends of the East Fork is a non-profit organization, dedicated to preserving the fish runs in the East Fork. The river has held the world record for steelhead, according to Gary Loomis, who is well known for his fishing equipment and expertise. It is home to four species of endangered salmon as well as other aquatic and riparian wildlife. In the last 40 years it has suffered assaults from farming, land clearing, chemical and sewage contamination and gravel mining. The river used to run cold, swift, and deep, good conditions for fish spawning, but now the water temperatures reach lethal levels in the summer, which kill the freshly spawned fish and inhibit spawning as well.

Richard Dyrland is a hydrologist, who has designed several rehabilitation projects on the East Fork and Cedar Creek as well as other waterways in the U.S. He is retired from the Forest Service but continues to work full time with the Friends of the East Fork and with Fish First. His projects have been highly successful in restoring fish populations. It's a rewarding day trip to visit the sites and see the progress that has been made.

### Election of Officers

It is also time to re-elect officers for our association. We have had the same officers for many years, and it would be good to see some new faces contributing their ideas and experience to the group.

## Phone Books Delivery Problems

Many neighbors have been upset about the recent delivery of phone books in bags being left by every mail box. I have gathered some information about how to resolve the issue. There is a website to opt-out of delivery, which I tried, without much success. The website is: <http://www.yellowpagesgoesgreen.org/opt-out.php>.

I also asked Clark County Commissioner Steve Stuart if he knew of any resources we can use to stop the unwanted deliveries. Here is the response from Kevin Gray, Environmental Coordinator for Clark County:

From: Gray, Kevin  
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 10:26 AM  
To: Stuart, Steve  
Cc: Largent, Anita  
Subject: RE: Phone books

Good Morning Commissioner,

Phonebooks and junk mail are the bane of our existence - hopefully, soon to recognize their own obsolescence. Unfortunately, opting out of phonebook delivery is often ineffective, due to their delivery systems. A legislative or policy fix to the problem may be troublesome to enact.

We try to provide some decent web sites (attached) to help people with their questions. Furthermore, the cart instructions, as well as bill insert reminders, typically cover common items, like phone books. We advertise more during busy recycle or waste generation times, i.e. holidays and spring cleaning. We'll look into reminders to coincide with phonebook delivery.

KJG

<http://www.clark.wa.gov/recycle/reduction/junk.html>

<http://www.clark.wa.gov/recycle/recyclingA-Z.html>

## **The Value of a Neighborhood Association**

Clark County has 30 neighborhood associations and 93 if the Vancouver groups are included. You can see the boundaries on a map online at <http://www.clark.wa.gov/neighborhoods/associations.html>. Our neighborhood assn. was formed in 1993. At that time Clark County had not established a comprehensive plan for growth and lots were being developed without consideration of costs to taxpayers for roads, septic and water systems, schools and other quality of life issues. It was possible for a developer to place several houses next to a 100 acre farm. Rural residents had no control over who could be moving in next door and there were many unpleasant situations as a result. In 1995 Clark County adopted the first comprehensive plan and since then it has been more difficult to develop lots wherever someone had property to sell. That too has caused many problems, but at least those problems could be addressed in courts, and the residents have a much greater say in how the neighborhood evolves.

We are fortunate that our neighborhood has the fourth lowest crime rate of all the 93 associations, according to the Columbian's "Clark County Portrait" of 2011.

It is very helpful to have a neighborhood organized so that if emergencies arise, the neighborhood can be alerted quickly. As president, I have a list of some of the neighbors' emails that is used to help alert residents of problems, lost animals, people in need of help, etc. The county will pay for a newsletter twice a year and see that it's delivered, but having an email list is much better if people want to be notified of local issues. These alerts are sent very rarely...3-4 times a year and must be non-political. If you wish to be included in the list, please send an email to the address above, to be added.

Hope to see you at the meeting, April 17<sup>th</sup>!

Val Alexander, Chair, East Fork Hills Rural Assn.

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