

Greater **Brush Prairie**

Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 103, Brush Prairie, WA 98606-0103

brushprairie@comcast.net

November 2011

896-7119

Annexation Hearing

November 21st

7PM

Battle Ground City Hall
109 SW 1st Street, 2nd floor
Battle Ground

By Neighbor Mark Gawecki

The City of Battle Ground has rescheduled the public hearing on the *Sixty Percent Petition* to annex the Cedars Golf Course into the City. The hearing will take place at 7:00 PM at Battle Ground City Hall on November 21st. Please attend and support the anti-annexation effort as this is the first step in Battle Ground's 50-year plan to annex Brush Prairie and Hockinson areas. What affects Cedars will affect all of us.

If you intend on speaking at the hearing, please let me know the topic and I will try to coordinate the speakers and topics to be most effective.

As you may know, once the Cedars Golf Course is annexed and the Islands of Brush Prairie are created, it will be a simple matter for the City of Battle Ground to annex the Islands. This can be done nearly automatically without regard to the opinion of the neighbors affected. ***We must try to stop this process now!***

The County Commissioners may play a role in this process. Please write, e-mail, or telephone the County Commissioners and express your opinion.

Greater Brush Prairie Meeting

Tuesday, December 20th, 7 PM

Hockinson Fire Station, FD #3
17718 NE 159th Street
Vancouver, WA 98662

Agenda

Welcome Hockinson!

Treasurer's Report

Judy Sproul

Fire District #3

Chief Steve Wrightson

Annexation Resistance (ARC)

Mark Gawecki

City Incorporation (CIC)

Ray Steiger

Board of Clark County Commissioners

PO Box 5000

Vancouver, WA

98666-5000

360-397-2232 (for all commissioners)

Tom Mielke, County Commissioner District 1

tom.mielke@clark.wa.gov

(Our district)

Marc Boldt, County Commissioner District 2

marc.boldt@clark.wa.gov

(East County)

Steve Stuart, County Commissioner District 3

steve.stuart@clark.wa.gov

(Downtown)

Mark Gawecki may be reached at

msgawecki@comcast.net or 360-666-3398

Hockinson united with Brush Prairie

Concerned Citizens of Hockinson has united with Greater Brush Prairie Neighborhood Association (GBPNA) to form a much larger neighborhood association with 3868 households and a population of 11,590. Beyond the same city name in many of our addresses, we share a desire to control our destiny and form a common vision that is radically different from other entities surrounding us.

The officers of GBPNA wish to thank Jack Bremer (President) and Darlene Warner (Treasurer) for years of dedicated service in defining the character of Hockinson neighborhood. Together, we speak with a much stronger voice.

A warm and hearty welcome to our neighbors in Hockinson!

What's Happening at Fire District 3?

By Chief Steve Wrightson

Response to fire and medical emergencies is up 21.3 % over this time last year. We continue to analyze our response statistics to formulate conclusions on why this increase is occurring. Medical emergencies have increased by about 27% since last year. Chimney fires have also increased greatly over last year, probably due to the colder Fall we are experiencing. Another large increase is noted in the request for out of Fire District responses – covering our neighboring fire departments and communities. We continue to work with our emergency response partners to plan for more efficient and effective use of resources.

Rescue 31 was placed in service in July 2011 at the Hockinson Fire Station. The 2011 Chevrolet Tahoe responds to medical emergencies for a large area including Brush Prairie, Hockinson and the Hockinson Hills. The new apparatus reduces response times and lowers overall response costs, versus sending a fire engine to all calls. The Rescue does not replace our main “tool box”, the fire engine, but adds a new tool to be used when appropriate. We sometimes refer to the Rescue as a “tool belt”. The Rescue carries enough of the right equipment to handle any medical emergency.

This is budget season at Fire District 3. We are putting together our 2012 budget right now. Our assessed valuation has dropped about 28% since 2007. This has impacted the amount of tax revenue we collect to provide the service. We should have the 2012 preliminary assessed valuation numbers in early November. This information is fundamental to the development of the next budget. Fire District 3 is committed to conservative fiscal management. Our long range planning has helped us weather the financial crisis and we think this preparation will continue to serve us well through the rough times.

Fire District 3 personnel are working on numerous projects locally and county-wide. Here are some of the things we are working on:

- **CRESA** – Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency
 - The selection of a new Director.
 - The new 9-1-1 dispatch Move –Up – Module.
 - Reviewing over 1,000 county-wide emergency response plans.
 - Emergency Radio system changes and improvements.
 - Emergency Medical Services Redesign Group

- **Camp Bonneville** emergency response plan.
- **Annual Fire District 3 Fire Prevention Week Poster Contest**
- **Squad 33** in-service preparation.
- **IFSAC Certification of Fire Officers.**

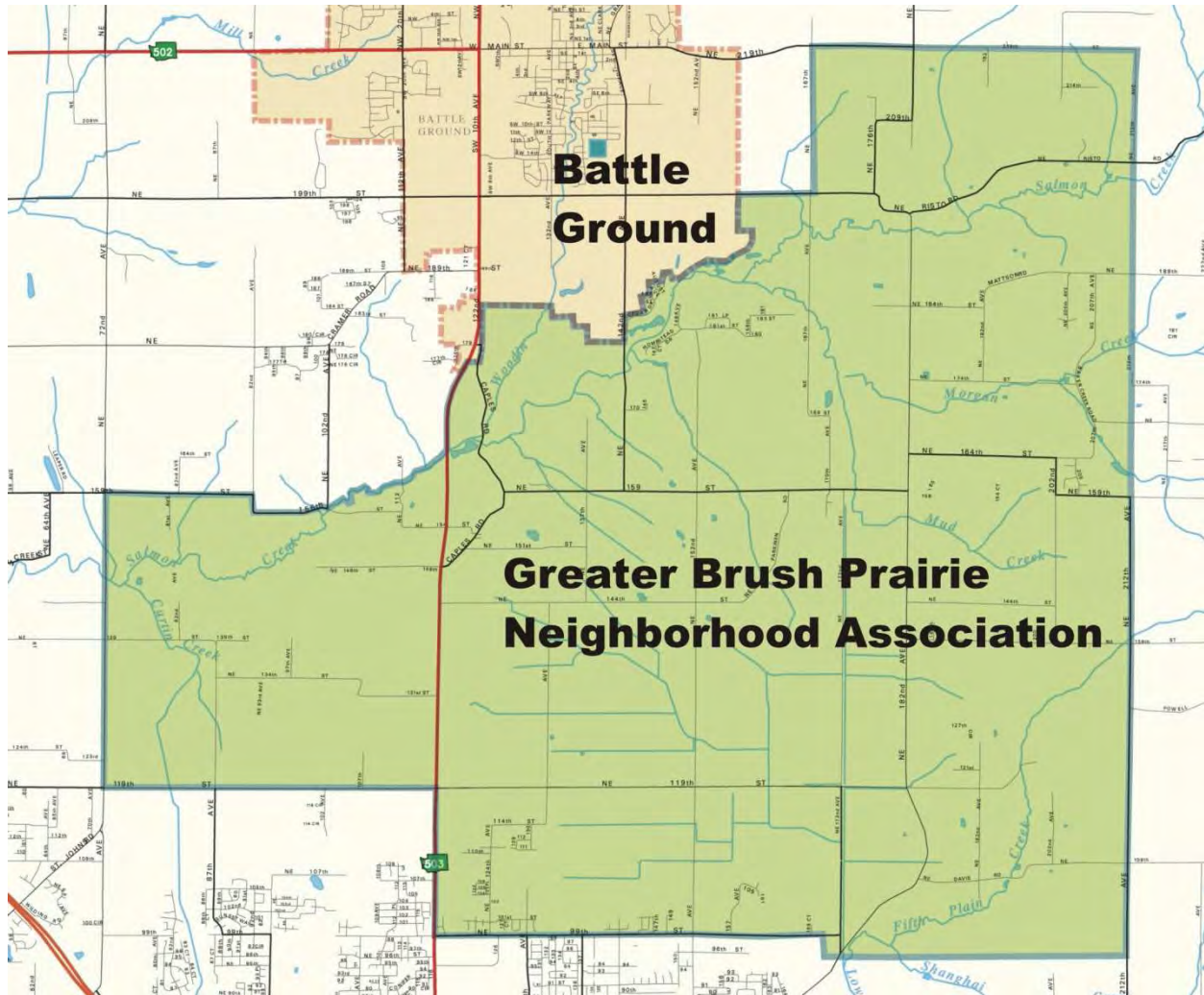
In case you missed the You Tube video of our fire/EMS personnel rescuing a fawn in the Summer Hills neighborhood in May, take a look at the video posting. You can find the video on You Tube by entering Fawn Rescue. The film was posted by Eddie Bett. The video has nearly 187,000 hits on You Tube and has been seen by people all over the world.

We receive one to two phone calls, letters or e-mails per week regarding the story.

Fire District 3 provides fire and emergency medical services to over 80 square miles including the communities of Brush Prairie, Hockinson, Heisson/Battle Ground Lake; Rawson Road/Hockinson Hills and Venersborg. The fire district has four fire stations serving a population of about 20,000 people. The main fire station is in Hockinson. Please contact us at (360) 892-2331 on the web at www.fire3.org.

Greater Brush Prairie Neighborhood Association

New boundaries after uniting with Concerned Citizens of Hockinson



Flu shots are the best defense against flu

Health officials recommend vaccinations for everyone 6 months and older

Although flu levels remain low in Clark County, this is when flu season typically ramps up. Flu is a contagious respiratory disease that kills thousands of Americans annually and hospitalizes many thousands more. Fortunately, there's plenty of vaccine this flu season. Flu shots are recommended for everyone six months and older.

“Getting vaccinated is the best way to protect yourself, your family and those around you from flu,” said Dr. Alan Melnick, Clark County Health Officer. “The sooner you get vaccinated, the sooner you can help prevent flu-related illness, missed school and missed work.”

It takes about two weeks after vaccination for antibodies to develop in the body and provide protection against the flu.

To get a flu shot, contact your health care provider or check with a local pharmacy. Vaccination with the live, nasal-spray flu vaccine (FluMist) is an option if you are between two and 49, healthy and not pregnant.

People at greatest risk of complications from flu are especially urged to get vaccinated. They include infants and young children, pregnant women, people 65 and older and people with asthma, diabetes, heart disease and neurological and other long-term health conditions.

To create flu vaccines, health experts study flu virus samples collected around the world

to identify viruses most likely to cause illness during the upcoming flu season. Flu vaccine effectiveness can vary from season to season based on, for example, the age and health of the person vaccinated and how well the flu vaccine matches the flu viruses spreading in the community.

Because of this variability, flu vaccines can be less effective than vaccines for other diseases, some of which provide almost 100 percent protection. Even so, flu vaccines remain the most effective way to prevent the flu and The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) encourages broader use of flu vaccinations. The CDC also supports ongoing efforts to develop a new and improved flu vaccine.

In addition to being vaccinated, the CDC also recommends that people observe these everyday practices to reduce the chance of catching or spreading flu and other diseases:

- Cough or sneeze into your arm or cover your nose and mouth with a tissue. After using a tissue, throw it in the trash and wash your hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you are sick with flu-like illness, stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone, except to get medical care or for other necessities. Your fever should come down without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.
- While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them.
- For more information, see cdc.gov/flu/protect/habits/

Flu season usually peaks between November and March. Since each flu season is different, predicting the severity of the 2011-2012 flu season is not possible. A weekly Influenza Surveillance Report summarizing local flu activity is provided at www.co.clark.wa.us/public-health/diseases/flu.html

How to fill, stack sandbags

Nearly 2,200 homes and other structures in Clark County are partially or entirely within floodplains, which have a 1 percent chance of flooding any year.

With the Northwest's rainy season approaching, learning about using sandbags could help protect property during a flood. Here's how to fill sandbags:

- Fill sandbags 1/2 to 2/3 full, tie at top so bag will lay flat when put in place. A properly filled sand bag should weigh between 35-40 lbs.
- Overfilled bags and bags tied too low leave gaps in sandbag levee allowing water to seep through. An overfilled sandbag can weigh 70 - 75 lbs.
- TIP: Always use gloves to protect your hands during the filling operation. After handling treated bags, avoid contact with your eyes and mouth. Dress appropriately and layer clothing. Safety goggles should be used on dry and windy days.

HOW TO PLACE SANDBAGS:

- Sandbags should be placed flat on ground, overlapped, tamped into place, and stairstepped.

- Remove any debris from the areas where bags are to be placed. Place the bags lengthwise and parallel to the direction of flow with the untied open ends of the bags facing upstream. Fill the low spots first before placing bags the full length of the area to be raised. Start at the downstream end of the sandbag operation about 1 foot landward from the river or levee's edge and continue upstream.
- Fold the open end of the bag under the filled portion. Place succeeding bags with the bottom of the bag tightly and partially overlapping the previous bag. Offset adjacent rows or layers by one-half bag length to avoid continuous joints. To eliminate voids and form a tight seal, compact and shape each bag by walking on it and continue the process as each layer is placed. This flattens the top of the bag and prevents slippage between succeeding layers.

Polyethylene (plastic) sheet that comes in rolls 20 ft wide by 100 ft long is used to wrap sandbag levees to prevent seepage. Plastic sheet should be placed on downstream portion of levee first, then worked upstream with a two to three foot overlap. Plastic sheet is held in place with sandbags

Flooding is the United States' most common and costly natural disaster. Clark County's last big flood, in February 1996, damaged or destroyed nearly 300 homes and caused \$25 million in property losses.

For more information on flood preparedness, visit Public Works' flooding webpage, www.clark.wa.gov/publicworks/flood/index.html, or Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency's website, cresa911.org

Life after Annexation

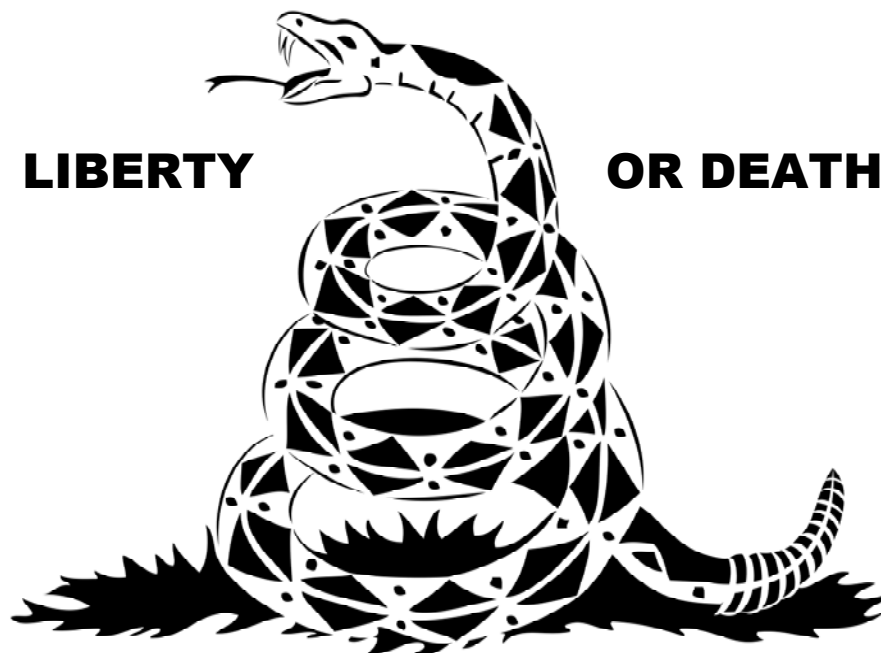
After a municipality successfully launches a hostile takeover of an area clearly opposed to annexation, what can the hopping mad residents do besides voting the bums out in the next election? Ironically, as new citizens, you have a new found voice to continue to challenge the purported benefits of a forced annexation.

Some examples of potential options:

- Ensure that the HOA is strong with a current Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions (CC&R's) that address livability and de facto zoning issues. Effective enforcement of the CC&R's by the HOA will be critical to maintaining the character of the neighborhood.
- Put up large informational signs with a clear message that alerts area visitors to lunacy of the annexation.

- Partner with other groups surrounding the city opposed to annexation. Numerous neighborhoods in urban growth boundary are yet to be annexed. Latest map of to-be-annexed areas can be found by going to gis.clark.wa.gov and clicking on GIS MapsOnline under Land Records on the left top panel.
- Continue to lobby appropriate government officials through private meetings, public sessions, or even picketing city hall.
- Finally, exercise your right to vote and elect officials that support greater voice from the neighborhoods, annexed or not.

You can survive the annexation by being actively involved, showing strength in numbers, and effectively using HOA and freedom of speech laws to your advantage.



**DONT TREAD ON ME
DONT TURN OUR COMMUNITY INTO BATTLE GROUND**

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P.O. Box 103
Brush Prairie, WA 98606

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Members of the GBPNA Executive Board

President:	Sam Kim	896-7119	brushprairie@comcast.net
Vice President:	Robyn Kim	896-7119	robynkim@comcast.net
Secretary:	Cathy Steiger	687-7378	steiger@teleport.com
Treasurer:	Judy Sproul	892-1567	donandjudyatbp@aol.com

Our Boundaries

West NE 72nd Ave
South NE 119th St., SR-503, NE 99th St., NE 96th St.
East NE 212th Ave.
North NE 159th St., NE 156th St., Salmon Creek to SR-503, SR-503 north to Battle Ground City boundary, Battle Ground City boundary to NE 199th St., NE 187th Ave., NE 219th St.

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