

West Hazel Dell Neighborhood Association Summer Newsletter ~ July 2010



JULY 21 MEETING REMINDER

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday, July 21 at the Clearwater Springs Assisted Living Center** upstairs fireplace room (there is an elevator) at 201 NW 78th Street from **6:30-8:00 p.m.** Our program is very timely as the economy's slow recovery is taking a big bite out of everyone's budget. Our neighbor, **John Brunzell, Jr.** will provide information on



Home Energy Savings Group

Home Energy Savings Group will be presenting how they may be able to help you, the home owner, reduce your energy consumption and show you ways to put money back in your pocket, instead of giving it to the utility companies.

What We Do At Home Energy Savings Group. Home Energy Savings Group visits homes in Clark County and Portland, OR. Our Technicians perform **FREE Energy Audits** to find the best way for homeowners to save money on their next home improvement.

Helping Homeowners Find the Best Home Energy Improvement! If you are deciding on your next home improvement project, call us first! We will come out to your home for **FREE** in Clark County & Portland, for a **FREE** Home Energy Audit. We do not sell anything...

Come to the next West Hazel Dell Neighborhood meeting on July 21 or just give Dave and his crew a call at 360-772-2000 or 888-860-7776 you will also be able to find us at www.homeenergysavingsgroup.com. Hope to see you at the next meeting.

If you wish to contact me, I can be reached in the evenings at home at 360-573-7376 by phone or by e-mail at timeout29@comcast.net. I work so have to answer calls late at night or on weekends. E-mail is the faster method.

If you have items to include in the next mailed out newsletter or e-mailed to our residents mid-newsletter times, please let me know.

Ila Stanek, President

Vice President: Everett Cook, peanutbutterman2@juno.com

Secretary: Teresa Street, tstreet6@comcast.net

Treasurer: Laurel Whitehurst, laurel_wh@comcast.net

School is out and so are the kids. Watch for vacationing students in and around your neighborhoods. Many times there are dogs with them, too.

If you live within the West Hazel Dell Neighborhood Association (WHDNA) boundaries, you are a "member" of our neighborhood association.

We begin on the south at the Vancouver city limits, on the north we go to NE 104th Street, on the east we stop at NE Hazel Dell Avenue, and on the west our boundary is NW Lakeshore Avenue.

To make the association work for everyone, we need input – about good, bad, strange, or new things. Give us a call or send an e-mail.

The E-mail List for your neighborhood news

Postal mailings are provided three times a year. To receive bimonthly newsletters and/or information on development projects in your area, please consider adding your name to our newsletter list. This list is not shared, sold, loaned, or copied

Send your e-mail address to: timeout29@comcast.net and we'll send meeting reminders for community events.)

Jorgenson Woods Neighborhood Park continues to get tender loving care from nearby residents.

Elizabeth Graham and Karen Wulf are the contact people if you have any concerns or want to spend some time over there helping with ongoing weeding and upkeep tasks. It doesn't take a lot of time, just regular maintenance of the park grounds.



Jack Z. Fazio Neighborhood Park Dedication brings 100 out for the fun

The weather cooperated with us on Saturday, June 19, as residents, Fazio family members, county staff and other area neighborhood association leaders shared a beautiful day. The Fazio family was wonderfully supportive in helping with the creation of the park and the sand for the sand pit was provided by the Fazio Bros. Sand Company. Mark Fazio, Jack's son, shared touching family memories of his dad and of how important the land was to Mr. Fazio. Mrs. Anita Fazio accepted the plaque provided by our neighborhood association on behalf of the entire family. Even great-grandma, 93, was there to enjoy the event! The photo taken of the ribbon cutting will give an idea of the extent of the family and neighbors who helped with the official ribbon cutting.



Clark County Commissioner Steve Stuart was on hand to provide some opening remarks and share thoughts with attendees and residents. As usual when a commissioner is present that meant hearing about concerns in and around West Hazel Dell area. Some issues were added to his calendar before he left the park, I'm sure.

The event was choreographed beautifully (and seemingly effortlessly) by Parks staffer, Jilayne Jordan, who worked with the neighborhood association officers to pull it all together. When the day looked less than promising, she even arranged for a tent to protect against any possible rain. We can't say enough about how well she handled things. Several other Clark County and Parks Department and Foundation individuals came out for the day and their attendance was very much appreciated.

Neighbors, young and old, had a great time, playing on the equipment and enjoying the cake that the County provided for the occasion. Drinks were provided by Clark County McDonald's, always willing to help out budget-tight neighborhoods for such events. Their rep, Anna Harshfield, worked with us for the soft drinks. There were donuts from Krispy Kremes and coffee as well from a local retailer. Water was provided by Water & Air Works thanks to Byron Jacobus.



Jack Fazio's brother is assisting one of the grandchildren with the oversized scissors as Mrs. Fazio (in v-necked sweater) watches.

This newest West Hazel Dell park is at 9600 NW 21st Avenue, just off NE 99th Street at NW 21st Avenue.

With a smaller budget and bigger plans, there were some landscaping elements omitted. The WHDNA will be looking at the possibility of hosting a fundraiser to finish the work. The deficit is \$8,600 which will take a lot of work from area volunteers, so could be tabled for now.



Have items you want to recycle but aren't sure where to take them? Check out www.RecyclingA-Z.com for a comprehensive resource guide.

Events from Clark PUD's StreamTeam

Join the StreamTeam to save Salmon! Join the team this summer as we maintain the trees planted this winter. Training and supplies provided. Upcoming events include: July 17, August 3, August 21 and more. Visit www.streamteam.net or email streamteam@clarkpud.com.

Soccer fields off-site but in sight – that's the current hot topic in and around the All Saints Episcopal Church on NE 99th Street and NW 21st Avenue. (Location sound familiar? It's across the street from the new Fazio Neighborhood Park where no sports fields are allowed.) **Therein lies the rub!**

Here's the problem in a nutshell: Neighborhood parks are designed for, well, neighbors. You should be able to walk, bike or push your way to the park in your area. By design, these small neighborhood parks aren't large enough to include other amenities, like parking space, bathrooms, and sports fields. Larger community parks (like Felida), or regional parks (like Lewisville) have more space for all that goes along with having ball fields. It's more complicated than that, but for argument's sake, that explanation should cover it.

Mini-mod soccer, as I understand it, is for children ages 4-7 (give or take a birthday). Obviously, those children are too young to be heading off to soccer practice or games on their own. Most will be driven and may or may not live in our immediate area. Neighbors in the area received a flyer on the fields from the County in May explaining the project.

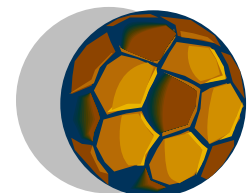
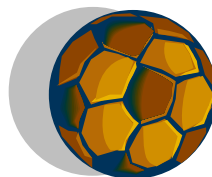
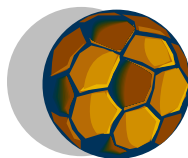
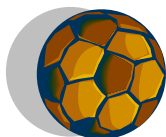
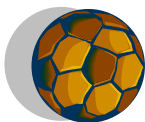
When the concept of "mini-mod soccer fields" first came to our attention, the neighbors rightfully spoke up and said that wasn't how they understood a neighborhood park to function and didn't want the fields. The County and Parks staff, although disappointed because the Fazio land is very level compared to some of the other neighborhood parks, agreed and went quietly away from the idea of soccer fields. As it turns out, perhaps too quietly because somehow the desire for mini-mod fields in the immediate vicinity became known.

What neighbors understand is that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, immediate neighbor to Fazio Park on the west, was approached by Parks about using a portion of their property and parking lot for these mini-mod fields. And, bless their hearts, the LDS Church turned them down. (This is "back-fence" information, not documented.)

It was after that rejection that the offer from All Saints Episcopal Church came to the County as they (All Saints) had learned of the wish to have mini-mod soccer fields nearby. Currently, a construction contract has been signed with the church and the County to undertake some improvements to the church grounds, the parking lot that will be used on game days (six days a week), and to the playground area, also to be used by soccer families during games.

While I'm not excited about the method for getting the fields, if you view it as a taxpayer who wants the County to save as much money as it can while still providing needed sports fields to help children develop life-long athletic abilities and healthy lifestyles, then I'd have to say it was very creative. It was also fortunate that the church was in a position to open up their property in this way. We need to have our county commissioners partnering whenever and wherever possible. Since this partnership is in our backyard, now we need to see what can be done to minimize any negative effects, from the beginning and before games start in 2011, and create a reasonable solution to potential problems.

To that end a "good neighbor commitment" document seems to be called for spelling out responsibilities and expectations. Some of the neighbors and I will be meeting with County this month to work out such a document. It is our hope that it would also go a long way toward reassuring neighbors that the Parks Department is operating in good faith in this matter. If everyone involved will abide by their commitments, we may have a World Cup player one day!



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We are totally funded by donations and fundraising activities. Until we become an IRS-approved 501(c)(3) non-profit organization any contributions to WHDNA are not tax-deductible. Our goal is to complete the non-profit application this fall and allow contributions to be deducted on tax returns.

West Hazel Dell residents are always welcome at the monthly meetings of their neighbors in the NE Hazel Dell Neighborhood Association. They meet at the Clark County Operations Center Community Room at 4700 NE 78th Street at 7:00 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month.

Our neighborhood association includes about 4,650 homes or over 13,500 individuals. Providing services for and information to a diverse group that large is a daunting task. That's no surprise to anyone. What may be surprising is how much effort goes into gleaning information from various sources to provide some answers to residents. Your board consists of four individuals who give their time to the WHDNA. **We are proposing to set up "sections" of West Hazel Dell** to more accurately reflect and represent the needs and concerns in those smaller areas. This has been very successful in the North Salmon Creek Neighborhood Association and I'd like to take a page from their book. What would be required is something like a 'block home' arrangement where a fair-sized division would be represented at the bimonthly meetings by one individual; maybe eight sections. That person would bring the current concerns or ideas to the rest of the membership. To get this underway would require an organizational meeting prior to the next bimonthly meeting. This is still a work in progress, so let us know what you think. **Better ideas always welcome!**