

# FAIRGROUNDS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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August 2010

## HELP! FGNA needs money for newsletter expenses etc.

We know you've read this before, but...

As you may know, we publish over 800 newsletters a month. About 500 of them are distributed via e-mail and the rest are distributed through the regular mail. The e-mail distribution costs nothing, but the regular mail distribution costs some \$140 for stamps plus other costs like labels, copying, etc.

We use the meeting room at the Community of Christ church as our meeting place and we like to give them something for their troubles from time to time too.

Add to this the periodic costs of getting copies of maps from the county, compact discs with comprehensive plan information and other code changes, other copying, and you can see that it's not a free enterprise. We try our best to spend as little as possible but these are necessary costs.

- Over the past year over 100 e-mail addresses in our database have been returned as undeliverable. Is one of them yours? Send us your new e-mail address and get back on our monthly electronic newsletter distribution list!
- If you are receiving a hard copy of the monthly newsletter that we can e-mail instead, please let us know. (bridget@bridge-i-t.com)
- Can you send us some money for expenses? How about \$10? Even \$20?
- Please send checks and the enclosed Member Form & Member Survey to:  
*FAIRGROUNDS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION; P.O. Box 61905, Vancouver, 98666*

## WE DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE!

*(and it's not a case of amnesia)*

Up to 3 times a year Clark County supports our neighborhood association by paying for a bulk mailing of our monthly newsletter. This newsletter is one of them. Here's how it works:

We schedule a mailing with our Neighborhood Outreach coordinator. Clark County Geographic Information Services (GIS) identifies all the tax parcels within FGNA borders. The Assessor's office provides the street address for each of those parcels. The county's Print Shop makes copies and with brand new equipment they also collate, fold, seal and print the addresses.

With this procedure, we cannot identify members that receive this newsletter - *unless* you return the Member Form (included here) to us. That's how we build our mailing list. Do it today!

Thank you,  
George Vartanian  
For the Executive Board

# FAIRGROUNDS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Bridget Schwarz  
Executive Board  
bridget@bridge-i-t.com

August 2010

PO Box 61905  
Vancouver, WA 98666  
360-573.5873

Greetings –

**Neighborhood Activists.** Here are 2 great examples of neighbors getting together to take action on an issue impacting their quality of life. In every case - whether you obtain the results you want or not - consider how much worse the outcome could be if you do not get involved! Call for help or advice.

First, the developer of Velveteen Meadows requested a Post Decision Review of his application to build 89 houses. Instead of building the approved access road, he now proposes to direct all the traffic through a 34 home subdivision. The request was granted with a Staff Report that failed to address considerable public comment (including photos) concerning the unsafe sight distance at the proposed access intersection. *We will soon get the answers we seek concerning sight distance anyway, without having to file a \$5240 appeal.*

Second, a grading permit allows a land owner to bring in 5000 cubic yards as “soil amendment” on agricultural property. The activity observed by the neighbors can best be described as a high volume dirt transfer business. Again, the Zilke request was granted despite considerable public comment about the true nature of the activity. *Neighbors continue to document activities that appear to violate the conditions of approval in order to give Code Enforcement the ability to act (stop work, fines, etc.)*

**Study, study, study.** No, not academics! Clark County has two groups looking at future development in our neighborhood. This newsletter brings you the current status of the Fairgrounds and Salmon Creek sub-area plans. These plans will be part of the next Comprehensive Growth Plan update and will determine how these areas develop in the future.

**Community of Christ Clark County fair “pie ladies”.** FGNA has been meeting at the Community of Christ Church every month since we formed over a decade ago. The only exception is the month of August. We don't meet then because the “pie ladies” at the church are busy baking for the annual Clark County fair.

Again this year, they are willing to share their secrets! Two classes will be held on Saturday November 11 from 10 – 12 and 2 – 4. A third class will be held Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. Space is limited to 20 per class. To enroll send your name, address, phone and a \$25 check to Lisa Leonard, 18211 NW 61<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Ridgefield 98642. Contact her if you have any questions at 360.241.5681 or leesleon@aol.com)

**Who said that?**

Sincerely,  
Bridget Schwarz  
For the Executive Board

# **FAIRGROUNDS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

## **THREE CREEKS ADVISORY COUNCIL**

The Three Creeks Special Planning Area was established in 2007. It includes the unincorporated urban areas around Hazel Dell, Felida, Lake Shore, Salmon Creek and the Fairgrounds. The area is divided into 8 sub-areas to give residents a larger and more direct voice in planning for their own future. The sub area plans will be incorporated in the next Growth Management update.

Sub-area #1 is Highway 99 and the planning is completed. Sub-area #2 is Discovery/Fairgrounds and Sub-area #3 is Salmon Creek/WSU. Below is an update on those planning efforts. For more information go to <http://www.clark.wa.gov/3creeks/index.html>.

## **FAIRGROUNDS SUB-AREA**

Following the completion of our working group and several public meetings the Discovery/Fairgrounds recommendations were completed. The BOCC decided at a work session in April of this year to not move forward with the plan recommendations until the overall zoning code has been reviewed to determine if some combination of Light Industrial/Office Campus/Business Park zoning is appropriate for Clark County. There is currently no timeline for the review of the zoning combinations. For more information go to <http://www.clark.wa.gov/discovery/index.html>

## **SALMON CREEK / WSU-V SUB-AREA**

The Salmon Creek Sub-Area Plan Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) wrapped up a series of meetings focusing on the strengths and weaknesses of the area to accommodate future growth opportunities. The TAC has produced a series of recommendations ranging from proposed zoning changes, improvements to bicycle lanes, pedestrian paths and trails, and enhancing activity areas. Over the next few months, the County will be crafting a draft plan and will hold a series of open meetings in early 2011. For more information visit <http://www.clark.wa.gov/salmoncreek/> or call 360.397.2280 and ask for Colete Anderson, ext. 4516 or Jacqui Kamp ext. 4913.

## **SALMON CREEK WAL MART**

Many county officials - and our attorney - thought we could stop this project. As a result of the court rulings, Water's Edge Condominiums had the potential to make the Salmon Creek Wal Mart prohibitively expensive. Wal Mart had to reach an agreement with them regarding their storm water runoff – a very expensive condition of approval - and provide other mitigation for their impacts on Water's Edge homeowners.

Their board voted to ask Wal Mart for minor improvements; including an 8 foot wall (instead of the required 6 foot height) metal gates at their entrance and rear as well as fencing-in the entire property and installing security lights. As of this writing, Wal Mart has not agreed to the Water's Edge boards conditions.

# FAIRGROUNDS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

## IMPROVING NE 179<sup>th</sup> Street / I-5 INTERCHANGE

**Background:** Clark County wants to decrease congestion, improve safety and increase capacity where NE 179<sup>th</sup> Street passes under Interstate 5 between NE Delfel Road and NE 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Road improvements at the interchange could allow for economic expansion and, according to estimates, support the creation of more than 4,000 jobs in the fairgrounds area.

In 2009, the county received state approval to use Local Revitalization Financing, a limited version of tax increment financing. Clark County will build road and other improvements that will increase capacity and encourage economic development. The state will provide \$500,000 annually from the incremental state tax revenue generated by the ensuing private development to gradually pay for the road improvements.

**Work completed:** Clark County Public Works, in cooperation with the Washington State Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), worked with DKS & Associates to examine alternatives to improve traffic flow in the area.

During early work, the county considered only alternatives that would increase capacity without replacing the two freeway bridges spanning NE 179<sup>th</sup> Street. In response to a sluggish economy and contractors submitting lower-than-expected bids, the decision was made to also examine alternatives that replace the freeway overpasses.

In June, the project decision team identified eight viable options, including two alternatives that would construct a new interchange and replace the I-5 bridges. The other six alternatives would leave the bridges in place and build roundabouts and/or intersections with traffic signals on NE 179<sup>th</sup> Street on both sides of the freeway. The eight options are being assessed for their effect on I-5. The FHWA must approve whichever option is finally recommended.

**Future schedule:** The project management team will meet in September to further reduce the alternatives down to three preferred designs that meet FHWA requirements. The county will send out a newsletter to residences and businesses in the area providing information on the project and advertising an upcoming open house that will allow public review and discussion of the three options. The eight alternatives and three preferred designs also will be presented to property owners, the Fairgrounds Neighborhood Association and the public in a series of outreach meetings during the fall of 2010.

**Upcoming presentation:** *Clark County Public Works staff will attend the Fairgrounds Neighborhood Association's Oct. 14 meeting to present more details and answer questions.*

**For more information:**

Linda Small, project manager  
Clark County Public Works  
(360) 397-6118 ext. 4753  
Linda.Small@clark.wa.gov

Jeff Mize, public information  
Clark County Public Works  
(360) 397-6118 ext. 4398  
Jeff.Mize@clark.wa.gov

**Website:** [www.clark.wa.gov/public-works/engineering/179th.html](http://www.clark.wa.gov/public-works/engineering/179th.html)

*Visit the project website and sign up to receive electronic updates on NE 179<sup>th</sup> Street.*

# FAIRGROUNDS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

## 2010 FGNA MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME : \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS : \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, ZIP : \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE : Day\_\_\_\_\_Eve\_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL : \_\_\_\_\_

*E-mail is our most effective means of communication*

***We could sure use a donation for FGNA expenses. How about ten bucks? Or twenty?***

Please return this form to join our mailing list. Monthly newsletters will be sent via e-mail or regular mail to everyone that does so. When necessary, important announcements and meeting reminders are sent via e--mail. For US mail recipients, such timely information is rarely possible.

Membership in the Fairgrounds Neighborhood Association is free and open to all home owners, residents, property owners, managers of multi-family dwellings, businesses and non-profit organizations within our boundaries. *Members 18 years and older are eligible to vote.*

Other household members: \_\_\_\_\_ VOTE Y / N  
\_\_\_\_\_ VOTE Y / N  
\_\_\_\_\_ VOTE Y / N  
\_\_\_\_\_ VOTE Y / N

Please check one: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Owner \_\_\_\_\_ Renter \_\_\_\_\_ Business  
\_\_\_\_\_ Non-profit \_\_\_\_\_ Property manager \_\_\_\_\_ Other

These are concerns that affect my quality of life (check all that apply):

\_\_\_ Traffic impacts \_\_\_\_\_ Clark County Fair impacts  
\_\_\_ New housing impacts \_\_\_\_\_ Legacy hospital impacts  
\_\_\_ Amphitheater impacts \_\_\_\_\_ County services  
\_\_\_ WSU campus impacts \_\_\_\_\_ Neighborhood social events  
\_\_\_ Local economy \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

***Please return this completed form to: FGNA, P.O. Box 61905, Vancouver, WA 98666***

# FAIRGROUNDS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

## FALL 2010 MEMBER SURVEY

- 1) Should developed unincorporated areas of our neighborhood be part of a city or remain the status quo?  
 become a city                       status quo (unincorporated)                       Don't know
- 2) If the status quo option is off the table – meaning that you will eventually be living inside city limits whether you like it or not, which city would you prefer? (FYI: Most FGNA members have a Ridgefield mailing address. That's just the post office that delivers the mail. *None us lives inside their city limits.*)  
 new city                       Ridgefield                       Vancouver                       Don't know
- 3) The Columbia River Crossing (CRC) project has chosen a locally preferred alternative which includes 2 replacement bridges, each with 5 lanes and light rail. Do you support the CRC project's chosen alternative?  
 Yes                       No                       Don't know
- 4) Planners say funding to pay for the CRC project must include an I-5 toll. What do you think of tolls?  
 opposed                       support                      If YES, I will pay \$\_\_\_\_\_ toll per trip.
- 5) Are you aware of the plans underway to improve NE 179th Street from Delfel Road to NE 15th Avenue?  Yes, I have heard about it before.     No, this newsletter is the first I've heard.
- 6) What are your biggest concerns with how this corridor currently operates?  
 Safety                       Day-to-day congestion                       Event congestion  
 Lack of pedestrian and bicycle facilities                       Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) How would you prefer to get information about the NE 179th Street project in the future?  
 Direct mail from the County                       E-mail updates                       FGNA newsletters and meetings  
 Clark County project website
- 8) How would you prefer to get information about other county projects:  
 Direct mail from the County                       E-mail updates                       FGNA newsletters and meetings  
 Clark County project website
- 9) Roundabouts on both sides of the freeway on 179<sup>th</sup> are under consideration. What do you think?  
 good idea                       bad idea                       don't know
- 10) County budgets have dramatically reduced staff. To properly handle development applications:  
 do nothing                       limit the number of applications accepted     increase the time for review  
 raise fees to hire more staff
- 11) What kind of topics would you like us to address in our FGNA monthly meetings? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Tell us what you think: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please return this completed form to: FGNA, P.O. Box 61905, Vancouver, WA 98666. Thanks!

# **FAIRGROUNDS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

### **FGNA monthly meetings**

Second Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM

Community of Christ meeting room, 400 NE 179<sup>th</sup> ST

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](mailto:vicki.fitzsimmons@edwardjones.com).

### **FGNA September meeting**

#### **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**

Thursday, September 9, 2010 at 7:00 PM

Community of Christ meeting room, 400 NE 179<sup>th</sup> ST

Waste Reduction Specialist Terra Heilman will speak about the new recycling program and answer lots of questions regarding what is or isn't recyclable.

### **9<sup>th</sup> Annual Open House**

#### **Public Safety complex at the Fairgrounds**

Saturday, September 19 from 12 – 4, 500 NW 179<sup>th</sup> Street

This just gets better every year! Bring the whole family to watch demonstrations by our Public Safety agencies, check out wall to wall exhibits in the truck bay, and have lunch.

### **FGNA October meeting**

#### **Transportation projects in our neighborhood**

Thursday, October 14, 2010 7:00 PM

Community of Christ meeting room, 400 NE 179<sup>th</sup> ST

Traffic improvements at the 179<sup>th</sup> Street interchange will begin soon. Are roundabouts a viable option? Construction of the new 139<sup>th</sup> Street I-5 interchange will begin soon too. Will those 2 freeway projects overlap? A new connection to I-5 southbound from the fairgrounds is under consideration. Should Delfel Road connect to NE 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue and the new 139<sup>th</sup> Street interchange? Or should we save money by sending drivers across I-5 at NE 164<sup>th</sup> Street then south on the east side of I-5 and then back across at NE 139<sup>th</sup> Street? Clark County Public Works and WS-DOT will send representatives to discuss these projects.

### **FGNA November meeting**

#### **Port of Vancouver, Port of Ridgefield**

Thursday, November 11, 2010 7:00 PM

Community of Christ meeting room, 400 NE 179<sup>th</sup> ST

What is a port district? How are they run? What do they do? Where does their money come from? Who represents the citizens? Despite the frequent newspaper headlines most of us don't know a lot about these powerful government agencies. Come listen, learn, and ask questions.

### **FGNA December meeting**

#### **COOKIE EXCHANGE IDEA EXCHANGE**

Thursday, December 9, 2010 7:00 PM

Community of Christ meeting room, 400 NE 179<sup>th</sup> ST

This is our traditional Cookie Exchange meeting and Deputy Liaison- informal conversation. Here's a chance to share ideas for the upcoming year. Bring extra cookies to share - if desired - or just come and join us for treats.

FAIRGROUNDS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
P.O. Box 61905  
Vancouver, WA 98666

**MONTHLY MEETINGS :**

WE MEET at 7 PM ON SECOND THURSDAYS AT THE COMMUNITY of CHRIST MEETING ROOM  
400 NE 179<sup>TH</sup> 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 151<sup>st</sup> STREET TO NW 41<sup>st</sup> AVENUE TO NW / NE 164<sup>TH</sup> STREET;  
**SOUTH - EAST OF I-5**, NE KLINELINE RD TO NE 119<sup>TH</sup> ST TO SALMON CREEK TO NE 50<sup>TH</sup> AVE  
TO NE 149<sup>TH</sup> ST TO NE 72<sup>ND</sup> AVE

The fine print:

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