

Greater ***Brush Prairie***

Neighborhood Association

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

brushprairie@comcast.net

September 2011

896-7119

Let's Form the City of Brush Prairie *and control our destiny*

After asphalt plant and annexation attempts, it would appear that our neighborhood is constantly besieged by conflicting interests. Instead of fighting these costly battles one at a time by different subdivisions, how do we unite as a community and shape our own future? The only surefire solution is to incorporate as a city.

Within this newsletter you'll see a flow chart of how to form a city. It's paramount that we get educated on what is probably the most important issue since construction of Highway 503 through heart of our community.

A couple of documents will be critical in our quest to form a city:

- *Municipal Incorporation Guide*: a step by step guide to forming a new city
- *New City Guide*: a little older document, but still relevant, that continues from where the *Municipal Incorporation Guide* left off.

Both of these publications are available by going to mrsc.org and searching for the document titles. We will also email you a

copy if you contact us at 896-7119 or brushprairie@comcast.net.

But the most critical factor for success is whether we have the will, passion, and commitment to form a city.

If we want our taxes low and keep the character of our community, we need neighbors to step up to help with the incorporation work. It won't be easy, but it can be done. Please come our next meeting on September 17th to learn more.

Greater Brush Prairie Meeting

Saturday, September 17th, 7 PM

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

Agenda

Treasurer's Report *Judy Sproul*
Fire District #3 *Chief Steve Wrightson*
City Incorporation Committee *Sam Kim*
Annexation Resistance Committee
Mark Gawecki

Parade on September 17th!

The 5th annual Brush Prairie Spirit Parade will be held at a 10am on Saturday, Sept, 17th. The parade will start at Prairie Bar and Grill on Caples Road and 149th St. and end at Bethel Lutheran Church on 159th St.

We're still in need of volunteers and have two more planning meetings coming up, both at Brush Prairie Curves (next to Amazia), 7PM:

- Wednesday, September 7th
- Wednesday, September 14th

Please call Julie Kim or show up at the meeting to volunteer.

Also, don't forget about **cleaning up Caples Road** on Saturday, **September 10th, 9AM**. We'll meet at Prairie Bar & Grill parking lot and shouldn't take very long if enough volunteers show up. Call Robyn Kim or just show up!

*Julie Kim may be contacted at 256-2185 or hj66mustang@msn.com
Robyn Kim may be contacted at 896-7119 or brushprairie@comcast.net*

2011 GBPNA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Property Address: _____

City, ZIP: _____, _____

Phone: Day _____ Eve _____

e-mail: _____

We could sure use a donation for GBPNA expenses. How about \$25? Please mail form and check to:

**GBPNA
P.O. Box 103
Brush Prairie, WA 98606**

Annexation Update: *Battle Ground's Attempt to Annex The Cedars*

By Neighbor Mark Gawecki

In April 2011 the owners of the Cedars Golf Course submitted an application for annexation of the Golf Course and surrounding Cedars I, II, and IV neighborhoods.

A small group of Cedars neighbors circulated a petition within the annexation target area to determine the sentiment of the directly affected residents. The response to annexation was overwhelmingly negative. Homeowners representing more than sixty-nine percent of the value of the proposed annexed area were **opposed** to annexation. This petition was submitted to Battle Ground City Council with the request to reject any further applications due to overwhelming public sentiment against annexation.

On June 6th the applicant abruptly changed the annexation boundaries, eliminating most of the residents who objected to annexation. Battle Ground City Council accepted this revised boundary and the applicant began the quest for signatures of sixty percent of the land owners of the newly bounded area. A Public Hearing to review the application was set for August 15th.

On June 15th the applicant submitted signatures that he thought represented sixty percent of the land value. The City forwarded the application to the Clark County Department of Assessment for verification.

On July 27th the City was notified that the applicant failed to meet the sixty percent rule with the actual value of the signatures determined to be 59.64%.

On August 1st, City Council agreed to remove the Public Hearing from the August 15th agenda, which was confirmed at the August 15th City Council meeting.

Please remember:

- Annexation will change the Golf Course zoning from “parks and open space” to residential development. This means higher density development and potential loss of the golf course.
- Property values will decrease.
- Emergency Fire, Rescue, and Police services will change.
- Traffic will increase.
- Roads and sewers will be overtaxed.
- Water quality and stream-side environment will be threatened.

What is next?

The applicant has six months to get additional signatures. They may try to do this as follows:

- The applicant may revise the boundaries again, removing any remaining homeowner resistance, and move forward with the process.
- Or the applicant may try some other trick.

What can we who are opposed to annexation do?

- Stay vigilant.
- Read the fine print in the Reflector for public notices regarding this matter.
- Attend neighborhood and City Council Meetings to stay informed.
- Contribute to the Cedars Neighborhoods Anti-Annexation Fund by writing a check to: Mark Gawecki, 17706 NE Homestead Drive, Brush Prairie, 98606 or write a check to the GBPNA. The

GBPNA will forward the contribution to the proper account. In either case please be sure to write a note in the memo line that *the money is for the Cedars Neighborhoods Anti-Annexation Fund.*

Mark Gawecki may be contacted at msgawecki@comcast.net

It's All In The Name...

By Neighbor Patrick Kennedy

Battle Ground.

The City of Battle Ground seems appropriately named based on the recent and continuing Annexation attempts that now date back nearly 5 years. Like many contemporary political establishments, the City of Battle Ground has one face for its public image and another that reflects reality.

Let's first visit the City's website, www.cityofbg.org, and amuse ourselves about the image that it strives to create for an unsuspecting public:

The City of Battle Ground is located in the heart of Clark County, Washington, just four miles from Interstate 5. Battle Ground is a full-service city that serves as the social and commercial hub of north Clark County and is surrounded by scenic and pristine landscape. The City offers outstanding opportunities to live, work, shop and recreate. Welcome to the City Battle Ground!

As Cedars residents already know, there is a major disconnect between what the City *says* and what it *does*.

This “full service city” doesn’t have the wherewithal to keep some of its major roads in good order (driven down So. Parkway Avenue lately?) nor the leadership necessary to stay away from regional controversy such as the firing of a beloved Chief of Police, subsequent and related termination of the City Manager, leaks of privileged information by the City Council members, or fraud by a former Clerk/Treasurer and other staff.

This “social and commercial hub of north Clark County” seems to routinely stifle small business by increasing taxes and fees (just ask the movie theater manager) while challenging the needs of other small local businesses by trying to attract large multidepartment retailers.

Yes, we agree that the area “is surrounded by scenic and pristine landscape” and we are trying to keep it that way, despite the relentless attempts by the City to encourage certain property owners to apply for Annexation against the wishes of the majority community.

The “outstanding opportunities” include an ever rising rate of foreclosures, one of the highest in Clark County, and the stagnation of business development largely due to inconsistent planning and the failed execution of a vision consistent with the holistic opportunities necessary for the long-term success of a viable municipality.

Those residents who live in and near the unincorporated area of Clark County, known as *The Cedars*, bear first person witness to attempts by the City to favor the few at the expense of the many. We have no bones to pick with the current ownership of The Cedars at Salmon Creek Golf Course. We are acutely aware of the fact that the current use of this designated recreational land has

not paid the type of returns that were expected by the owners and understand that they are concerned about the long term economic viability of the property.

We have a much harder time understanding why the City of Battle Ground has been encouraging the owners to annex into the City in spite of the local property owners ongoing and unanswered repeated requests for definite plans for this “scenic and pristine landscape”. We have had to deal with various threats by the City to force an Annexation, discussions of changes to existing street names, additional levy’s for unwanted sidewalks and curbs, changes to zoning restrictions which could have a negative effect on the property values of nearly 100 residences, and statements by City leaders about the “inevitability” of Annexation.

The recent cooperation between the City and the owners of the golf course mandated the gerrymandering of complete neighborhoods within the proposed Annexation area which may have resulted in a reduction of necessary services, such as police and fire protection, and the failure of the City to even allow an open public discussion at a relevant point in the consideration of the process.

The Annexation map submitted by the golf course ownership and accepted at a recent City Council meeting was a regression back to the Tammany Hall politics which ignored the *vox populi* (voice of the people) in favor of special interests.

Those of us affected by this most recent attempt to silence the majority got an unexpected boost because of an apparent miscalculation on the part of the golf course ownership concerning the percentage of support needed to move to the next phase of

the process. Even the gerrymandered map for annexation, which created “islands” of residences in order to achieve the minimum 60% approval of property owners failed, although the margin was only about .25 percent.

We have little doubt that the City and the golf course ownership will make another attempt to redraw the Annexation lines in an even more convoluted fashion in order to frustrate the majority of people in the area. We continue to be baffled by the secrecy that the golf course ownership maintains regarding their plans for development of this environmentally sensitive area.

We applaud the minority of City Council members who choose to listen to the majority of property owners in the affected area rather than pander to developers who could potentially destroy the rural atmosphere of Brush Prairie.

We also applaud the efforts of several Brush Prairie and Battle Ground community members who have resolutely fought this legally questionable attempt to ignore common sense and side with growth and taxation over conservancy.

This community continues to hope for an open discussion with property owners regarding their plans for development and pledge to work with them in a manner consistent with all of our long-term best interests, and although we originally had no major issues with the City of Battle Ground, we are finding that honest and open dialog is becoming harder to achieve. The thought that the majority of the City Council actually accepted an Annexation proposal which excluded whole neighborhoods leads us to believe that it is now time to explore other options that may be available to the greater Brush Prairie community in order to express

our mutual values in an open and organized fashion.

Introducing Rescue 31

By Chief Steve Wrightson, FD#3

If you call 911, do not be surprised to see our new rapid-response EMS vehicle – Rescue 31. Operating Rescue 31 makes sense because of quicker response times and more cost savings. During an emergency, when seconds count, maneuverability, rapid acceleration, and ease of operation all contribute to a rapid response. Cost analyses revealed significant savings with Rescue 31 compared to the purchase, operation, and maintenance of a fire engine or squad.

Additional savings will occur by lengthening the lifespan of fire engines. We'll be there more quickly and with less expense!

Rescue 31 went in to service in July. The vehicle has been designed as a rapid response vehicle for emergency medical service calls. The concept of this emergency vehicle is to decrease response times to medical emergencies; reduce expenses for fuel, maintenance, tires, brakes, and cost-per-mile operating costs; and to extend the life of the more expensive fire engines.

The vehicle does not replace a fire engine, but is an additional tool to improve our emergency response capability. Rescue 31 does not carry all of the necessary tools needed to mitigate fire emergencies and rescue calls, such as house fires, motor vehicle collisions, plane crashes, and heavy rescue operations. Fire engines are the “tool box”, carrying all of the necessary equipment and personnel needed for all types of emergencies. Rescue 31 is similar to a “tool belt”, fully equipped to handle

medical emergencies requiring less equipment, with a rapid and skilled response.

The vehicle can transport 2 to 4 Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technicians or Firefighter/Paramedics to the emergency. Our 2010 Annual Report found that 53% of our emergency responses were for emergency medical services. This type of vehicle helps address this emergency response challenge. We think it will provide a much faster and less expensive response to medical emergencies throughout Fire District 3. Stop by Station 31 in Hockinson and take a look!

Purpose of Rescue 31

To provide rapid response to medical emergencies at any time, to any place, under all weather and road conditions.

Top 5 Low-cost tips to save energy at home

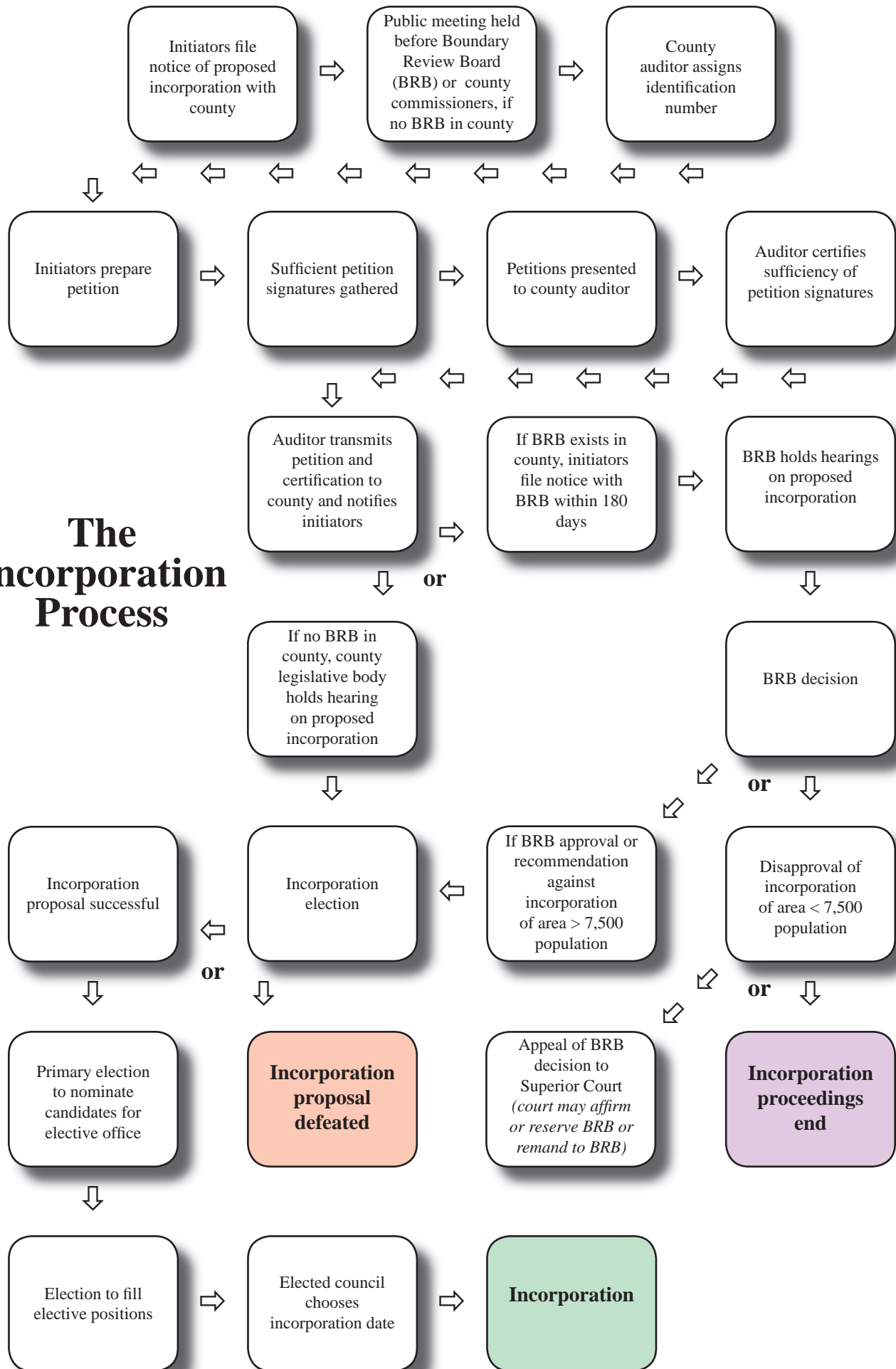
There are plenty of simple, affordable—and often, free—ways to make your home more energy efficient. Complete Energy Trust of Oregon's top five and you can start saving energy immediately.

1. Unplug battery chargers for power tools, mobile phones, laptops and other devices when not in use.
2. Caulk small holes and cracks around plumbing pipes, exhaust fans, dryer vents, sink and bathtub drains, and fireplaces and under countertops.
3. Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs, which last up to 10 times longer and can save \$30 over the life of each bulb.
4. Recycle that old fridge or freezer in your garage—you may be able to get free pickup and a cash-back incentive through Clark PUD, plus save up to \$200 per year on energy costs.
5. Install an ENERGY STAR® programmable thermostat so it adjusts automatically.



Standing next to the new Rescue 31 are Firefighters Tony Wagar and Craig Martinell, and Firefighter/Paramedic Des Gomez

The Incorporation Process



Greater Brush Prairie Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 103
Brush Prairie, WA 98606

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General Meeting

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7 – 9 PM

Hockinson Fire Station

Fire District 3

Parade at 10AM!

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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	SR 503 to NE 156 St., NE 159 St. to NE 72 Ave. to NE 119 St.
South	NE 119 St., SR 503, NE 99 St.
East	NE 167 Ave., NE 159 St, NE 170 Ave., NE 169 St, NE 167 Ave.
North	NE 199 St.

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