



East Fork Frontier Neighborhood Association

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Fire Marshal urges homeowners to prepare for wildfire season NOW

Clark County Fire Marshal Jon Dunaway says “Wildfires are fast-moving and very dangerous...During a wildfire emergency you and your family should be ready to evacuate immediately to an area of safety.”

One of the best ways to give your home a fighting chance is the creation of a 30-foot clear area around your house called a ‘defensible space.’ This is the area between the house and an oncoming wildfire where the vegetation has been modified or removed to reduce the first threat, giving firefighters an opportunity to defend your house effectively. Creating such an area includes substituting hazardous vegetation with less flammable plants or eliminating plants entirely from the space, particularly trees and shrubs.

If your property has surface water, wetlands, or seasonal streams or slopes, vegetation removal could have significant and long-term environmental impacts. The “Maps Online” tool at www.gis.clark.wa.gov/imf/imf.jsp?site=mapsonline identifies areas to avoid. For more information on protecting the environment while creating defensible space contact Clark County Community Development Dept. at 397-2375.

Interested in keeping our government honest?

If you are overwhelmed by the prospect of dealing with government bureaucracy, visit www.firstgov.gov, a virtual how-to manual on how to get what you want and need from state and federal governments.

The following additional information is from a recent issue of *Reader’s Digest*.

www.Congress.org keeps you current on how local politicians voted and what key votes are coming up. It also offers ready-made forms to email them your opinions

www.recovery.gov is the official website for information on the stimulus bill.

www.Cagw.org tracks government spending and flags abuses identified by the watchdog group Citizens Against Government Waste.

www.Pogo.org monitors federal contractors. The official website for the independent Project on Government Oversight, it’s also a good place to report wasteful projects.

www.Cop.senate.gov allows you to monitor the bank bailout with reports, hearings, details on how the money is spent, and personal stories about the recession.

www.Consumerfed.org, the Consumer Federation of America’s site, connects you with local groups that are working on issues important to you and your neighbors.

Clark County has a deal for you !

Need to pay outstanding traffic fines to get your driver’s license back? Then Clark County has a deal for you. During May, District Court is joining more than 100 other courts in the state in a Debt Reduction program. The courts and their collection agencies have agreed to waive interest and a significant portion of collection costs for people with outstanding traffic tickets and fines. Those with outstanding tickets or fines that have been sent to collections should contact the court where the fines originated. (A listing of all WA State Courts can be found online at www.curts.wa.gov).

Once tickets are paid in full and reported to the court, adjudication slips must be delivered to the WA State Dept. of Licensing to clear a driving record and obtain a valid driver's license. However, licenses will only be reinstated if the individual qualifies under DOL rules. The program will run through May 31, 2009.

Recycling Workshops for neighborhood reps.

County neighborhood who send a representative to one of the recycling training classes and publish an approved recycling article in their neighborhood newsletter will receive a check for \$120.00 – and there are 10 pre-written articles for us to choose from. The workshops will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Wed, May 27, and 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 28, at 6601 NW Old Lower river Road, and from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Thursday, May 28, at the Water Center, 4600 SE Columbia Way.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING? We need to get on this right away if we want to receive the \$120.00 "reward." Call Sandra Bennett at 263-3336 if you are interested.

Clark County Paint Take-Back Program

This program accepts unwanted oil and latex paints and paint-related products, such as paint thinner, for recycling and reuse. This free service has collected more than 72,000 pounds of unwanted paint and paint-related products. Paint take-back is limited to residential users. The following stores will accept up to 25 gallons per household per day in five gallon or smaller containers. Leaking, damaged or unlabeled containers WILL NOT be accepted. Participating drop-off sites include:

Rodda Paint, 7723 NE Fourth Plain (253-5877)
 Miller Paint Company, 2609 NE Andreson (254-3434)
 Miller Paint Company, 13712 NE 20th Ave. (571-5000)

For more information contact Clark County solid Waste and Recycling, 360-697-6118, ext 4352.

Where to buy local Clark County grown produce

"Access to healthy food is a foundation of a healthy community," said Tricia Mortell, program manager for nutrition and family wellness of the Clark County Board of Health. "There are plenty of good reasons to buy local food...and by supporting local farming you're also preserving local farmland, supporting the local economy, and helping the environment by reducing the miles food must travel."

Resources for buying local food and learning more about the Clark County food system:

- Find a local farmers market: www.clark.wa.gov/public-health/living/eating.html
- Find a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) near you: www.swwa-csafarms.com
- Find a farm stand near you: http://smallfarms.wsu/farms/locate_search.asap
- Information about gardening and gardening resources: www.communitygrown.org
- Information on our local food system: www.clark.wa.gov/public-health/reports/documents/CCFA_FINAL.pdf
- Information about food and farming transitions: <http://postcarbon.org/food>

CALL TO ARTISTS using Recycled materials

Clark County will host the 4th Annual Recycled Arts Festival, June 27th and 28th at Esther Short Park in historic downtown Vancouver. The Festival is seeking artists that reuse materials to make interesting, useable, wearable, and just plain fun art. The goal is to promote and provide more recycling and educational tools to help everyone understand why recycling is important for the environment.

The Art will be juried this year. The show is free to participating artists. However a deposit is required for entry into the festival but is 100% refundable upon completion of that final day. Items priced in the \$20 - \$50 price range did very well at

last year's event.

If you are interested in participating and selling your recycled art at the June event, contact Diane.Huff@clark.wa.gov, sending her all of your contact information, an attached photo of some of your artwork, and any other pertinent information

Columbian article features EFFNA's Joel and Tawnya Gentleman

Joel Gentleman believes in the power of positive thinking. So when he and wife Tawna, owners of Balasana Yoga in Hazel Dell, noticed people's spirits sagging under job losses and shrinking 401(k)s, they wanted to try and do something about it. They came up with the idea for the Help Our People's emotions (HOPE) project designed to get people counting their blessings.

The La Center couple wanted Balasana members to record video and audio of themselves sharing good news or hopes for the future. Then they'd stream the footage in the yoga studio and on their Web site.

They tried to drum up contributions from mid-February to mid-March, but with no takers. "I got a lot of 'let's do this later,'" said Joel Gentleman, 36, adding that people seemed shy about being recorded. But Gentleman isn't giving up, and may try reviving the HOPE project.

"I think things are better than they were even a couple months ago, so maybe people will be more open to this type of thing," he said. Gentleman may kick off the initiative by recording some positive thoughts of his own, including the fact that he's able to do a job he loves and that he feels makes a difference in people's lives. This type of upbeat attitude, he said, can have a big impact.

"I think the more we talk about things being good, it's kind of a self-fulfilling prophecy," he said. "Things get better when we start talking and thinking like that."

The Columbian, May 11, 2009

Contacts at *The Columbian* on special issues

If you have a particular story that you feel would be of interest to residents of Clark County, or are seeking information on a particular issue, the Columbian has provided a list of contacts:

- **Clark County government; social services:** Michael Anderson, 360-735-4508 or Michael.anderson@columbian.com
- **Law enforcement; fires:** John Branton, 360-735-4513 or johnbranton@columbian.com
- **Politics and politicians; Legislature; state government; Colubia River Gorge:** Kathie Durbin, 360-735-4523 or Kathie.durbin@columbian.com
- **Charity; faith; Neighbors.** Scott Hewitt, 360-735-4529 or scott.hewitt@columbian.com
- **Neighbors; general assignments.** Laura McVicker, 360-735-4516 or laura.mcvicker@columbian.com
- **Columbia River Crossing project; casinos;** Jeffrey Mize, 360-735-4542 or jeff.mize@columbian.com
- **Schools, including La Center and WSU Vancouver:** Isolde Raftery, 360-735-4546 or isolde.raftery@columbian.com
- **Courts; law enforcement; fires:** Stephanie Rice, 360-735-4549 or Stephanie.rice@columbian.com
- **Environment; agriculture; transportation:** Erik Robinson, 360-735-4551 or erik.robinson@columbian.com
- **History; health; science; military:** Tom Vogt, 360-735-4558 or tom.vogt@columbian.com

Is there any interest for our Association to adopt a road ?

All of us have noticed the incredible amount of unsightly roadside litter that has piled up along the roads in Clark County this year. Although fines for littering and illegal dumping range from \$50 to \$5,000, it doesn't seem to have staunched the steady stream of junk that has polluted our roads and highways. If we want to help clean up this mess we

can join the [Adopt a Highway](#) program. According to the Southwest Region's director, Bill VanAntwerp (360-905-2131) 44 groups have adopted 174 roadside miles in Clark, Skamania and Cowlitz counties. 340 miles of state and interstate highways are waiting to be adopted in this region. Volunteers, after completing training, are expected to conduct four cleanups per year.

For information about other litter cleanup programs supervised by the state Department of Ecology, visit www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/litter.

When you see drivers or passengers littering, or if you see an unsecured load, call 866-LITTER-1 (866-548-837).

By the way, people who use their cell phones to report illegal or dangerous activities are exempt from the cell phone law against using a cell phone while driving

Need Help Finding Help? There's much more than 911

The best number to call for finding help for food, health care, legal services, counseling, housing, emergency shelter and much more is 211. Or search at www.211info.org.

For Road conditions, call 511,

For digging, call 811.

Miscellaneous

DO YOU KNOW: According to Holly Gaya, Outreach/Emergency PIL Coordinator for Clark County, our neighborhood includes 401 mailing labels. Currently, via email, we are only reaching 55. Please help us increase that number. If you are receiving our newsletters by email and know of a neighbor in our area who does not have email, would you please print out a copy and share it with them.

DO YOU KNOW someone in the Military who could use some financial guidance? A Military-Family Guide giving "the lowdown on tax breaks and savings opportunities for service members is available at www.kkiplinger.com/links/military .

DOES SOMEONE YOU KNOW need information on college aid? Check out www.Kiplinger.com/links/paycollege for everything you need to know to qualify for the maximum amount of college funding.

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