

West Hazel Dell Neighborhood Association Spring Newsletter ~ April 2009



MAY 20 MEETING REMINDER

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday, May 20 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 speaker for the May meeting will be **Mike McCabe of the Clark County Sheriff's Office**. Sgt. McCabe will be speaking to the group about Kids and the Internet as well as other ways to help keep your children safe as they interact with the rest of the community online and in person.

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

APRIL 9, Gaiser School, 6:00-8:00 p.m. is the public work shop on the 78th Street/WSU Experiment Station ag site property. Its future lies in your hands. **PLEASE** see story in this newsletter and attend.

West Hazel Dell Neighborhood Association (WHDNA) boundaries 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.

There is no application to belong – just live within our boundaries. There are no dues although voluntary contributions are most welcome and appreciated.

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

Some fun flyers have been circulated to help us remember our shared water supply as we walk our dogs. It program created by Clark County is called **Canines for Clean Water**. Their flyer is available at <http://www.clark.wa.gov/water-resources/education/k9/petwaste.html>.

The rules for the effort are simple enough: 1. **Scoop** the poop, 2. **Bag** it, and 3. Put it in the **garbage!** The numbers of dog owners is increasing in Clark County; now we have 103,000 canine pets – who generate almost 6,000 **tons** of waste a year! (I'm sure you will believe that if you've ever walked to the mailbox at night and experienced some of that "waste" on your shoes.

Rain washes the poop into the nearest storm drains, which leads to the nearest wetland or stream. Obviously, feces bacteria carries disease and negatively affects stream, fish, people and pets. This stuff stays around for weeks or years in some cases.

So – carry a plastic bag (there has to be a use for them) and keep your pets on leash near waterways and sensitive areas. Thanks – from us all!

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.)

Work parties at Jorgenson Woods Neighborhood Park called “The Short & Sweet Weed Pull” Events”

Elizabeth Graham and Karen Wulf have been hosting and promoting “short and sweet” maintenance work parties at Jorgenson Woods. The following message has been recently received from Elizabeth regarding Jorgenson Woods Park and is reproduced with her permission:



“If you are at the park, even passing through, or staying just a few minutes, and notice weeds, or debris on the pathways or in the play area, feel free to pull it out, or pick it up and toss it into the garbage if it's a weed or into the wooded or shrub areas if it's just dropped branchlets. If you're there with your kids and they want to pick dandelions, they can certainly do that, and toss the heads. It is better to dig them out, but second best is to eliminate the seed source. Yesterday I took a goodly amount of plastics to Van Transfer Center from folks who brought it to me. Thanks to all who participated in sparing the landfill recyclable items that can be otherwise useful.

“Spring is still springing in the park, and the Indian plum and violets continue to add their radiance. My son and I surveyed the wetland last Sunday and observed Chorus frog and Long-toed salamander egg masses. Unfortunately we were cut short due to the torrential downpour which sent massive amounts of street run-off into the wetland and clouded up the water. This week we went back to finish the survey and all of our stakes had been removed! This was very discouraging. At least we know that our wetland is active with wildlife, which is great. It's also nice to know that kids are playing outside, though I would prefer they were less destructive to our efforts, and to those of the parks dept. who has also reported missing stakes and plant protection netting.”

NOTE: To keep abreast of the proper ways to recycle, check out the link below –

Here is a link to the **recycle** page...<http://www.co.clark.wa.us/recycle/documents/Publications/RecyclingInstructions.pdf>

ANOTHER RESOURCE:

Master Composter Recycler Program
Columbia Springs
12602 SE Evergreen Hwy
Vancouver, WA 98683
360.882.4567

www.columbiasprings.org or mcr@columbiasprings.org

Watch for clean-up opportunities around the annual **Earth Day** celebrations. There will be announcements in the local papers as well as reminders on radio and TV. It is a special day to remember to take care of what we have.





Our association is still looking at the possibility of applying for **non-profit 501(c)(3) status**. We feel we would be able to participate in many more community events with a bit of a bank account and people might be more apt to contribute, especially in this economy, if their contributions were tax-deductible. North Salmon Creek Neighborhood Association has just completed the process and we hope to gain from their experience. Currently, the only monies received by WHDNA are the most welcome voluntary contributions from residents from time-to-time. Thus far the only monies spent have been a \$100 contribution to

the 78th Street Intersection landscaping fund (which, if not completed, we will request returned) and a \$100 contribution to annual Kids' holiday party at Sarah J. Anderson Elementary School. We do have residents who volunteer for various community programs, and their participation is greatly appreciated. But to put West Hazel Dell NA on the map and more active, the board believes non-profit status would be beneficial. The current fee for the application is \$350. I welcome your feedback on this proposal as well as ideas on fund-raising to gather the money needed to apply.

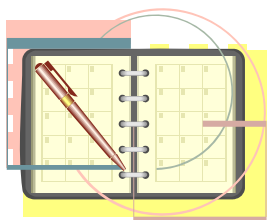
THE 78TH STREET PROPERTY/WSU EXPERIMENT STATION AND YOU

For several months the County has been holding meetings with the **"78th Street Property Sounding Board,"** a group that was selected by the County to represent various groups and interests in unincorporated Clark County with regards to the 78th Street Property (the "ag site" to most of us old-timers). There are four members from the neighborhoods on that large board. The original use of the large building on the site was as the Clark County Poor Farm and contains a cemetery on the hill containing the remains of residents of the **Poor Farm**. So we have historic as well as social interests involved. WSU Extension Service has operated on the property since 1949 and only returned the site to Clark County ownership recently.

Prior to the establishment of the Sounding Board, there were interviews with members of the community to determine ideas and opinions about the potential uses of the site. The business association weighed in loud and long after a meeting at which Commissioner Marc Boldt shared the first version of the possible uses on a map of the nearly 80 acre property. The problem was that the entire space was devoted to, for lack of a better description, "ag" uses. These included some desirable uses for the site, but not necessarily exclusive uses.



From the perspective of the business owners in the Hazel Dell area that attended that meeting and others since, there was nothing included that would enhance the business community nor to make the property self-sustaining. A section along 78th Street could be set aside for attractive, inviting uses for the community as a whole, with community gardens, composters, master gardeners, naturally beautiful backyards and butterflies perhaps grouped around a demonstration farm house. That could even include a petting area where small farm animals could be visited by families. The educational aspects of this site are limitless and it is our hope that the school district will be able to take advantage of the natural habitat areas that could be improved and enhanced.



After the first of the year three new versions of possible uses and locations was provided. Still there was no mention of adding, for example, a sit-down restaurant to the plan. This has been a lengthy and drawn-out discussion and will be added to on **Thursday, April 9 at Gaiser Middle School (6:00-8:00 p.m.)** when the general public will have an opportunity to review what is there and what could be there in the future. This is a long-term effort and, hopefully, will be something everyone can be proud of. But the only way we can provide input is to actually check out what is being talked

about and add our ideas and opinions – now – before things are set in stone.



One of the stumbling blocks to the current plans from the standpoint of Team 99 and the business association is the inclusion of a food bank distribution center on the 78th Street frontage. The food systems/bank representatives have been providing examples to the Sounding Board of other such facilities in hopes of encouraging buy-in. One such facility operates in conjunction with the Mother Earth Farm in Puyallup. The food distribution center is in Lakewood and is part of the Emergency Food Network (EFN). This is a great project and worthy of our support – the question remains: location, location, location. A business association board member has recently taken a road trip to see exactly what a well established EFN center would look like. As you can tell from the photos, this is not exactly the kind of thing

that would bring economic growth participants to the Hazel Dell area. The business community would like to see it supported, just not on the 78th Street frontage. The EFN in Lakewood includes a large yard with a huge supply of containers of all shapes and materials, a couple of semi-trucks and a general look and feel of a less than desirable addition to the area. We don't know what the proposed food bank building will look like, but current plans have it located on the NE section of the property along 78th Street. Everything looks good when it's new, but there are no guarantees that the facility wouldn't take on the worn look of the example in Lakewood.

After the recent tragic event just off 78th Street, the business community is even more concerned that we do nothing to attract the elements of society that can be found in and around the vacant housing across the road. With the Kings Way School just a block from the east end of the ag site, we want to protect our children from any possible problems that a food distribution center of the Lakewood type might attract. We have been approached by several parents in the area who are very concerned about what goes on the property. That is a concern of everyone in the community and we need public input to ensure we maintain a safe environment.

This is the storage yard that is part of the Lakewood EFN →



Please mark your calendars, tell your friends and coworkers. The public work shop will be on **Thursday, April 9 at Gaiser Middle School on NE 88th Street from 6-8 p.m.** It is your opportunity to bring ideas and imagination to help our community build an environment that speaks to our past, our present and our future.

Checkout www.clark.wa.gov/78WSU and www.VancouverFood.coop before the work shop to see more.

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Vancouver, WA 98665

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All West Hazel Dell residents are automatically “members” of the neighborhood association. 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 raise the \$350 needed to make that application 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.

Hazel Dell Parade of Bands is schedule for Saturday, May 16 this year. The parade itself starts from the fire station on NE Hazel Dell Avenue at 10:30. However, the roads are closed off earlier at various points on the route. NE 78th Street will be closed at Hazel Dell Avenue by 10:00 and the freeway entrances and exits will also close prior to the starting time to allow for traffic to move through the area before the marching bands take to the streets. This year’s parade theme is “**March to Camelot**” which should be fun to decorate for. Our grand marshal is **Betty Sue Morris** who served our community as county commissioner so well for so long. We invite the community to come out and support our most recent retired commissioner, and cheer on your favorite band or parade entry. Our naming sponsor again this year is **Bomber Brothers Fireworks** who have provided the parade with enthusiastic support as well as **Cold Stone Ice Cream** at the poster contest each October.



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