

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Greater *Brush Prairie*

Neighborhood Association

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

greaterbrushprairie@gmail.com

January 2016

Greater Brush Prairie Neighborhood Association

General Meeting

Election of Officers
Saturday, January 30th, 2016
4:00 – 5:30 PM

Hockinson Fire Station,
Fire District #3
17718 NE 159th Street
Brush Prairie, WA 98606

Agenda

- Description of Offices
- Approval of New Positions
- Election of Officers
- Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Facility Plans for Brush Prairie
- Cedars Village Development Traffic Concerns
- Light Industrial Land Bank Proposal
- Others

Daybreak Youth Drugs and Alcohol Rehab Center Raises Concerns

Editor's Note: Neighbor Mark Gawecki testified at a Board of County Councilors meeting on December 8th, 2015. Here is what he said:

Good Morning Councilors, thank you for the opportunity to allow me to speak this morning.

I am concerned about a decision that was made by two councilors to grant an emergency zoning ordinance change to allow a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center to be constructed in rural Brush Prairie, Washington. This decision was made without input from the community directly affected by this decision.

The decision was made in a meeting held on November 18th, 2015 after listening to Daybreak Youth Services explain their predicament over the purchase of a facility to carry out their work to help troubled youth. Nobody disagrees with the importance of trying to rescue adolescents from drug and alcohol addiction.

The concern I and my neighbors have is the method used to advance this operation. Proponents of the Daybreak Drug and Alcohol rehabilitation facility were invited by Councilor Madore to explain their plans for their future work in Clark County. After a short discussion councilors Madore and Mielke voted to change the zoning ordinance to allow the group to proceed with their plans to purchase a facility to do their work. This decision was made without any input from neighbors who have concerns about the safety of such a facility. No one opposed to the zoning change was invited to the meeting.

There will be another BOCC hearing in the future to make this decision permanent.

Now, anyone who has concerns about the decision will be cast as people opposed to helping disadvantaged youth. None of the neighbors I spoke with is against helping youth; they only want their concerns addressed. But the decision has already been made without their input.

Why was this emergency decision made in the first place? The audio recording of the November 18th meeting reveals that the Daybreak officials misunderstood the zoning regulations of the building they wanted to purchase and, unless the zoning was changed, they could not use the facility for their intended purpose. They had been looking for a new facility for **several years** and were now dismayed that they had made a bad decision on their selection of the site. Rather than continue their search for a legally zoned facility they decided to request a zoning change. This property has been under consideration by Daybreak for well over a year. How is this an emergency?

There was no emergency. There was no reason not to follow normal procedures and get community input for such a controversial issue. The councilors made a rash decision without community input. This is not good governmental policy. The county council is suffering from a lack of due process.

County Councilors Defend Daybreak

By Mark Gawecki

The video recording of the December 8th, 2015 County Council meeting with comments by the Councilors is available on the Clark County web site, www.cvtv.org/vid_link/17525. You can hear my testimony and councilor comments starting at about 1:50:02 on the time line.

Councilors Madore and Mielke defended their decision to approve the emergency measure on the grounds that there is a crisis in the lack of drug and alcohol addiction treatment facilities for adolescent girls and insufficient facilities for boys in Clark County. Unless the Councilors approved the ordinance to change the zoning, the opportunity for Daybreak to purchase the property would be lost.

Councilor Stewart agreed that it is a good thing to offer treatment for drug and alcohol addiction to our

troubled youth. She questioned the method used to change the zoning without a public hearing. The way the zoning was changed affects the use code for **all** rural centers within Clark County and not just the property that Daybreak wishes to purchase. There are reasons why the original zoning uses were established. This was a decision made without a public hearing and is a sweeping change for rural zoning.

Next Steps

The county has tentatively scheduled a public hearing on January 13th, 2016 for the Board of County Councilors to consider whether to extend the resolution for further review. The interim zoning ordinance will expire January 17th, 2016 unless the Board decides to extend it. Please watch for related news and announcements.

Cedar's Village Public Hearing Cancelled

By Mark Gawecki

A notice on August 5th, 2015 cancelled the planned public hearing on proposed Cedar's Village to be built on the Golf Course. Sam Crummett, Battle Ground Planning Supervisor, reported that the cancellation was due to pending traffic analysis and Department of Ecology wetland determination. A new hearing date will be scheduled once all these issues were resolved. Following is a questions and answer exchange with Mr. Crummett:

Gawecki: Is it still unknown when the new City Staff report will be issued?

Crummett: *A new staff report will be issued 7 days prior to the Public Hearing. Only when we get the requested wetland and traffic information will we be able to update the staff report.*

Gawecki: Is it still unknown when a new hearing date would be established?

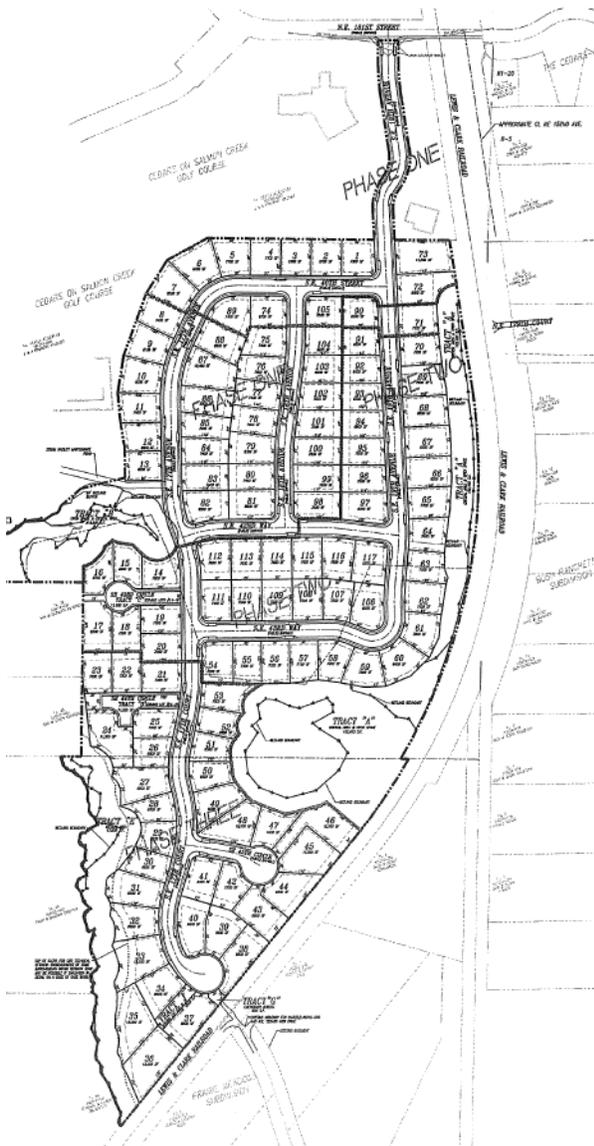
Crummett: *Yes, still unknown.*

Gawecki: Anything new in the case?

Crummett: *Nothing new. I've put a call into the applicant, but last I've heard they are still working on their wetland and traffic issues.*

Gawecki: We are gearing up for another neighborhood meeting and I want to advise the neighbors of any new developments on this project. We are certainly having some wetland issues out on the golf course today! I hope you stay high and dry.

**Cedars Village Subdivision
Preliminary Plan on the Golf Course
Property**



Three phases are proposed for Cedars Village starting with the northern area, middle, then south.



*The final staff report on the Cedar's Village Development Project will be issued once the transportation and wetland delineation issues have been addressed. At that point a hearing will be scheduled. It is unknown at this time when the report will be issued and the hearing scheduled. Meanwhile, water continues to rage on the Golf Course.
(Jeff Hansen Photograph)*

Fires, Floods, & Tornado, Oh My!
by Fire Chief Steve Wrightson

Fires

This is the busiest time of year for structure fires. Most structure fires are caused by unattended portable heating appliances, combustibles too close to heating sources, dirty/clogged chimneys, and other unintentional acts. About every other year or so we experience a Christmas tree fire in a residence. Christmas tree fires are most often caused by dry trees, faulty and hot electrical tree lights, trees too close to open flames and candles, and trees too close to heat sources. Extra caution is necessary during this time of year.

Floods

We have assisted homeowners this month with flooding. We are able to set up portable pumps to pump water out of flooded basements and living spaces in an attempt to reduce water damage. Free sand bags and sand are available at the County Shop on 11608 NE 149th St. in Brush Prairie. You can load and take as many sand bags as you need to protect your property. Let us know if we can be of any other assistance.

Tornado

Fire District 3 assisted with the emergency response to the recent tornado in Battle Ground on December 10th, 2015. Our personnel responded with Clark County Fire & Rescue, Vancouver Fire, and Fire District 6 to provide emergency medical response and fire suppression. We also participated in the Emergency Operations Center at the Battle Ground Police Station where the emergency was managed. This was a relatively fast event. We are still amazed that no one was injured or killed during this strong storm. Our crews were placed back in service within the hour. Clean up continues throughout the path of the tornado.

We suggest that everyone prepare their home for the possibility of all types of natural disasters. Put together a 72 hour kit of food, water, and needed supplies to get your family through the first several hours of the event. Our resources will likely be overwhelmed and priority emergencies may force us to make tough decisions on who gets the help first. Be prepared to take care of your family by getting prepared for the event.

Fire District 3 wishes everyone a happy holiday season! We appreciate all your continued support.

Proposal to add two at-large positions to GBPNA Board

By Mark Gawecki

Article XI of the Greater Brush Prairie Neighborhood Association bylaws states that the bylaws may be amended at any general meeting by 2/3 vote of the membership in attendance. The proposed amendments must have been submitted to the membership at least one week before being voted upon. The proposed amendments to the bylaws allow for the board to appoint two at large positions.

One position would be an Information Officer handling e-mail, newsletters, GBPNA electronic media sites, and communications with other entities such as Clark County, Battle Ground, and the media.

The second position would be for a Special Assignment Officer to handle special assignments such as researching traffic studies, zoning regulations, court records, and other activities to be determined by the Board. The amendment to bylaws will be voted on by the general membership at meeting on January 30th, 2016.

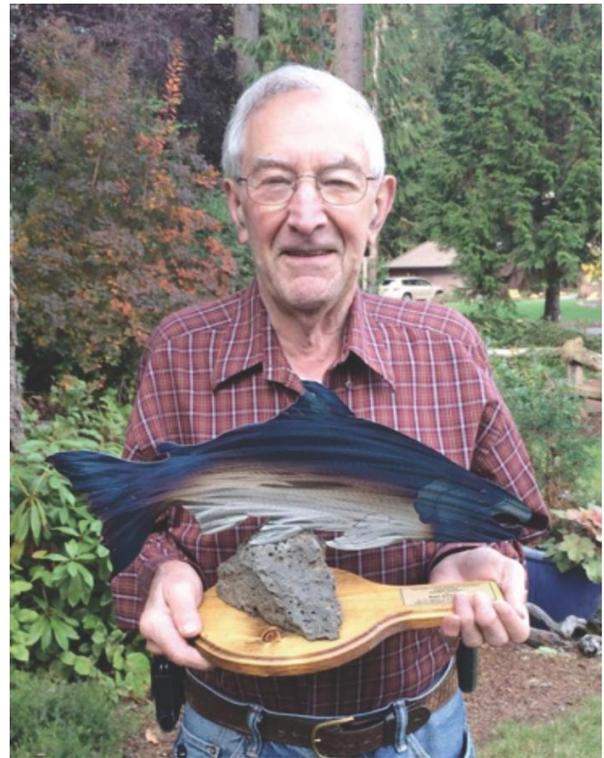
Ray Steiger Honored with Sammy Award by the County

Editor's Note: A couple of neighbors wrote articles about Ray Steiger's efforts to protect our salmon habitat and forest.

Our Woods

By Celina Steiger

On October 20th, 2015, my dad Ray Steiger was given the Sammy Award by Clark County for his tireless efforts and commitment to protecting a forest near our home in Brush Prairie. As kids, my brother and I would explore and bike around this forest. Now it's a preserved natural area. I was proud of his commitment all along, but this is a wonderful recognition for his work.



Ray Steiger with his much-deserved Sammy Award presented to him by Board of County Councilors on October 20th, 2015 (Jeff Hansen Photograph)

Formation of this preserve was made possible through years of input and patience, committed County Legacy Land staff, Bill Dygert's assessment, a "green" landowner, and respectful community use and enjoyment.

All along Ray held a belief “the woods” were rare in the area and too special to not be saved: Pileated woodpecker habitat, environmental learning opportunities of Morgan and Salmon Creeks, a mature forest, and a place to be surrounded by nature.

With a forester’s love for trees and woods, Ray Steiger shepherded the long process to success. For more information on the habitat, go to: www.columbian.com/news/2010/oct/27/natural-area-ahidden-gem-south-of-battleground/.

To find more Legacy Lands to enjoy, explore Clark County’s website www.clark.wa.gov/environmental-services/legacy-lands-program. As some remember, the Sammy Award recognizes individuals, groups, or projects for their outstanding contributions to salmon recovery in Clark County. Keeping part of Salmon Creek/Morgan Creek protected from urban sprawl seems to qualify.

Sammy Award

By Jeff Hansen

I am a neighbor and friend of Ray Steiger and we live in the Cedars development in Brush Prairie. Ray recently received a Good Samaritan award - The Sammy Award - from the county at the October 20th, 2015 council meeting.

He received this award, in part, for his ongoing dedication to the acreage adjacent to our neighborhood that was made into a natural reserve a couple years ago, The Salmon-Morgan Creeks Natural Area. Ray has been the unofficial caretaker of that area for the nearly 30 years he has lived here. Ray is a retired forester and has been a longtime volunteer with Fire District #3 in Hockinson. Here’s coverage of Ray receiving the award:

www.cvttv.org/vid_link/16775

Good Bye For Now

By Rob and Jenni Pearson, President & Vice President of Greater Brush Prairie Neighborhood Association

As we have enjoyed another holiday season, our minds are turned to our family and friends. More than financial or career success, it is the people we associate with and the communities we live in that make our lives meaningful. As transplants with no actually family near us, we have created a family out of our community and the people who live here. It was out of this sense of communal family that we took the posts as President and Vice President of the Greater Brush Prairie Neighborhood association almost four years ago. We wanted to give back to a community that had welcomed us and become our home. What better way than to become part of something that celebrated our collective uniqueness and protected our local interests? It’s been a rewarding experience, and for your support, we thank you.

As we start the New Year, we would like to pass the torch and allow others the opportunity to represent and serve our community. We hope that the new members of the Greater Brush Prairie Neighborhood Association will continue to celebrate our triumphs and work to preserve what makes us who we are, a community, a family. Happy New Year!



Christmas lights on Homestead Drive in Brush Prairie

Greater Brush Prairie Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 103
Brush Prairie, WA 98606

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STANDARD
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Greater Brush Prairie Neighborhood Association

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

greaterbrushprairie@gmail.com

January 2016

GBPNA Meeting

January 30th, 2016
Saturday
4:00 – 5:30 PM
Hockinson
Fire Station
17718 NE 159th St
Brush Prairie, WA 98606

Please ensure that you're receiving emails from us. If there's another way for us to contact you, please call 666-3398.

Members of the GBPNA Executive Board

President:	Vacant	greaterbrushprairie@gmail.com
VP:	Vacant	greaterbrushprairie@gmail.com
Secretary:	Mark Gawecki 666-3398	msgawecki@comcast.net
Treasurer:	Ray Steiger 687-7378	steiger@teleport.com

Web: www.greaterbrushprairie.blogspot.com

Facebook: [facebook.com/GreaterBrushPrairieNeighborhoodAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/GreaterBrushPrairieNeighborhoodAssociation)

Our Boundaries

West	NE 72nd Ave
South	NE 119th St., SR-503, NE 99th St., NE 96th St.
East	NE 212th Ave.
North	NE 159th St., NE 156th St., Salmon Creek to SR-503, SR-503 north to Battle Ground City boundary, Battle Ground City boundary to NE 199th St., NE 187th Ave., NE 219th St.

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