

# FAIRGROUNDS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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Greetings neighbors –

WOW! High winds forced the cancellation of our November FGNA meeting to talk about health insurance (Medicare and the Affordable Care Act).

We rescheduled for the month of December. But high winds *and* power outages cancelled that meeting too!

Now we are past the relevant deadlines – so – we'll revisit the topic in November 2015..... Weather permitting :>)

## FGNA FEBRUARY MEETING

Thursday, February 12, 2015 from 7 – 9 pm  
Community of Christ meeting room @ 400 NE 179<sup>th</sup> Street

**GROWING GROCERIES.** At this meeting we'll present lots of ideas for adding fresh fruits and veggies to your diet. Come learn from the experts:

- Ann Foster will talk about farmer's markets, particularly the Salmon Creek Farmer's market(s);
- Joyce Haines will talk about her CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) business and how CSAs work;
- Laura Pedersen of Clark County will talk about gardening plots for rent at Heritage Farm and other areas;
- Kristen Herron will talk about supporting the Central Food Bank warehouse.

## SURVEY MONKEY

Feedback! A free application called Survey Monkey allows us to ask you 10 simple multiple choice questions. It also leaves space for your comments and questions. This survey will only take 5 minutes (I told you the questions are simple). Your opinion is important to us. Please [click here](#) to provide us with your valuable feedback.

## WELCOME BACK!

When the Sheriff's Public Safety complex office first opened, we met the West Precinct's new Commander, Erin Nolan. Her public outreach efforts and community involvement set a high standard for the Sheriff's office.

As part of his departmental re-organization, our new Sheriff Chuck Atkins has sent Commander Nolan back to us to lead the West Precinct office once again. !\*A\*W\*E\*O\*M\*E\*!

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## MCDONALD'S FACELIFT

The Salmon Creek McDonald's has applied for an exterior upgrade to their store. Among other changes, expect their Playland to go away. Some interior work (particularly ADA compliance) may also happen.

FYI: McDonalds is experimenting with a new ordering system in some areas. Perhaps you will soon be able to walk in, order a custom made burger via touchscreen, and have it in less than 5 minutes. No word on whether a 3-d printer will create your meal. :->

## NEW COMMERCIAL LAND USE

Community Development is considering a request to change a large tract of land from an Industrial land use designation to Commercial. It is located at the corner of 139<sup>th</sup> Street and NE 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The developer has not disclosed the name of their client. Since the tract is right off the new 139<sup>th</sup> Street interchange, expect a big retailer.

## COMPUTER SECURITY

Hackers and their malware are way ahead of us. Did you know?

- They know how to install malware that tells your anti-virus software "don't report me".
- They know how to use an infected computer to send spam to e-mail contacts on that machine. You assume you know the sender.
- They know how to launch their malware when you click to close a popup screen.
- They know how to make a download website look like a genuine source for printer drivers etc.

In 1981 I started selling computers. I went online in 1984. Since then I have been committed to following safe computing practices. But I have been a victim of all of these schemes anyway!

Understand that your anti-virus software is 6 – 8 weeks or more behind the hackers. Microsoft Security Essentials, which updates automatically, is free and as good as any anti-virus software. But you can never assume that your machine is virus free.

Due to their extreme vulnerability you should never use Microsoft's Internet Explorer or MapQuest. Use Google Chrome and Google Maps instead. Never use Adobe Reader either, even if it says you must install it. Program updates often contain viruses. Use Foxit Reader instead. For the same reason, never use Java.

The bottom line: Stop thinking that software will protect you and adopt wise habits instead.

- 1) When you download an application (.exe file), right click and choose Properties. From there click on Details and check the screen. Is copyright information there? Does it, or anything else, look suspicious?
- 2) If you have downloaded software, have the pros check it out for you. Go to [www.virustotal.com](http://www.virustotal.com). You will be instructed to send the file to their site and 57 different anti-virus programs will check it out and return the results.

Finally, have Battle Ground Computers install a four program suite to help your computer run better and keep it safer from malware and hackers. *And pay close attention to the computer security training they provide.* (My thanks to Tom Cross at Battle Ground Computers (11 N Parkway Suite 107, 360.666.7647) for years of rescuing me from malware maladies. Tom provided the information for this article.)