

FAIRGROUNDS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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PO Box 292
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Greetings neighbors –

GROWTH MANAGEMENT ACT UPDATE

What do you want to do with your rural land? For the next 20 years, your options will be determined by the Growth Management Plan the Clark County Board adopts next year. Alternative 4 will impact the most parcels in our neighborhood (and create thousands of new ones). Will the new GMA plan be good or bad for you? The scenarios are endless. These are common:

- You want to pass on your property to heirs. But your parcel size zoning excludes some of your kids.
- You have been farming on 20 – 80 acres all your life and now it's time to retire. Your zoning restricts you from subdividing your acreage to maximize its sales value.
- The proposed zoning for your land is OK. But an increase in property taxes would be unaffordable.
- You are living on a few acres in a McMansion. How do you stop an employer from locating next door?

The big picture is that sprawl has gobbled up most of our resource lands. In many cases developers (and profit potential) have determined where and how that has happened. Now what? We can preserve more resource lands by restricting the rights of the landowners who have preserved our rural lifestyle all these years. Or we can open up more land to sprawl that will primarily benefit developers. Or.....??

For information, click on the GMA listing on the right side of the county website www.clark.wa.gov.

THANK YOU!

The update of our Growth Management Plan is a massive task. It is made more difficult by the exit of so many Community Planning staff experienced with the process. And 2 County Councilors that are new to this and need to get up to speed. And the addition of Alternative 4 which brought the whole process temporarily to a halt. And people like me with seemingly endless questions.

My thanks to Oliver Orjiako and his Community Planning staff for their professional and responsive handling of this GMA update. Thanks also to all the other county departments responsible for a piece of the puzzle. With their help, I am able to help our neighborhood association members be informed and get involved.

PARADE of HOMES

The 2015 Northwest Natural Parade of Homes is coming to the fairgrounds area. Of the 8 lots, 5 are beginning construction and the Building Industry Association (BIA) expects 1 or 2 more to be built. The site is on 179th Street east of I-5 at NE 26th Avenue.

SURVEY MONKEY RESULTS

We asked you multiple choice questions. The results are in this newsletter. The survey also left space for your comments and questions. Too late, I found out there is no way to link your comments directly back to you. So I respond to your comments in this newsletter. Thanks for your valuable responses.

Regards,
Bridget Schwarz
for the Executive Board

FAIRGROUNDS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

SURVEY MONKEY RESULTS

Not everyone answered all the survey questions. My response to survey comments are within the feedback to question 10. *Comments are in italics.*

1) About how long have you lived in this neighborhood?

27.5%	1 -- 10 years	12.5%	31-40 years
25%	11 -- 20 years	10%	41 -- 50 years
17.5%	21 - 30 years	7.5%	51 + years

WOW! Almost half of us have been here more than 20 years.

2) Is your neighborhood urban or rural?

35%	Urban	65 %	Rural
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If more urban neighbors had responded that would have increased the percentages of folks that have lived here less than 20 years.

3) How many of your neighbors do you know?

5%	All of them	31%	Most of them
26%	About half of them	39%	A few of them
0%	None of them		

Do we need more neighborhood social events?

4) Would you like to be included in a neighborhood mapping program?

29%	YES	14%	NO
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57% Need more information

We are researching the possibilities and the topics such a website would include. Stay tuned.

5) Do you read the monthly newsletter?

64%	Always	28%	Usually		
5%	Sometimes		2		% Never

With these percentages, I will never again question the time & effort the newsletter takes to prepare. Please send me feedback, comments, and suggestions on how to make the newsletter more relevant.

6) Do you attend our meetings?

8%	Usually	31%	Sometimes
61%	Never		

These percentages reinforce the importance of our monthly newsletter as the means to communicate what's happening in our neighborhood. Please send me feedback (bridget@bridge-i-t.com) about the meeting topics that will get you to join us.

FAIRGROUNDS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

SURVEY MONKEY RESULTS (2)

7) How often should we meet?

33%	Monthly	39%	Every other month
27%	Quarterly	0%	Annually
1%	Other		

From the question above, I weighted those that usually attend our monthly meeting more heavily. So we'll continue to meet monthly. FYI: Curiously, most of those who never attend our meetings think we should meet monthly too.

8) What topics interest you? Choose all that apply.

72.5%	Traffic	67.4%	Public safety
82.5%	Development	30%	Local economy
42.5%	Local politics	82.5%	Growth Management
25%	Neighborhood social events	27.5%	Fairgrounds/amphitheater/Event Center
37.5%	Schools		

Development and growth management tie for first place. Traffic and public safety are also high interest.

9) Just wondering: If you buy an uncooked pizza at the grocery store you pay no sales tax. Papa Murphy's is a locally based franchiser with over 1400 locations. If you buy an uncooked pizza from them you pay sales tax. Does that make sense to you?

15%	YES	85%	NO
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10) Thanks for taking our survey. What else would you like us to know?

- When is WalMart coming?

Project approval requires the beginning of construction within 5 years. A couple years ago Wal Mart pushed some dirt around. By showing progress, that extended the deadline for another 5 years. They can do that endlessly. So the answer is, we don't know.

- Why aren't there street lights at 149th and NW 11th and 179th and NW 11th?

The jargon for the installation of traffic improvements is "warrant". Traffic manuals clearly define the conditions that warrant mitigation like street lights, stop signs, speed limits, etc. If you want to pursue traffic control measures, ask the county at 397.2446 and a traffic engineer will investigate.

- I get the newsletter through (fill in the blank). Can you sign me up to receive my own copy?

Done. If you want to be added to our e-mail contact database, just let me know (bridget@bridge-i-t.com). Your contact information will not be shared.

- How to get some of the property owners to clean up their yards. What agency would be the place to call to complain?

The first step is to solve the problem among yourselves. Is there a reason the yard is not kept up (age or disability)? Can you as good neighbors help your neighbor solve the problem? By talking among yourselves, you will always have a better outcome. As a last resort, call county code enforcement. They will work with the property owner to gain code compliance.

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SURVEY MONKEY RESULTS (3)

- I appreciate the newsletter. I'm unable to attend the meetings, but like to have information that is relevant to the neighborhood.

Thanks! Let me know what topics you think are relevant to the neighborhood (bridget@bridge-i-t.com).

- What is the population numbers in the neighborhood; what is the ethnic mix, what is the average size household.

Tough questions. Census is done by zip code (that would include all of Ridgefield and areas of Salmon Creek), not our boundaries. Ethnic mix is not tracked by the county. For planning purposes, the county uses 2.6 persons per household. Anybody know where to go for the other answers?

- We have a horrible skunk smell in the neighborhood. We all know what that smell is but don't know where it is coming from. What can be done?

My sympathies! This is an issue for the state Department of Fish & Wildlife (360.696.6211) but I do not know what resources they have to address your problem.

- Very concerned about development in our area. Any information would be appreciated. Get involved! Right now we are in the middle of the update process of the county 20-year Growth Management Plan. The nature of our neighborhood, especially the confluence of 2 freeways means that this area will be a high activity area for decades to come.

Go to the county web site (www.clark.wa.gov) and click on Growth plan update in the right column for maps, reports, timelines, etc. Email a comment to comp.plan@getinvolved.html. Mail a comment to Community Planning, PO Box 9810, Vancouver WA 98666.

- We need to be able to find out WHO is on the FGNA board of directors.

A list of our Board members are on the last page of our newsletters.

Also, one person on the board should not force her opinions and family issues on all the members of the group.

OUCH! The overwhelming feedback I get is gratitude for my attempts to explain the impacts on quality of life issues (see question 9). Out of necessity, doesn't that require a viewpoint?

The FGNA geographic area is too large and cannot address the "needs" of the many small communities within the association boundaries.

We agree. The boundaries were created in 1999 around users of the 179th Street interchange. (Since then the 139th and 219th interchanges have been built.) Will you help us plan the adjustment of our borders? Be aware that in the past this objective was not possible because no one was willing to take responsibility for leading a newly created neighborhood association. Without that, for obvious reasons the county will not allow us to abandon members that have joined FGNA.

- We should reduce growth, manage what we have properly and respect what property owners want to do with their land.

You won't find a lot of opposition to your statement (see question #9 results). The only way to accomplish your goals is for like-minded citizens to get involved. While it is unrealistic to expect total victory, you have to accept that without your involvement the outcome would be even worse.

FAIRGROUNDS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Clark County Fire District 6 Seeks “Soles4Souls”

Clark County Fire District 6 is excited to be collecting new and used shoes at all three of its Fire Stations in support of “Soles4Souls.” More specifically FD6 is supporting middle school student Teagan Carper in her personal attempt to bring in 25,000 pair of shoes. Barrels have been placed for sole collecting at the following Fire Stations:

- 8800 NE Hazel Dell Ave
- 11600 NW Lakeshore Ave
- 1200 NE 134th Street

Shoes can be in any condition, even shoes that are destroyed can be used. Other people involved in this global effort will melt down the rubber to assist in creating new shoes and other needs for the impoverished.

“I see *Soles4Souls* as a wonderful opportunity to help people internationally as well as support and encourage young members of our community like Teagan, to support people in need,” says Fire District 6 Chief Jerry Green.

Founded in 2006, Sole4Souls is a global not-for-profit institution dedicated to fighting the devastating impact and perpetuation of poverty through the distribution of shoes and clothing. More info @ www.soles4souls.org

For further information contact:

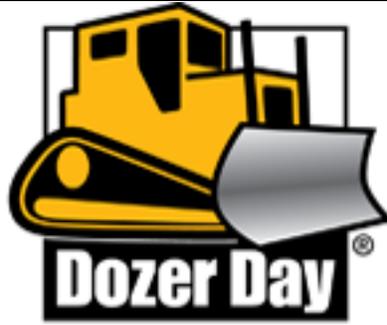
Sarah Walton
Public Education / Information Officer
sarah.walton@ccfd6.org
360-576-1195

INNER PEACE

If you can always be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains; If you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles; If you can eat the same food every day and be grateful for it; If you can understand when your loved ones are too busy to give you any time; If you can take criticism and blame without resentment; If you can conquer tension without medical help; If you can relax without alcohol; If you can sleep without the aid of drugs; *Then you are probably the family dog!* (And you thought I was going to get all spiritual ...)



FAIRGROUNDS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



Where kids Drive! Volunteer Instructions

Who: Dozer Day needs volunteers to assist with a variety of tasks including: operating construction equipment (Professional operators only), equipment line monitors, greeting guests and helping with various other activities related to the event. **Volunteers must be at least 14 years of age.**

What: Dozer Day provides kids the opportunity to hop in the driver's seat and actually drive big yellow dozers, dump trucks, and other heavy equipment with a professional operator at their side. Not only is Dozer Day fun for the entire family, it is also a fundraiser benefiting children's charities through the Nutter Foundation.

Where: Clark County Fairgrounds

When: The Volunteer Shifts Are:

Saturday, May 16 th	1st Shift - 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.	2nd Shift - 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday, May 17 th	1st Shift - 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	2nd Shift - 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

How: **The deadline for registration is Friday, May 1st.** Register as soon as possible in order to get your preferred shift(s). Here's how to sign-up in a few easy steps:

1. Click on this link: DozerDay.org and click "Register as a Dozer Day Volunteer." This will take you to the Volunteer Spot website
2. Sign in using your email address
3. Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you want
 - A. Choose the day you would like to serve (Saturday and/or Sunday)
 - B. Choose an AM and/or PM under the volunteer category you belong (sponsor booth volunteer, general volunteer, equipment operator volunteer, etc.)
 - C. Fill out all the requested information (Be sure to add "Organization/Group Name" if applicable) and click "Save"
4. Click on the Green "Save Button" at the bottom of the screen once you've selected all your shifts

That's it! You should receive a confirmation email that will give you details and instructions on how to make changes to your commitments. If you have any questions with registration, please email volunteervancouver@dozerday.org.

Dozer Day operates solely on volunteers. **It is essential that volunteers fulfill their obligation at the time they indicate.** Dozer Day's 20,000 excited guests are counting on you!

Event Logistics

Once registered, you will receive an email with a link to the parking pass for FREE volunteer parking. You must have your Dozer Day Volunteer Parking Pass displayed on your dashboard when you arrive on-site in order to receive free parking. If you have not received your pass within one week prior to the event, email VolunteerVancouver@DozerDay.org . **Please do not share this pass with non-volunteers. Doing so will make it impossible to offer this benefit in the future.**

Once you arrive on-site head directly to the volunteer tent where they will assign you a station. You will also receive a free lunch in appreciation for donating your time.

Lastly, to ensure the event runs smoothly and safely, you are required to watch a YouTube instructional video. A link to the instructional video will also be sent with your parking pass and will be shown on-site as a refresher.

Thank you for supporting your community by volunteering at Dozer Day. With your help, this event will ROCK!

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PRIVACY PROTECTION & SECURITY

We pass along jokes on the Internet; we pass along just about everything. Thanks to member Susan Wickersham for passing this along.

Even If you dislike attorneys...You will love these tips.

1. Do not sign the back of your credit cards. Instead, write 'PHOTO ID REQUIRED'.
2. When you are writing checks to pay on your credit card accounts, do NOT put the complete account number on the 'For' line. Instead, just put the last four numbers. The credit card company knows the rest of the number, and anyone who might be handling your check as it passes through all the check processing channels won't have access to it.
3. Put your work phone # on your checks instead of your home phone. If you have a PO Box use that instead of your home address. If you do not have a PO Box, use your work address. Never have your SS# printed on your checks. You can add it if it is necessary.
4. Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine. Do both sides of each license, credit card, etc. You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel. Keep the photocopy in a safe place. Carry a photocopy of your passport when travelling either here or abroad.

Here's some critical information to limit the damage in case your wallet is stolen or you are a victim of identity theft.

5. Cancel our credit cards immediately. But the key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Keep those where you can find them.
6. File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where your credit cards, etc., were stolen. This proves to credit providers you were diligent, and this is a first step toward an investigation (if there ever is one).
7. Here's what is perhaps most important of all: Call the 3 national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name. Also call the Social Security fraud line number. The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen, and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit.

Here are the numbers you always need to contact about your wallet, if it has been stolen:

- Equifax: 1-800-525-6285
- Experian: (formerly TRW): 1-888-397-3742
- Trans Union: 1-800-680 7289
- Social Security Administration (fraud line): 1-800-269-0271

If you also pass this information along, it could help someone you care about.

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P.O. Box 292
Ridgefield, WA 98642

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Bridget Schwarz	573-5873	bridget@bridge-i-t.com

GENERAL MEETINGS:

WE MEET at 7 PM ON SECOND THURSDAYS AT THE COMMUNITY of CHRIST MEETING ROOM
400 NE 179TH STREET, 1/2 MILE WEST OF I-5

OUR BOUNDARIES :

NORTH, 219TH STREET; **WEST**, LAKE RIVER; **EAST**, NE 72ND AVENUE;
SOUTH – WEST OF I-5, NW 151ST STREET TO NW 41ST AVENUE TO NW / NE 164TH STREET;
EAST OF I-5, NE KLINELINE RD TO NE 119TH ST TO SALMON CREEK TO NE 50TH AVE
TO NE 149TH ST TO NE 72ND AVE

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