

FAIRGROUNDS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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Executive Board
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September 2015

PO Box 292
Ridgefield, WA 98642
360.573.5873

Greetings neighbors,

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Thursday, September 10, 2015 @ 7 pm

Community of Christ meeting room, 400 NE 179th Street

This will be a doozy! County officials will cover 2 important topics. First, the county Assessor will explain how property values are assessed and taxes levied. Second, the manager of the Real Property Services department will explain how property is acquired from private landowners for right of way uses. There is a lot of confusion around both of these topics.

Neither of these are 'hot button' issues right now. But depending on the details, the 20 year Growth Management plan that will be adopted in 2016 could dramatically change things. Will zoning changes impact your property taxes? Will it necessitate a chunk of your front yard to build a wider road? Will businesses locate next door? Or lot sizes be reduced all around you? Or??? Join us! We'll bring maps for the Growth Management update Alternatives.

OCTOBER MEETING

Clark County Council candidate forum

Thursday, October 8, 2015 @ 7 pm

Community of Christ meeting room, 400 NE 179th Street

The voters have spoken! For our new County Councilor (District 2) the candidates in the November 3 General election are Chuck Green-D and Julie Olson-R. Only those of us who live in District 2 will vote for that position.

The County Chair will be elected county wide and the candidates are Marc Boldt-I and Mike Delasandro-D. As always, all the candidates will be allotted the same amount of time to answer the same questions.

COUNTY GROWTH MANAGEMENT UPDATE

As required, a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for all 4 of the proposed alternatives has been issued. It is 164 pages long. (<http://www.clark.wa.gov/planning/2016update/alternatives.html>) Public comments must be received by the close of business on September 17, 2015. Send your comments to: More on GMA update impacts on the next page.

FAIRGROUNDS EXECUTIVE BOARD

Our Executive Board has 9 positions. One has been open for a while. The former member is busy on the board of his homeowner's association. Another former member is busy with the Master Gardeners. So at our September meeting we will be asking members to volunteer to fill these spots. Failing that, in October we will ask members to approve a Bylaws change to reduce our number of Executive Board members from 9 to 7.

FYI: With rare exception, Board members create their own job descriptions. So scratch your neighborhood involvement itch and contact me if you are interested!

Bridget Schwarz
For the Executive Board

FAIRGROUNDS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

RURAL LANDS IMPACTS

The battle over rural landowner's rights under the county's Growth Management Act (GMA) update is not an either/or proposition as the 2 opposing organizations suggest. NEITHER of them represents my view, or many of the neighbors I have talked with.

In this debate, both sides simply ignore rural landowners that don't agree with them. That way, both sides can claim to represent rural land owners. But only YOU can decide what Comp Plan zoning fits your best interests. Do not lose this opportunity to tell Clark County Councilors what you want.

Clark County Citizens United (CCCU) claims that current zoning regulations restrict rural landowners from developing their property as they see fit. Exactly. Growth management policy is not based on maximizing the land's potential for profit. The goal is to plan for growth with the assurance that needed infrastructure (roads, water & sewer, schools, public safety, etc.) is in place.

CCCU supports the Alternative 4 proposal for the GMA update. If adopted, it would change zoning and lot sizes and create 12,401 new lots. CCCU appears dismissive about the cost of needed infrastructure improvements and silent on the question of how they are paid for.

On the other hand, Friends of Clark County (FoCC) claims that preserving large parcels is necessary to preserve our natural resources, especially agriculture, regardless of the circumstances. Wrong. There are many property owners in Clark County who have been great stewards of the land for generations. Comp Plan zoning does not compel these landowners to preserve the rural environment.

But large lot landowners are handcuffed in their ability to pass this legacy down to their children or end ag/forest operations and just retire on their land. Is the only solution really to sell the family farm and divide the proceeds among heirs?

What is fair? That answer depends only on how Comp Plan zoning affects *your* property.

Here's why neither option addresses our family's story. Our ancestors were granted the original Land Trust deed to a quarter parcel. (That's one square mile or 160 acres.) Half of it is forest, a fourth is a strawberry field and a fourth is meadow.

It has been a battle with both these groups, but today the property is still owned by our family and there are 3 generations of us living on the land. We cannot predict how the next generation will fare.

To pass on our inheritance, the CCCU solution is to subdivide the 160 acres into small parcels. That is incompatible with nearby land uses and will make the property taxes unaffordable. FoCC took us to court to prevent us from dividing into 10 acre parcels so the next generation can build homes here.

Many other rural landowners face similar problems. These 2 organizations present a false choice. As a group, rural landowners just do not fit into a neat CCCU or FoCC mold. We all have our own, individual, plans and goals.

So study all the Comp Plan zoning alternatives and determine which land use best fits your long range plans. Pursue it! Tell the County Council exactly what zoning you want applied to your property. Send your email comments by September 17 to: compplan@clark.wa.gov or mail to 2016 Comp Plan Record, PO Box 9810, Vancouver WA 98666-9810.

FAIRGROUNDS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTION COSTS

Perhaps you will find some of this interesting. From the state Public Disclosure Commission I researched the campaign funds raised by all 10 of the county council candidate and did some math. There were no other ballot measures applicable within our borders.

- All ten candidates for the 2 County Council positions in the August Primary election raised a total of \$388,760.27.
- Of that total, 67% was for one candidate's campaign.
- I calculated the average amount of donations for each candidate by dividing the total donation amount by the number of donation items.
- I calculated the percentage of votes for each candidate by dividing the total number of votes cast in the race by each candidate's votes.
- I calculated the dollar cost per vote for each candidate by dividing the candidate total raised by the number of votes received.

ELECTED POSITION	CANDIDATE NAME	PARTY	\$\$\$ RAISED	DONATION ITEMS	AVERAGE \$\$ AMOUNT	VOTE COUNT	% OF VOTE	\$\$\$ PER VOTE
Council Position 2	Mary Benton	R	\$ 23,950.79	52	\$ 460.59	3288	17.89	\$ 7.28
Council Position 2	Chuck Green	D	\$ 15,395.50	79	\$ 194.88	4805	26.15	\$ 3.20
Council Position 2	Tanner Martin	I	\$ -	0	\$ -	1011	5.5	\$ -
Council Position 2	Julie Olson	R	\$ 23,768.60	23	\$ 1,033.42	5710	31.07	\$ 4.16
Council Position 2	Mike Pond		\$ 4,340.70	33	\$ 131.54	3563	19.39	\$ 1.22
TOTAL			\$ 67,455.59	187		18377	100	
Council Chair	Marc Boldt	I	\$ 20,623.11	72	\$ 286.43	17133	26.68	\$ 1.20
Council Chair	Mike Dalesandro	D	\$ 8,468.00	36	\$ 235.22	17137	26.69	\$ 0.49
Council Chair	David Madore	R	\$ 259,718.57	37	\$ 7,019.42	16405	25.55	\$ 15.83
Council Chair	Tom Mielke	R	\$ 25,070.00	37	\$ 677.57	4075	6.35	\$ 6.15
Council Chair	Jeanne Stewart	R	\$ 7,425.00	8	\$ 928.13	9461	14.73	\$ 0.78
TOTAL			\$ 321,304.68	190		64211	100	

FAIRGROUNDS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX at the Clark County Fairgrounds

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, September 19, 2015 12 - 4 pm

Hot dogs * Chips * Pop *
Emergency vehicle displays * Community Information Exhibits *
Demonstrations * Health screenings *
Free Child ID and fingerprints * Kids Activities and prizes * Giveaway Items *
Fun For the Whole Family * And MUCH MORE!

Demonstrations:

12:30 Auto Extrication
1:00 Life Flight arrives
1:30 Fire Extinguisher
2:00 K-9 Demo
2:30 Auto Extrication

PASSPORT TO FUN

Send your kids on a hunt to track down a dozen of our exhibitors to win prizes!

PEANUT BUTTER and JAM FOOD DRIVE

Your suggested donation of non-perishable peanut butter and/or jam will benefit the
North County Community Food Bank.

Dunk Tank Fundraiser for Santa's Posse!

Dunk Sheriff Atkins and others!
All proceeds go to Santa's Posse.

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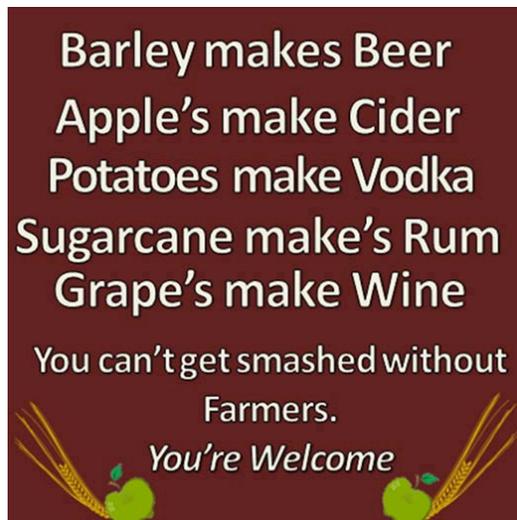
FIRE DISTRICT 6 LEVY LIFT

Hello, my name is Jerry Green and I serve as the Fire Chief at Clark County Fire District 6, the emergency services organization that serves your neighborhood. The Fire District serves a population of 64,000 over 37 square miles, responding to 6,544 calls in 2014.

Call volumes have increased 31% in the last decade and 13% already since 1 year ago. In order to maintain services, the Fire District has drawn down its reserves. It has also cut expenses where possible, however, expenses are outpacing revenue and we can't do this much longer.

In order to address these problems, the Fire District 6 Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to place a Fire Levy Lid Lift on the November General Election ballot. This lid lift would restore funding to \$1.50 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation for property owners in the Fire District. Currently, the levy has been eroded to \$127.

FYI: Jerry Green will meet with us at our September meeting to talk about the proposed lid lift, what it means to citizens, and how much it would cost property owners.



The hOur IMPACT time bank program is celebrating it's 3 month anniversary!

The Commission on Aging, in partnership with the Human Services Council, is launching a time banking program that allows community members to exchange skills or services without money changing hands. The hOur IMPACT program helps residents connect and communities thrive by linking participants with those who lack certain skills or are unable to pay for services

Neighbors connect and help each other by sharing their time and expertise. For every hour deposited in hOur IMPACT time bank, members can withdraw an hour of service for their needs. All hours are equal. Check out our new video: https://youtu.be/-C3lo6_mks4. To join hOur IMPACT visit: www.hourimpact.org.

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P.O. Box 292
Ridgefield, WA 98642

2015 FGNA EXECUTIVE BOARD

Vacant position, contact Bridget

Bill Duke	573.5210	dukeville@comcast.net
Vicki Fitzsimmons	573.6604	vicki.fitzsimmons@edwardjones.com
Dennis Johnson	576-8781	kardenj@aol.com
Maureen Jondahl	574.2600	mjondahl@hotmail.com
Winton Jondahl	574.2600	mjondahl@hotmail.com
Melvin Rodda	887.3295	ordda@pacifier.com
Bridget Schwarz	573-5873	bridget@bridge-i-t.com

MONTHLY 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;
SOUTH - 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

The fine print:

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