

# Fircrest Neighborhood Newsletter

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- Fircrest NHA monthly meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2010
- Know what's going on in YOUR neighborhood! Last 90 days of criminal activity. Map dots indicate criminal incidents. The pie chart indicates property crimes per 1000 population. Go online: [www.vanpolice.org](http://www.vanpolice.org) and click on Fircrest or contact Vancouver Police Analyst John Laws at 487-7539.
- The newsletter is now available on Fircrest's very own website! Check out <http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/Fircrest/home> for great community communication tools—upload YOUR profile today!

## Newest Community Food Garden is to be in Haagen Park!!

The City of Vancouver Parks & Recreation has partnered with Clark County Public Services to put together a Community Food Garden program that encourages community gardening and food production city-wide. They've created a wonderful gardening resource full of information and how to's at: [www.communitygrown.org](http://www.communitygrown.org).

The city's crews have been busy staking out space for the newest Vancouver Community Garden... here at Leroy Haagen Park! The garden will have 12 20'X20' plots and 12 10'X10' plots. There's a possibility of a few ADA accessible raised beds going in this summer.

The larger plots cost \$40 and the smaller ones are \$20. Seniors can get reduced prices on plots and assistance is available for low-income households. These lots will be open for registration through the city on February 22 in person at Marshall Community Center at 1009 E. McLoughlin Blvd. The Fircrest Neighborhood Association can register for a couple plots but we need to know you're interested ASAP.

Jane Tesner-Kleiner with Vancouver Parks & Recreation will be at the Fircrest Neighborhood Association membership meeting on Feb 2 at Firstenburg Community Center to give more information about the program. Come get your questions answered and thank Jane in person for her hard work on this program and for getting a garden into Haagen. It will be a wonderful addition to an already beautiful park!

If you're interested in registering for a plot through Fircrest please send an email to [FNAnews@gmail.com](mailto:FNAnews@gmail.com) or call 910-2451.

## Upcoming events:

**Feb 2: FNA Meeting at Firstenburg Community Center 7PM @ 700 NE 136th Ave.** Come at 6:30PM to socialize!

**Feb 6: Fruit Tree Pruning and Care workshop.** Call Jessica Antoine at 619-1108 for info.

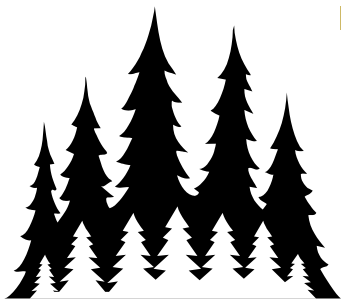
**Feb 19: Deadline for ordering trees.** Call 619-1108 for info

**Feb 22: Open registration for Community Garden plots.** Email [FNAnews@gmail.com](mailto:FNAnews@gmail.com) for info.

**Mar 7: Health Fair organized by The Latino Community Resource Center 2-5PM** St. John's Evangelist Catholic Church, 8701 NE 119th St. All are welcome.

**March 10: Coffee & Conversation with Evergreen Public Schools Board of Directors 6-7PM Mt. View High School.**

**March 20: Fircrest Tree Planting.** Call 619-1108 for info.



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## **2010 Fircrest Neighborhood Officers**

Welcome to Margaret Milem as the 2010 Fircrest Treasurer! Returning board members are Jesse Magaña as Chair, Larry Kennedy as Vice Chair and LeeAnn O'Neil-Ocampo as Secretary. The Parks Committee Chair is Becky Archibald, Alice Glessner heads up Fundraising and Carl Cooper is Zoning and Development Chair. Currently, there are several committees, all of which could use some volunteers! Come to the next membership meeting and see if you'd be interested in the Parks Committee, Traffic & Safety Committee, the Zoning and Development Committee or the Logo Committee. Coming soon: The Community Garden Committee!

## **HB 2760: Increasing the time limit for filing property tax refund claims**

Last year a Fircrest resident noticed charges from DNR (Department of Natural Resources) on her property taxes. That resident contacted WA State Representative Deb Wallace, a Fircrest neighbor. Since then it has been determined that due to an oversight, DNR has been collecting fire patrol fees from some Fircrest residents even though the area was annexed to the city and came under the watch of the Vancouver Fire Department in 1997.

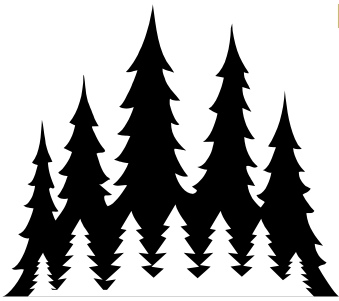
Currently, the law only provides for the return of up to three years of these fees. Representative Deb Wallace was at the January Fircrest membership meeting to announce that she's pushing a bill that would increase this time period to ten years.

Rep. Wallace emphasized that this is a perfect example of the system working well: When citizens raise issues, representatives know what's important to their constituents and act accordingly. She encourages all citizens to be just as alert and proactive; to pick up the phone and call their representatives. Her legislative number is 360-786-7976.

## **2010 Education Levy on the Ballot**

Carol Fenstermacher of the Evergreen Public Schools was at the January meeting to present information regarding the School Levy scheduled to be on the February Ballot. If you'd like info on the Levy, please call the Community Relations Department at 604-4088, the District Election Hotline at 604-4134, send an email to [election@evergreenps.org](mailto:election@evergreenps.org) or log onto [www.evergreenps.org](http://www.evergreenps.org).

**Send your email address to [FNAnews@gmail.com](mailto:FNAnews@gmail.com) to be added to the e-newsletter delivery list.**



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## Volunteer Opportunities

Fircrest needs committee members for every committee: Zoning/Development, Traffic/Safety, Parks, Fundraising, and the new Community Garden Committee. These committees meet with city and county representatives and work to improve Fircrest through each area of concentration. Each committee member brings their own perspectives and opinions to the discussion. Obviously, the more people involved in each committee, the more likely each committee will reflect all sides of debates in our area. Meaning: if you feel the neighborhood association is not supporting issues you want supported, or are supporting them in ways you don't agree with, come join a committee and add your perspective!

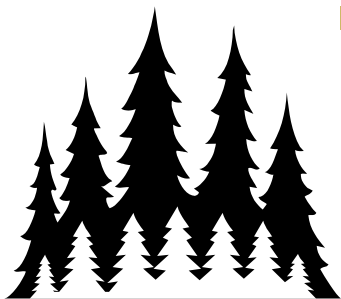
Also needed are someone to update and keep current our website at: [www.neighborhoodlink.com/Fircrest/home](http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/Fircrest/home) and someone to coordinate delivery of newsletters. There is a system in place for newsletter delivery, and a fabulous group of delivery people (though we could always use more), and you don't have to come to membership or any other meetings to be a fill these roles.

**Evergreen Public Schools** is looking for three citizens to serve two-year terms on the district's Instructional Materials Committee. Two of the citizens must have a child enrolled in one of the district's elementary schools. The third citizen must have a child enrolled in either a district middle or high school. Interested citizens should submit their name and address to the district office by calling Pat Norby at: 604-4078 or emailing [pat.norby@evergreenps.org](mailto:pat.norby@evergreenps.org) by January 31, 2010. After this date, interested applicants will receive a biographical data form to fill out which will be forwarded to the Evergreen Public Schools' Board of Directors for evaluation. Please contact Pat Norby at 604-4078 with questions.

**The Master Composter/Recycler Program** is now accepting applications for 2010 Master Composter/Recycler Volunteer Training. This free training will be held Thursday evenings, Feb 4- April 1, from 6-8:30pm. Go to [www.columbiasprings.org/mcr](http://www.columbiasprings.org/mcr) or call 882-0936 x 224 for more info.

## Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)

What would you do if you saw your neighbor's house on fire? If you're one who'd rush right over and grab a hose or help evacuate the home, maybe you'd be interested in volunteering for the Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) with the City of Vancouver. CERT volunteers act as an extension of first responder services by offering immediate help to victims until professional services arrive. For more information go to [www.cityofvancouver.us/preparedness.asp?itemID=23930](http://www.cityofvancouver.us/preparedness.asp?itemID=23930).



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## Heavy Storms Overwhelm Fircrest Streets

The recent wind and rain storms we've had in the area can sometimes work in tandem to plug our storm drains. If you notice one near your home is backing up, please remove debris with a shovel to try to clear the drain. A white line on the curb indicates the drain opening. Please only call the city for help if removing the leaves and dirt on top of the drain doesn't clear it.

## Thank youS

Thank you to the city of Vancouver for clearing blocked storm drains during the recent heavy rains.

Thank you to all newsletter delivery volunteers and Larry K. for getting newsletter from print shop to each volunteer and out to residents.

Thank you to Penny McCammon for her work on behalf of the Fircrest Neighborhood Association as Treasurer over the past two years.

The biggest thank you goes to Ralph Peabody for his years of dedication and hard work on behalf of the Fircrest Neighborhood Association. Many of the traffic and safety improvements in Fircrest have been supported and implemented due to Ralph's diligence and community involvement. Fircrest wouldn't be the neighborhood it is today without you Ralph!

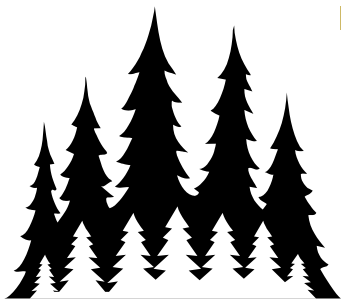
At the last membership meeting, Fircrest Elementary School Principal Margaret Varkados thanked the residents of Fircrest for donations of laundry detergent for the school's recent food drive.

## February Agenda

Jesse Batty of Friends of Trees and hopefully Jessica Antione of Vancouver Urban Forestry will be speaking about the upcoming tree planting in Fircrest. Jane Kleiner from Vancouver Parks & Rec will be at the meeting to share information about the community food garden going in at Leroy Haagen Park.

Membership will be discussing the dates for Chipper Day, Neighborhood Clean Up and Picnic. If you'd like to help with these events please come to the Feb meeting to get more information.

**Chili Cook Off!** Bring a pot of your famous chili and enter into a Chili Cook Off at the February meeting. Our Chair, Jesse Magana, challenges every Fircrest cook to beat his chili recipe! (Non-cooks, bring your taste buds!)



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## Burglary in Fircrest!

A home in south Fircrest was broken into on Friday 1/15, sometime before 2pm. A jewelry box with valuable and sentimental pieces was stolen. A brief list of some of the items follows. Please email [FNAnews@gmail.com](mailto:FNAnews@gmail.com) or call 607-2845 if you see any of these items or have information regarding the incident:

New Zealand Greenstone (Jade) Pendant  
Australian Boulder Opal Ring  
Large Oval Amber Pendant  
White Moonstone Pendant  
White Moonstone Earrings  
Red coral Pendant  
Porcelain Dogwood Flower Broach  
Pandora Charm Bracelet  
Black Onyx Pendant  
Double Strand Cultured Pearl Necklace  
Pink Oval Facet Ring Old ring, 10k gold.  
Blue Topaz Ring set in gold.  
Peridot Ring set in gold.  
Black Hills Gold Ring - Three leaves of each gold color fanned out with one diamond next to them.  
Class Ring – set in gold. Five diamonds, engraved with PLU, BA and MC.  
Tanzanite Ring – set in white gold.  
Peridot and Pearl Earrings -set in white gold.  
Pearl and CZ Earrings – set in white gold.

### **F N A Officers**

**Chair:** Jesse Magaña  
[JMagana42@aol.com](mailto:JMagana42@aol.com)  
360-254-4205

**Vice Chair:** Larry Kennedy  
[LarryK55@q.com](mailto:LarryK55@q.com)  
360-885-3254

**Secretary:** LeeAnn O'Neil-Ocampo  
[fnanews@gmail.com](mailto:fnanews@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Margaret Milem  
[mgmilem@comcast.net](mailto:mgmilem@comcast.net)

**Parks, Chair:** Becky Archibald  
[bv-arch@comcast.net](mailto:bv-arch@comcast.net)  
360-896-8632

**Zoning & Development Chair:**  
Carl Cooper  
[cmcooper2@comcast.net](mailto:cmcooper2@comcast.net)

**Fundraising:** Alice Glessner  
360-896-8379

### **City Numbers**

**City Liaison, Terry McClure:**  
360-696-8177

**Vancouver PD-East Precinct:**  
360-487-7500

**Citizen Advocate:** 360-487-8611

**Community Mediation:**  
360-619-1140

**Job Hotline:** 360-696-8128

**Animal Control:** 360-397-2488

### **City of Vancouver Disclaimer**

The City of Vancouver supports the Neighborhood Associations in their effort to share vital information with residents to create a more informed public. However, the information provided and the opinions and views expressed in the Neighborhood Association newsletter or other documents do not necessarily represent the position of the City of Vancouver, nor does the City determine whether the information published is accurate or appropriate. Printed by the City of Vancouver Office of Neighborhoods.