



Fircrest Neighborhood Newsletter

Get current neighborhood news and the newsletter delivered to your inbox. Send email to fnanews@gmail.com to be added!

- Fircrest NHA monthly meeting is scheduled for April 5th, 2011.
- 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 and click on Fircrest or contact Vancouver Police Analyst John Laws at 487-7539.
- The newsletter is online! Check out <http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/Fircrest/home>. Go to the "Newsletter" link on the right side of the page under "Our Info" to access current and past newsletters. Roam the site to find meeting agendas and discussion boards to advertise garage sales, look for babysitters and more...

Spring Cleaning & Yard Debris Day!!

Submitted by Looie D

Have you got those branches left over from winters pruning? Is grandma's old chair cluttering up the patio. Is that old BBQ grill all rusted thru and of no use? Is your spouse reminding you daily that you need to get things cleaned up and make the yard presentable?

Here's your chance: Bring your branches, worn out grills and other trash to the Fircrest cleanup at the Fircrest Elementary School between 8am and 1pm. *See page 2 for more details on Clean Up and Yard Debris Day...*

Newsletters are Going Paper-less!!!

It's official, as of July, newsletters will not be delivered to your door in paper form *unless you request it*. To repeat: ***if you want the paper version of newsletters to continue being delivered to your door you need to contact fnanews@gmail.com, call 360-910-2451 or any officer listed on page 2 of this newsletter and provide your name and address to sign up for paper delivery.***

The newsletter will continue to go out via email as an attachment and be available online at www.neighborhoodlink.com/Fircrest/home. To get to the current and past newsletters click on the "Newsletter" link on the right side of the page under "Our Info". You do not need to join the site to view the newsletters but you do need to join to take part in discussions.

To sign up for email delivery, send your email address to fnanews@gmail.com or contact any officer.

Printed newsletters will also be available at Firstenburg Community Center near the Community Board by the Teen Zone.

Upcoming events:

April 5: FNA Monthly Meeting at Firstenburg Community Center 7PM. Come at 6:30PM to socialize!

April 6: 112th Ave Subarea Workshop 6-9pm @ ESD Complex Lewis Room 13501 NE 28th St.

April 21: Lunch w/ ESD Superintendent 12:00PM @ Admin Services Center, Evergreen Rm, 13501 NE 28th St

April 30: Chipper Day/Clean-Up and PTA Plant Sale Clean up from 8am-1pm, Plant Sale from 9am-2pm.

May 14: Bike Rodeo 10am-2pm @ Fircrest Elementary

May 26: 112th Ave Subarea Workshop 6-9pm @ ESD Complex Lewis Room 13501 NE 28th St.

June 11: FNA Picnic 'A Community A-Fair' 10am-2pm

July 16: Haagen Park Clean-up



Hello,

It's time to plan your Neighborhood Cleanup and Yard Debris Day. Call Me!

There will not be a chipper but we can still accept yard debris. Please don't bring wood scraps with nails or branches larger than 6 inches around. We will not accept household garbage, concrete, roofing, household hazardous waste or any liquids (including paint!).

E-waste guidelines to keep in mind as you collect debris for the day: We cannot accept computers, TVs, monitors or laptops. These items can be recycled for free through the state-wide E-cycle Washington program. For more information about the program, visit www.ecyclewashington.org.

Thank you in advance for not bringing unacceptable items!

If at all possible, let me know at least three days in advance for the volunteer drivers to pick up your debris. We can arrange our trips a lot better that way. Remember those wonderful people are giving their time to help you. All they get in return is a "Great Big Thank You" and a cup of coffee and doughnuts. We also pay for some of their gas.

Pick up service is for senior citizens and residents with disabilities. Absolutely no items will be picked up without a resident present at the home. No exceptions will be made. Sorry we cannot be as flexible on this as we have been in the past.

Call me if you truly need help. Remember we are to help if we can but we are volunteers. We will also have extra coupons.

We do love seeing you so come by and give us a smile!

*Thank you,
Alice Glessner
896-8379*



When the Yard's Cleaned, Beautify It!

Submitted by Looie D

When you drop off your clean-up items you can come over to the plant sale being held at the same place, Fircrest Elementary School. Both vegetables and ornamentals will be available with an excellent selection available and priced better than the "big box store".

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.



It's a Community A-Fair!

Submitted by LeeAnn O.

You are cordially and warmly invited to bring your friends and families to a Community Picnic at Fircrest Elementary School on June 11th from 10am-2pm. The Fircrest Neighborhood Association has enlisted the partiers of our zip code to help us throw the biggest bash of 2011! The Fircrest PTA and the Neighborhood Association are working together to bring you up-to-date information on community resources that you might not be aware of, hidden behind bounce houses, carnival games, face painting, photo booths and one great big humongous slide (that they say even us adults can go on!) There will be popcorn, cotton candy and other concessions. All this at a price you can afford and a location you can walk to!

Of course, no party is successful without the volunteers to run it. WE NEED YOU!! If you'd like to help run a game, sell or take tickets, work a concession or just help set up and take down or any other of the crucial slots available, please contact the PTA ASAP to give time for a background check. Contact Sally at sawray@comcast.net or 360-253-9897 today for more information.

Second Annual Bike Rodeo

Submitted by Looie & LeeAnn

The Fircrest PTA has invited the Fircrest Neighborhood Association to participate in the 2nd Annual Bike Rodeo on Saturday, May 14th at the school.

There will be an obstacle course, bike decorating stations, face painting and refreshments for the kids. Helmets are available for \$10 but must be pre-ordered through the PTA.

Minor bike repair will be available and we'll finish the fun with a small bike parade in the bike paths near the school. The parade will be around 12pm and may take up some space on our streets for a short period of time. Your patience and caution is appreciated!

Bring your kids and your bikes and join the fun!

After all, what could be more fun than a bunch of kids on bikes?

If you'd like to volunteer for the event please contact the PTA ASAP to allow time for background checks. For volunteering or to inquire about purchasing helmets contact Sally at sawray@comcast.net or 360-253-9897.





From the Chairman,

Friday, January 28, my wife and I attended a ceremony for police officers. A few officers were awarded Life Saving Medals and one retired. We were introduced to two new officers and watched as they were sworn in. They were coming from the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

Good to see that in this time of budget cut-backs we can keep police staffing at a level that will keep our community safe. These dedicated people lay their lives on the line every day for us. Please respect our police and if you have a chance, tell them how much we appreciate their work. —Looie

Auto Prowls Continue...

We are continuing to have auto prowler problems. Prowlers seem to like to smash and grab, meaning they see something of value in a car, smash the window and grab the item.

A good way to prevent this is to NOT Park on the street but if you must, don't leave anything of value in the vehicle. If you park in the driveway, install motion detection lights. Motion detector lights will also deter home break-ins. Thieves don't like light.

Vancouver Police Dept. Links

Submitted by Becky A.

Both of these programs welcome participation from citizens interested in getting involved in with problem solving in the community and in partnership with the Vancouver Police Department. Please send these links out to community members you know that might be interested in getting involved. With PAL activities we of course can only grow the number of kids we serve if we also grow the number of adult mentors so keep that in mind when referring groups of kids. Thank you.

Vancouver PAL page:

<http://www.cityofvancouver.us/police.asp?policeID=31529&policeSubID=31588&itemID=31620>

Vancouver Police Neighbors on Watch (NOW) page:

<http://www.cityofvancouver.us/police.asp?policeID=31529&policeSubID=50671>

Reserve Your Picnic Shelter Today!

Submitted by Becky A.

[Vancouver Lake](#), [Frenchman's Bar](#), [Lewisville](#), [Captain William Clark](#), [Salmon Creek](#) and [Leverich parks](#) each have great picnic shelters which can be rented for an upcoming party, reunion, wedding or reception. Reservations go quickly, so reserve yours today! Call Marshall Community Center at 360-487-7100 or visit the center at 1009 E. McLoughlin Blvd.



Columbia Springs: Your Guide to Clark County's Roots and More!

Submitted by LeeAnn O.

Joanne Dolan was the guest speaker at the FNA membership meeting on March 1st. She gave a very informative presentation on how to make you own dirt while cutting down on your garbage and yard debris! Information highlighted the benefits of composting and how to successfully compost yard and some household waste. Rain Garden Workshops are scheduled for March 16th and April 2nd. For information on composting, events and more visit their website at www.columbiasprings.org, call 360-882-0936 ext. 225 or email kobrien@columbiasprings.org.

112th Avenue Corridor Subarea Plan

Submitted by Sandra Townsend of Vancouver Community Development

112th Avenue Corridor Subarea Plan

The City of Vancouver will hold 2 more public workshops to hear your ideas and take your input on the future of the 112th Avenue Corridor planning area. The process will focus on how to enhance the livability of the plan area by capitalizing on the opportunities and assets and promoting strategies to overcome identified challenges.

The first public workshop held on February 8th at the Firstenburg Center went very well! We do hope that even more residents and businesses will attend the next 2 workshops (dates listed below). The goal of the Feb. 8th workshop was to identify goals, challenges and opportunities. City staff and consultants presented an overview of planned, proposed and current projects near the 112th Avenue Plan area, discussed the purpose of a subarea plan, gave examples of other successful plans, and gave an overview on the potential market when considering future potential development. A brainstorming session was held to record the participants likes and dislikes of the area, concerns and opportunities with the interchange improvements and possible future park and ride, and what features would the participants like to see in the subarea in 10-20 years. Following the group brainstorm, small groups were formed to discuss key issues and targeted questions.

There will be 2 more public workshop meetings each with different purposes and exercises. We encourage you to attend and give us your ideas and input on the future of your neighborhood.

Public Workshop Schedule:

- **April 6th, 6 - 9pm**, Evergreen School District Complex, Lewis Room, 13501 NE 28th Street: [Review Preliminary Plan Concepts and Options](#)
- **May 25th, 6 - 9pm**, Evergreen School District Complex, Lewis Room, 13501 NE 28th Street: [Review Preferred Concept](#)

For further information please contact: Sandra Towne at 360-487-7947 or sandra-towne@cityofvancouver.us or visit the project website at www.cityofvancouver.us/112thavenueplan



Grant Awarded

Submitted by Looie D

Recently the Fircrest NA Board applied for and was awarded a matching grant to fund the painting of a mural on 124th Ave. near Mill Plain Blvd. We will begin the planning phase for this project soon.

We have an artist to guide us in this project. She is responsible for the murals that are painted in the halls at Fircrest Elementary School.

Work cannot start until the sewer project is complete and the re-paving done. The mural will be a large copy of the FNA logo. This is a traffic calming mural and these have been proven to slow traffic in areas where they have been used. Expected completion is September.

Map Your Neighborhood

Submitted by LeeAnn O

The recent earthquake prompts the rerun of this article:

Judy Bailey of the Office of Neighborhoods spoke to the Fircrest membership at the January meeting regarding the Map Your Neighborhood program. In areas that have experienced major disasters the communities with active neighborhood associations have been better off than those without. Ideally 12-15 houses would come together to devise a plan and train in what to do in an emergency. The NA is happy to assist in organizing a meeting in your area. For more information contact LeeAnn at 360-910-2451 or visit : www.emd.wa.gov/myn/index.shtml

Fircrest's Dumbest Criminal

Submitted by Looie D

Remember the snow last month? Here's one of those stories you see on America's Dumbest Criminals.

One of our neighbors came home from running an errand early in the morning. There were a set of footprints going to his gate. He investigated and found the gate had been forced open. Here is the e-mail as forwarded to me:

I told the wife to check the back around the patio door and sure enough footprints were along the grass line to the living room window as well as the patio door. Checking further it appears as if the burglar looked in the three back bedroom windows as well. I called the police who came out and took some good pictures and we both commented how dumb this person was but as he said "stupid is as stupid does". He estimated the shoe size as 10 and above and said he would be watching the neighborhood for anybody who has large feet and doesn't fit the area. In the meantime he told me that whenever we leave to close all the blinds. Smash and grabs are looking for quick loot and if he had broke in then he would have been committed to a full burglary.

Police advice: close you curtains when you leave.

Don't be a victim of a smash and grab or a break-in.

On the Agenda for April Meeting

Submitted by Larry K

At the April meeting we will be discussing the Clean-up, the picnic and we will have a speaker from the SW Washington Agency on Aging and Disabilities.

We have several committees that need members and/or chair people: Transportation & Safety, Zoning & Development and Parks.



Resignations

It is with regret that we accepted the resignation of Bill McFee in February. Bill, a previous FNA Chairman, has been a member of the FNA for many years serving most recently as Transportation and Zoning Committees Chairman. He's been crucial in helping coordinate the newsletter delivery and the development of the garden in Haagen Park.

With the improvement in the economy, Bill's business is growing and he needs to devote more time to that and his personal life. He has been an asset to our community. We wish him success in his future endeavors and hope he'll drop in for meetings and events from time to time!

Also accepted was the resignation of Becky Archibald, a longtime community advocate for the Fircrest Neighborhood. Over the past two decades Becky has delivered newsletters, participated in the Traffic & Safety Committee, been a supreme chairperson of the Parks Committee, helped write grants for trees and sidewalks among other things in Fircrest. She was Co-Chair of the Vancouver Neighborhood Alliance and worked with her husband and Ralph Peabody to create a bench from trees felled to build the library. That bench now resides in Starke Natural Area and is a testament to one woman's dedication and over the top love of her community.

Becky has been an inspiration to all of us on the current board and we are eternally grateful to her for all her efforts on behalf of Fircrest and its residents. Our membership meetings, events and gatherings will not be the same without her advice and guidance and we really hope she'll come to meetings and events in the future.

Thank you to both of these wonderful neighbors, Fircrest has been blessed to have you living and working in its boundaries.

Share the Flavors!

Do you have a favorite recipe you'd like to share? What's your family's easy night dinner idea? Send it to fnanews@gmail.com to share it.

F N A Officers

Chair: Looie Disparte
L.disparte@comcast.net
360-892-7694

Vice Chair: Larry Kennedy
LarryK55@q.com
360-885-3254

Secretary: LeeAnn O'Neil-Ocampo
fnanews@gmail.com
360-910-2451

Treasurer: Margaret Milem
mgmlem@comcast.net

Parks, Chair:

Vacant

Transportation & Safety :

Vacant

Zoning & Development:

Vacant

Fundraising/Special Events:

Alice Glessner
360-896-8379

Picnic Coordinator:

Sally Wray

City Numbers

City Liaison, Terry McClure:
360-696-8177

Vancouver PD-East Precinct:
360-487-7500

Community Mediation:
360-619-1140

Job Hotline: 360-696-8128

Animal Control: 360-397-2488

Code Compliancy: 360-487-7810



Having lost our Parks Committee Chair, the Fircrest NA board has no one to send to these meetings. If you love our parks and want to get involved, please read below, contact a board member or FNAnews@gmail.com or Jane Kleiner directly.....

News Release from: City of Vancouver

VANCOUVER-CLARK PARKS AND RECREATION SEEKS INPUT ON NEW PARK POLICIES

Posted: March 15th, 2011 1:54 PM

Contact: Jane Tesner Kleiner, Parks Manager, 360-487-8313

The Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department, in partnership with the Public Works and General Services Departments, are seeking public comment on two new draft City of Vancouver park policies. The policies provide for expanded use of park volunteers in an "Adopt-a-Park" program and the process by which financial donations from interested citizens can support greater levels of maintenance services in city parks and facilities. In addition, the Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department has also proposed a revisions to its naming policy for both city- and county-owned park and recreation facilities.

The City of Vancouver "Adopt-a-Park" policy provides greater opportunities for citizens to support on-going maintenance and care of a local park, ballfield, trail or open space area. The program seeks a twice-a-month commitment for a minimum of six months. The tasks for the volunteers will vary based on the property to be adopted, but could include litter pick-up, weeding, raking, spreading mulch and planting flowers.

The "Donations for Park Maintenance" policy outlines the process by which the City of Vancouver will support donations by interested neighborhoods or individuals to restore park maintenance services cut as a result of 2011-12 city budget reductions. This is in response to citizen requests to personally fund the stabilization, restoration, or expansion of services to neighborhood and community parks.

The Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department is also seeking revisions to its naming policy for city and county parks and recreation facilities to better reflect current business practices.

The Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission will conduct a first reading of the draft policies at their monthly meeting beginning at noon on Friday, March 18, at the Clark County Public Service Center Training Room 679, 1300 Franklin Street, Vancouver, WA. Public comments will be sought. The Advisory Commission will conduct a second reading and consider recommending adoption at their noon meeting on Friday, April 15, at the Clark County Public Service Center Training Room. Public input will continue to be solicited through Wednesday, April 6. Information related to the policies can be found at www.vanclarkparks-rec.org. Click on "Who We Are" and select "Department Policies." Send comments to Jane Tesner Kleiner, Vancouver-Clark Parks Manager, 360-487-8313 or email at Jane.Kleiner@cityofvancouver.us