



# Fircrest Neighborhood Newsletter

*Get current neighborhood news and the newsletter delivered to your inbox. Send email to [fnanews@gmail.com](mailto:fnanews@gmail.com) to be added!*

## Open FNA Committees and Positions

Well neighbors, we're hurting for bodies to help out in our efforts to keep Fircrest's interests in the minds of city officials. We currently have openings for a Secretary as well as committee members for Transportation & Safety, and Zoning & Development. If you are interested in any of these positions/committees please contact Looie at 360-892-7694 or [l.disparte@comcast.net](mailto:l.disparte@comcast.net)

## Speaker Suggestions

Is there a topic you've wondered about in relation to our neighborhood? Or in relation to your street? Or your home? If you have ideas for speakers for the neighborhood meetings, topics that you'd like to see discussed please send your requests/suggestions to Looie at 360-892-7694 or [l.disparte@comcast.net](mailto:l.disparte@comcast.net).

## Newsletters are Paper-less

***For delivery of the paper version of newsletter please contact any officer listed on page 2 of this newsletter and provide your name and address.***

Newsletters are available online at [www.neighborhoodlink.com/Fircrest/home](http://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](mailto:fnanews@gmail.com) or contact any officer.

- Fircrest NHA monthly meetings are scheduled for December 6th and January 3rd
- 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 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...

### Upcoming events:

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

**Jan 3, 2012: FNA Monthly Meeting at Firstenburg Community Center 7PM @ 700 NE 136th Ave. Come at 6:30PM to socialize!**

### 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](mailto:fnanews@gmail.com) to share it.



## 9th Street Clean-up

If you drive eastbound on 9th, I'm sure you've noticed what I call the '9th street dump'. It's the area across the street from Haagen park..

- English Ivy growing out of control
- Weeds growing out of control
- Garbage bags full hidden under the ivy
- Ivy growing out into street

If you can contribute time to this project or maybe some rakes or hedge trimmers, please call me at 360-607-9143 or email at [l.disparte@comcast.net](mailto:l.disparte@comcast.net), we could use your help.

## Parks

After all the conversation about the degradation of the local parks due to budget cuts, we've been very surprised at how clean the parks are. Congratulations are to be given to those who have put an effort in keeping the parks in good condition for all our neighbors to enjoy.

### *From the Chair,*

Whoa.....Where did summer go? It seems like just yesterday, we were enjoying the summer sun. Spending time outdoors, smelling flowers and harvesting the fruits of our gardens. Now, we've got the responsibility of doing our fall cleanup. I look outside and shiver (I'm a sissy) and raking leaves, pruning trees do not fit into my daily plan. Summer activities are over, it's winter and activities are more indoors.

One of my favorite activities is going to the monthly neighborhood meetings. Interaction with my neighbors and friends working toward the benefit of the neighborhood is a great source of gratification to me. I sure would like to see some of you there, the neighborhood staff is slowly fading away and we need help.

-Looie

### 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.

### F N A Officers

**Chair:** Looie Disparte

[L.disparte@comcast.net](mailto:L.disparte@comcast.net)

360-892-7694

**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)

360-910-2451

**Treasurer:** Margaret Milem

[mgmilem@comcast.net](mailto:mgmilem@comcast.net)

**Parks, Chair:**

**Vacant**

**Transportation & Safety :**

**Vacant**

**Zoning & Development:**

**Vacant**

**Fundraising/Special Events:**

Alice Glessner

360-896-8379

**Picnic Coordinator:**

Sally Wray

[sawray@comcast.net](mailto:sawray@comcast.net)

**City Numbers**

**City Liaison, Terry McClure:**

360-696-8177

**Vancouver PD-East Precinct:**

360-487-7500

**Community Mediation:**

360-334-5864

**Job Hotline:** 360-487-8417

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

**Code Compliance:** 360-487-7810



## Crews Ready to Roll

Vancouver Public Works crews and fleet of deicers and plows are ready to roll when winter weather challenges arise. Even with the concerted effort of all city crews, however, the community's patience and help are critical during extended severe snow and sub-freezing temperatures. With more than 1,800 lane miles in Vancouver, plows and deicers can't be everywhere at once.

Due to these demands and limited resources, as well as the difficulties presented by driveways and parked cars, neighborhood streets are not plowed or deiced. Adjacent property owners are responsible for keeping sidewalks free from snow and ice.

Residents and businesses are encouraged to lend a helping hand to neighbors. Tips about what to do in severe weather conditions may be found at [www.cityofvancouver.us/severeweather](http://www.cityofvancouver.us/severeweather).

## Recognize and Manage Hazardous Trees

During winter storms, many residents become concerned about the condition of large trees. Careful management of tree defects reduces liability and helps when prioritizing tree care. Defects can be identified by a certified arborist.

Vancouver Urban Forestry, a division of the Department of Public Works, has a webpage with tips and resources on how to recognize and manage hazardous trees. Learn what to do before a storm to make sure your trees are prepared for all weather conditions. View a list of certified arborists at [www.cityofvancouver.us/urbanforestry](http://www.cityofvancouver.us/urbanforestry).

For more information or questions, call 360-487-8308 or e-mail [urbanforestry@ci.vancouver.wa.us](mailto:urbanforestry@ci.vancouver.wa.us).

## Emergency Community Notification Sign Up

<http://cresa911.org/be-informed/>

Clark County has implemented an emergency community warning system that is able to send emergency messages via telephone, cellular phone, Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) and email to residents and businesses within the county. This system may be used by emergency response personnel to notify specific homes and businesses at risk with specific information about the emergency event. You will only be called when the associated address will be impacted by an emergency. The system is already programmed with landline phone numbers (both listed and unlisted) from phone company records.

Type of Information You May Receive:

1. Police needing your help to solve crimes or find missing persons
2. Knowledge about a hazardous situation near your home (fire, hazardous materials release, or police response activities)
3. Emergency protective measures during a disaster

## Neighborhood Safety

Congratulations to the three new Neighbors on Watch volunteers that graduated early November. We now have four volunteers from Fircrest Neighborhood. These folks have undergone an intensive training program and now will go on patrols with a mentor to get on the job training. So again I say, "Well done".

NOW is an organization of volunteers that patrol the city adding eyes and ears to the Vancouver Police. There are always openings for new people, please consider joining.

[kelly.cheney@cityofvancouver.us](mailto:kelly.cheney@cityofvancouver.us)



## **Fircrest Elementary School Canned Food Drive**

The Fircrest Canned Food Drive has started. All donations directly benefit Fircrest Families. They are accepting canned, boxed or bagged food items.. They are also accepting pet food, paper products, hygiene items.

They also accept cash/check donations. This money is used to purchase needed supplies that don't come in and also gift cards to Winco for families to purchase fruits, veggies, milk, meats, etc. Please make checks out to Fircrest Elementary. For more information, please contact Sam Dreier at 604-6925.

## **Thanks Fircrest Graffiti Cleaning Crew**

Thank you to Vicki D. and Sally and Adam W. for the efforts to clean up the graffiti on 9<sup>th</sup> Street. If you'd like to volunteer to help out with future removal of graffiti in Fircrest please call 360-910-2451 or email [FNAnews@gmail.com](mailto:FNAnews@gmail.com).

## **Fight Gang Graffiti**

Graffiti creates a perception that the area is unsafe and , if left on display, invites responses and more graffiti. These are OUR streets so do your part to make graffiti disappear before the rivals even get out of bed the next morning. Here's how:

Recording – Take a picture, document the date, time, location and color.

Reporting – Provide details to the appropriate agency

Removing – Once notified, wash or paint away quickly and thoroughly.

If you see active involvement in graffiti or other vandalism contact 911 immediately. Reporting is important because it identifies trends that may been attention. By reacting quickly and responsibly we can help improve public safety on OUR streets. Here are the numbers to contact based on the location of the graffiti:

Private property call Vancouver PD 360-487-7355

Public property all City Operations 360-6989-8177

State Highways call WADOT 360-759-1300

Electrical Boxes call Clark PUD 360-992-3000

Bus Stops or Buses call C-Tran 360-695-0123

## **Avoid Mail and Identity Theft**

1. Protect your incoming and outgoing mail. Remove items from your mailbox as soon as possible. Do not leave outgoing mail in your mailbox. Notify the US Postal Inspector if your mail has been stolen or tampered with: <https://postalinspectors.uspis.gov/contactUs/filecomplaint.aspx>
2. Shred and completely dispose of all personal documents with your personal information on it.
3. Order a credit report once a year and verify that all accounts are accurate.



## Fire and Holiday Safety

### Christmas Trees

<http://www.cityofvancouver.us/fire.asp?fireID=20444&fireSub=20450&itemid=21118>

1. Place the Christmas tree well away from heat registers, space heaters, fire places, wood stoves, televisions, computer monitors and other heat sources.
2. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times
3. Safely dispose of the tree when it begins dropping needles.

### Holiday Lights

1. Inspect holiday lights each year. Do not use if they have frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking
2. Do not overload electrical outlets.
3. Make sure to periodically check the wires – they should not be warm to the touch.
4. Unplug holiday lights when you go to bed or are not home.

### Smoke Alarms/Detectors & Home Escape Plans

1. Working smoke alarms/detectors more than double your chances of surviving a fire.
2. Install a smoke alarm on every level of your house, test them monthly, keep them clean and change the batteries when you change your clocks.
3. When the smoke alarm sounds, get out fast and stay out!
4. Plan your escape. Know two ways out of every room.
5. Practice your escape plan with your whole family at least twice a year.

## Holiday Crime Prevention

Stay alert this holiday season. Here are a few safety reminders.

<http://www.cityofvancouver.us/police.asp?policeID=31530>

1. Do not leave valuables, including holiday gifts, in your vehicle. There are no places to 'hide' valuables inside your vehicle; thieves know all the 'hiding' places.
2. At your home, do not leave gifts or valuable clearly visible through a window.
3. Be aware of your surroundings when you are in store parking lots.
  - a. Always approach your car or your home with your keys already in your hand.
  - b. Avoid isolated areas.
  - c. Walk with confidence and with another person, if possible.
  - d. If you are suspicious of a person or circumstance, go immediately to a safe place. Contact security or the police if you need assistance.
4. Do not leave your car unattended while it is warming up, even for a minute. If you must warm-up your car, lock it with a second set of keys.





## Good Things Grow on Trees!

Through Friends of Trees in partnership with Vancouver Urban Forestry, homeowners in 31 Vancouver neighborhoods can buy trees for their homes this year for just \$50 each. Add your name to the growing list of people who want trees at <https://friendsoftrees.org/order-street-and-yard-trees>.

The \$50 fee includes the price of the tree, delivery, hole digging, planting assistance, stakes, and follow-up maintenance checks. You'll also be invited to join a neighborhood potluck after the planting.

Plantings are already scheduled in the Airport Green, Arnada, Bella Vista, Burnt Bridge Creek, Burton Ridge, Carter Park, Cascade Highlands, Countryside Woods, Edgewood Park, Ellsworth Springs, Fisher's Creek, Forest Ridge, Fourth Plain Village, Fruit Valley, Harney Heights, Hough, Image, Landover Sharmel, Lincoln, Mar-  
rion, Meadow Homes, North Image, Northwest, Oakbrook, Ogden, Parkway East, Parkside, Rose Village, Shumway, Vancouver Heights, and Wildwood neighborhoods. If you don't see your neighborhood on this list, contact Andy Meeks at [AndyM@Friendsoftrees.org](mailto:AndyM@Friendsoftrees.org) to learn how you can bring a planting to your neighborhood.

The sooner you sign up, the more choices of trees you'll have. Sign-up deadlines for Vancouver residents range from **October 17** to **February 13**. A calendar of planting dates and deadlines can be found at the Friendsoftrees.org website. Signing up doesn't obligate you to purchase. It just gives you the chance to choose a tree for your yard and to see where you can plant street trees, if you wish, during your neighborhood's scheduled planting.

What good things grow on trees? Conservation: Tree shade can cut your energy costs by 35 percent during the summer. Health: Trees clean our air, water, and soil for an all-around healthier city. Community: Tree-lined streets calm and slow traffic. This creates safer neighborhoods and happier people. And yes, even money grows on trees! Planting trees on your property can add \$7,000 to the value of your home.

Since 1989, Friends of Trees has planted more than 415,000 trees and native plants in the Portland-Vancouver metro area. Questions? Email [FOT@Friendsoftrees.org](mailto:FOT@Friendsoftrees.org) or call 503-282-8846 ext. 25. Learn more at <https://friendsoftrees.org/>.