

West Hazel Dell Neighborhood Association  
Fall Newsletter & Meeting Reminder



**OCTOBER 21 MEETING REMINDER**

**WHERE:** The Fireplace Room at Clearwater Springs Assisted Living Center, 201 NW 78<sup>th</sup> Street  
**WHEN:** Wednesday, October 21 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

This month's meeting will include **Chief Shawn Newberry** from **Clark County Fire District 6**. Chief Newberry will explain the upcoming ballot measure and answer any questions you may have about how it affects you and your fire district. See page 2 for more information on the "Lid Lift Levy" so you will be prepared for the meeting.

We make an effort to provide timely topics at our Neighborhood Association meetings. The October meeting is no exception. We are fortunate to have a knowledgeable representative from Fire District 6 to address our questions and concerns on Wednesday, October 21 at Clearwater Springs.

**2015 Fall Clean Up Information**

The Environmental Education & Outreach office of Clark County has ongoing recycling events. Check their website (*shown below*) to add one to your calendar. They also have a fact-filled site at [www.recyclinga-z.com](http://www.recyclinga-z.com) to visit. If spring went by before you had time for the annual spring cleaning, it's never too late. You can find out what can you do with all the old paint, household and yard chemicals, tires, electronics and other bulky and potentially hazardous items that can't be picked up with your regular curbside garbage and recycling? It's simple.

Go to: [www.ClarkGreenNeighbors.org/recyclingday](http://www.ClarkGreenNeighbors.org/recyclingday) for times, directions and information on what materials will be accepted from Clark County households. Don't forget to follow **Green Neighbors** on Facebook, Pinterest and Twitter for updates and creative ways to be a Green Neighbor!

**WEST HAZEL DELL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION BOARD**

If you wish to contact me, I can be reached in the evenings at home at 360-573-7376 by phone or by e-mail at [timeout29@comcast.net](mailto:timeout29@comcast.net). I work full time so have to answer calls late at night or on weekends. E-mail is the faster method. New board members are more than welcome – change is good – if you have a bit of energy you'd like to share, please consider a few hours a year to help. (Please call me.)

*Ila Stanek, President*

Vice President: Steven Ford, [ford41@comcast.net](mailto:ford41@comcast.net)  
Secretary: Teresa Street, [tstreet6@comcast.net](mailto:tstreet6@comcast.net)  
Treasurer: Laurel Whitehurst, [laurel\\_wh@comcast.net](mailto:laurel_wh@comcast.net)

If you live within the West Hazel Dell Neighborhood Association (WHDNA) boundaries, you are a "member" of our neighborhood association.

We begin on the south at the Vancouver city limits, on the north we go to NE 104<sup>th</sup> Street, on the east we stop at NE Hazel Dell Avenue, and on the west our boundary is NW Lakeshore Avenue.

To make the association work for everyone, we need input – about good, bad, strange, or new things. Give us a call or send an e-mail.

**Send your e-mail address to:** [timeout29@comcast.net](mailto:timeout29@comcast.net) and we'll send meeting reminders for community events.)

Issues in WHDNA:

*FIND OUT about other neighborhood issues at the Clark County neighborhood link:*

[www.clark.wa.gov/neighborhoods/weeklyupdate.html](http://www.clark.wa.gov/neighborhoods/weeklyupdate.html)

- WHDNA acts as your voice and conduit to those offices and agencies in place to provide services and assistance to residents. Sadly, many of the very things that cause problems can't be easily solved. We can't control over-growing shrubs, trees, berry bushes. We can't make noisy kids quieter or more polite. We can sympathize, provide ideas and offer advice. We do care, even if we can't "fix."

## **FIRE DISTRICT 6 “LID LIFT LEVY”**

There is a general election coming soon involving many area initiatives for voters to consider by Tuesday, November 3, 2015. One very local matter affects residents of Clark County Fire Protection District 6 and emergency services for 64,000 people. The 37-square-mile district provides Hazel Dell, Salmon Creek, Lakeshore, Felida, Mt. Vista and the Fairgrounds areas with life-saving assistance 24 hours a day. Resolution 2015-04 was unanimously passed by the Fire District 6 Board to fund fire, rescue and emergency medical services. This issue will appear on the ballot as **Proposition No. 1**. We all must decide how to respond.

The proposal would return emergency services funding to a rate previously granted by voters. In 1995 the Fire District requested and voters approved a funding levy of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property tax value, thereby putting a “lid” on the funding going forward. Voters later supported a 2001 initiative (I-747) to limit property taxes for many public services that effectively erodes the intended \$1.50 rate. The effective levy rate has decreased to \$1.27 per \$1,000 property value, instead of the \$1.50 rate voters approved in 1995.

Now the Fire District is asking voters to support emergency responders by “lifting the levy lid” and returning to the \$1.50 rate (approved in 1995). The district proposes to use the funding to focus on emergency fire, rescue and medical services, firefighter training, maintaining equipment and facilities, fire protection, and the preservation of property and public safety.

If the \$1.50 per \$1,000 assessment rate is approved, the adjustment will add \$57.50 per year - or about \$4.79 per month - property tax on a \$250,000 home, or \$0.23 per \$1,000. Fire District 6 has passed all state financial and accountability reviews and continues to operate with a balanced budget.

Call volumes have increased 31% in the last 10 years. The majority of the 6,544 calls in 2014 were for urgent medical responses.

Please consider this important issue and be informed about **Proposition No. 1**. More information about the ballot measure is available at the Fire District 6 website ([www.ccf6.org/lidliftinformation.html](http://www.ccf6.org/lidliftinformation.html)), from local media coverage and through the Clark County Elections Department ([www.clark.wa.gov/elections](http://www.clark.wa.gov/elections)).

West Hazel Dell Neighborhood Association residents will also have an opportunity to meet with Chief Shawn Newberry, a firefighter with Fire District 6, at our Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> meeting at Clearwater Springs Assisted Living Center, 201 NW 78<sup>th</sup> Street (6:30-8:00 p.m.). Thank you for putting this informative meeting on your calendars.

OUR SPRING AND SUMMER has been filled with important and fun-filled activities for the whole family. We are fortunate to live in an area of SW Washington where volunteers are stepping up to enrich our lives share their energies on our behalf. Whether you are a spectator or participant, there have been a number of community events again this year that have been enjoyed and are looked forward to annually. If you have missed any, make a note to schedule them for 2016. The new year will be here before you know it, especially now that the summer is giving way to fall weather as a reminder.

- **May Day Celebration, plant sale & exchange** the first Saturday in May at the Family of Christ Lutheran Church, 3500 NW 129<sup>th</sup> Street is sponsored by **Felida Neighborhood Association** and **Lion's Club**.
- The first Saturday in May is also the annual **Walk for the Animals** sponsored by the **Humane Society of Southwest Washington** at Esther Short Park. This fundraiser supports their many efforts for animals.
- The **July 4 Parade** and family events at Felida Park continues to bring families, vendors, sponsors and fun together to make a memorable day, filling many a family album and Facebook page. The activities are organized and sponsored by our neighbors at the Felida Neighborhood Association with contributions from local groups like the Hazel Dell/Salmon Creek Business Association.
- In July the **American Cancer Society's Relay for Life** is held at Columbia River High School, usually the second weekend from Friday evening to Sunday morning. There are several events to help raise funds for the life-savings efforts of the ACS during the run-up to the weekend of the Relay itself. Watch for them and share the fun and the hope next year.
- Another family calendar classic is the open house at the **Heritage Farm on 78<sup>th</sup> Street**. This is such a wonderful example of what the community can do when it comes together, joining individuals, organizations like Partners In Careers (PIC), and Clark County Parks. The abundance of crops the former county poor farm turns out is awesome!

The **Port of Vancouver** continues work on its exciting Waterfront Legacy Project which will include a park area for the whole family in addition to several complexes to serve the residents of Clark County. The Port welcomes public input on what things might make such a developing more inviting to you and your family. Please visit the Port's website ([www.portvanusa.com](http://www.portvanusa.com)) and then send your ideas and/or remarks to [www.waterfrontlegacy@portvanusa.com](mailto:www.waterfrontlegacy@portvanusa.com). Their master plan should be ready soon - watch for it.

**NACCC** (Neighborhood Council of Clark County) **CANDIDATE FORUM** is scheduled for **Thursday, October 8** from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Community of Christ Church meeting room, 400 NE 78<sup>th</sup> Street (north on I-5, take Exit 9; it is  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile west). There are candidates from the County Chair contest (Marc Boldt and Mark Dalesandro) and the County Council District 2 position (Julie Olson and Chuck Green). This is an excellent opportunity to hear exactly what the candidates have to say about the important issues in our county. It's just a short drive out to the Fairgrounds area and should provide valuable information. It is another reminder to us to exercise our right to vote.

**CLARK REGIONAL WASTEWATER DISTRICT** is holding 2016 budget process meetings and workshops which are open to the public. The location of the meetings is 8000 NE 52<sup>nd</sup> Court, Vancouver 98665 (360) 750-5876. The scheduled workshops will be held on October 13 (time to be determined), October 27 (3:99 pm), November 10 (time to be determined); public hearing on December 8 (5:00 pm), and board adoption of budget December 22 (4:00 pm). The December 8 meeting will be the only one where official public testimony will be taken, however, residents are encouraged to attend any meetings they can and learn more about a service we all rely on and rarely talk about.

West Hazel Dell Neighborhood Assn.  
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**We are not a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization yet; any contributions to WHDNA are not tax-deductible. Donations made to the WHDNA directly are greatly appreciated and help us defray expenses.**

**West Hazel Dell residents are always welcome at the monthly meetings of their neighbors in the NE Hazel Dell Neighborhood Association. They meet at the Clark County Operations Center Community Room at 4700 NE 78<sup>th</sup> Street at 7:00 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month.**

Our neighborhood association includes about 4,650 homes or over 13,000 individuals. Providing services for and information to a diverse group that large is a daunting task. That's no surprise to anyone. What may be surprising is how much effort goes into gleaning information from various sources to provide some answers to residents. Your board consists of four individuals who give their time to the WHDNA. **We are continuing to set up "sections" of West Hazel Dell** to more accurately reflect and represent the needs and concerns in those smaller areas. This has been very successful in the North Salmon Creek Neighborhood Association and I'd like to take a page from their book. What would be required is something like a 'block home' arrangement where a fair-sized division would be represented at the bimonthly meetings by one individual; maybe eight sections. That person would bring the current concerns or ideas to the rest of the membership. To get this underway would require an organizational meeting prior to the next bimonthly meeting. This is still a work in progress, so let us know what you think. **Better ideas always welcome!**