

FRIENDS OF



CLARK COUNTY

SMART GROWTH

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

www.clarkfriends.org

(360) 695-5570

October 2005

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

by Bridget Schwarz

Friends of Clark County held our annual member meeting on September 14, 2005 in the community room at Tidewater Cove Condominiums. Fifty members met on a sunny summer evening in a beautiful outdoor location to enjoy great food and great company.

Then we got down to business. Among our accomplishments over the last year we've:

- Tripled our membership, doubled the size of our board, added 3 advisory board members;
- Gotten a fabulous website from webmaster Judie Stanton (advisory board member);
- Sent out over 2,500 quarterly newsletters;
- Staffed our booth at lots of local events;
- Formed partnerships with several other nonprofit organizations;

Best of all, Senator Craig Pridemore (FoCC advisory board member) shared his views on the current comprehensive growth plan update and answered our questions.

Our thanks to board member Kelly Puntenev for arranging the location and to our gourmet chef Val Alexander. All our board members helped with set up and brought great dishes to share.

FYI: We are still trying to figure out how Midget Schmutz, a "mega-developer" with SHOVE (Site Housing Over Virtually Everything) was able to crash the meeting. :-)

FRIENDS of CLARK COUNTY

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MISSION STATEMENT

Friends of Clark County is a nonprofit, membership-based organization creating, educating and empowering advocates for Smart Growth.

Our mission is to conserve and protect southwest Washington's quality of life.

FoCC MEMBERSHIP

Please join/renew your membership using the order form in this newsletter. We need your support to help cover the costs of our meetings, newsletters, public forums, research and to continue our vital work protecting your quality of life in Clark County.

**2005
BOARD of DIRECTORS**

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Ridgefield

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GROWTH PLAN UPDATE

Phew! The unrealistic timeline for completion of the update of the county 20 year growth plan by October 2005 is history.

Even a definite new timeline is still uncertain, but it is unlikely a new plan can be adopted before late 2006. There are several reasons.

First, the cities requested more land for their Urban Growth boundaries than anticipated.

Second, lands are under consideration for inclusion that were not studied under the 2004 comp plan update.

As a result, in those area the county has to do an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) and prepare a Capital Facilities Plan that describes how to pay for that growth.

Recently the BoCC reviewed the maximum study area map and made decisions about where to plan for growth. Next the public will be invited to comment on the "scoping" (alternatives, mitigation measures, probable significant adverse impacts, etc.) Submit your comments by October 28, 2005:

- In person at the EIS scoping open house from 7-9 pm on October 18 at Fire District 11 in Battle Ground (21609 NE 72nd Avenue);
- In writing to PO Box 9810, Vancouver 98666;
- Over the web at www.clark.wa.gov/longrangeplan/review/eis-comments-form.asp

**IS SMART GROWTH DEAD
IN CLARK COUNTY?**

Come to our Fall Fun Raiser to find out! Invitations to Friends of Clark County members go in the mail soon. To join Friends, send us the membership form in this newsletter (page 5).

FORT VANCOUVER REGIONAL LIBRARY

There will be a Vancouver Library Capital Facility Area (VLCFA) bond measure on the November 8, 2005 general election ballot.

Capital projects include:

- Remodel and expand the main library;
- Build a new branch library adjacent to the east side Firstenburg Community Center;
- Add wireless access, self-check out stations and computers at the Vancouver Mall branch;
- Fund 60% of the costs to relocate and consolidate district offices and operations away from the main library.

Internet filtering is a controversial issue. Currently there is district-wide mandatory Internet filtering for children under 17 years of age. Filtered and unfiltered PC's are separated. The majority of Internet computers are filtered-only.

Passage will authorize up to \$44 million in general obligation bonds. The estimated cost to taxpayers is 20¢ per \$1000. For the median assessed value home of \$166,000 it will cost about \$33 per year. The boundaries for the bond are the same as the city of Vancouver.

TWO voter approvals are required. The first creates a Vancouver Library Capital Facility Area (VLCFA) and requires a 50% YES vote. The second authorizes the bond and requires a 60% YES vote.

Our libraries are overcrowded. Over 63,000 books must be stored, away from public access. Library programs are limited by space. There is a demand for more computers, more children's programs, dedicated areas for teens and children, improved services for seniors, and better access for disabled library patrons.

Friends of Clark County are no more fond of increased taxes than you are. We urge you to consider the impacts on our community's quality of life that will result from the fate of this bond measure.

For more information, contact the Fort Vancouver Regional Library business office at 695.1561 or e-mail contact@fvrl.org.

FoCC THANKS OUR SUPPORTERS

Annual FoCC membership dues are \$25. We are so grateful to these members that have recently joined / renewed at one of our higher levels:

SUPPORTER

Paul & Sue Cannard
Laura Emerson
Ila Stanek

DONOR

Tim & Wendy Garrett
Dr John Soelling
Jeanette & Louie
Steinhauer

Friends of Clark County is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation.

Membership dues and donations are tax deductible.

FoCC WEBSITE

Our new webmaster is doing a fabulous job of keeping our site updated. You'll find:

- the latest updates to our meeting and events calendar;
- background and action items for issues that impact you;
- projects we are working on;
- links to other organizations that share our quality of life goals;
- opportunities to get involved with Friends.

Our URL is www.clarkfriends.org

COUNTY I-912 ROAD PROJECTS

Friends of Clark County urges you to support the gas tax and vote NO on I-912.

Here are some of the projects paid for by the 9.5 cent gas tax.

These projects add capacity:

- SR14 Camas/Washougal widening and interchange;
- I-205/Mill Plain (18th Street) interchange;
- SR 500 / St Johns interchange;
- I-5 Ridgefield interchange;
- 219th widening from I-5 to Battle Ground;

These projects improve safety:

- I-205/Mill Plain southbound off ramp;
- I-205/SR500 interchange improvements;
- 219th to Battle Ground intersection improvements;
- SR500/SR503 (Orchards) intersection improvements;
- SR14 Lieser Road signal;
- SR503/Gabriel Road intersection;
- SR503 Lewisville climbing lane;
- Abernathy bridge replacement

For more info go to keepwashingtonrolling.org

NO on INITIATIVE 912

Initiative 912 will repeal the 9.5 cent gas tax passed with bi-partisan support by the 2005 legislature. Phased in over 4 years, three cents were added July 1, 2005.

We've got a lot riding on our roads. Like our families...our jobs...and our future. Three quarters of the current gas tax is spent on maintaining and operating what we've got. Our roads are too important an investment to neglect.

Local groups have worked very hard with our local legislators to identify the most needed transportation projects for southwest Washington. They came through for us!

Without this gas tax, Clark County will lose about \$250 million for road projects (see sidebar). This is the second highest allocation in the state.

The state constitution mandates that the gas tax can only be used for highway purposes. The projects are specified in the legislation.

There are many watchdogs keeping track of how gas tax revenues are spent. The legislature has created a Transportation Performance Audit Board and given the State Auditor authority to audit transportation projects. And WS-DOT now reports directly to the Governor.

I - 9 1 2 C O S T P E R W E E K

Miles per year	12,000	18,000	24,000
25 miles per gallon	28¢	42¢	55¢
20 miles per gallon	35¢	52¢	69¢
15 miles per gallon	46¢	69¢	92¢

Washington average is 12,070 miles per year and 17.13 miles per gallon for a weekly cost of .41¢.

PORT OF VANOUVER DEVELOPMENT

With 42 tenants and thousands of jobs, the Port of Vancouver is a critical part of Clark County's economic health. We are living in a global market and Washington is the most trade dependent state in the US.

Container cargo and grain exports are the backbone of port operations. In September 7 shipping companies that currently use port facilities signed 5 year agreements.

As other west coast ports become increasingly congested we have the opportunity to create jobs here in Clark County.

The Port of Vancouver plans to convert almost 600 acres of land for port operations. The Columbia Gateway development is in the environmentally sensitive Vancouver Lake lowlands.

After gaining approval the port wants to start construction by 2008 and be operating by 2010. According to The Columbian, much of the initial space will be devoted to auto loading and the site could employ up to 2,000.

The addition of needed rail service to the area, and three options for a route are being studied.

Due to environmental impacts it appears that the best alternative extends the existing route on port property to the Columbia River and then east under the railroad bridge to connect to the BNSF rail line. Other options take the line around Vancouver Lake or along Fruit Valley Road.

How will port expansion and rail improvements be funded? Keep in mind that the Port of Vancouver is a public agency with taxing authority that does not require voter approval.

POSITION 1, PORT of VANCOUVER

During the next 6 years, our community will make critical decisions affecting the Port of Vancouver. Over 600 acres of port-owned undeveloped land is available for future economic growth.

Friends of Clark County believes we should use the Port to focus on family wage jobs.

At the same time we must protect the natural treasures on Port property. The Vancouver lowlands are home to eagles, great blue heron, osprey, sandhill cranes, and a multitude of other animals and species.

Both are vital to our community's quality of life.

Friends of Clark County does not endorse candidates for elected office. We do, however, encourage you to evaluate the 2 candidates for Vancouver Port Commissioner for District 1 based on their support for our concerns about sensible growth, jobs, citizen involvement, and preserving our community's quality of life.

Brian Wolfe
360.576.0965
bwolfeforport@comcast.net
www.wolfeforport.com

Bill Hughes
360.694.7352
bhughes803@aol.com

ORGANIC GARDENING PERMACULTURE LIVING

Sustainability involves both organic gardening and permaculture living concepts. "Bev's Place" is a suburban Vancouver 90' X 100' lot treated like a farm.

Year round, Bev Doty produces fresh vegetables from raised beds, tree fruit, berries, and kiwis. There is a native plant corner and a bamboo grove, habitat for mason bees and other pollinating creatures.

There is a carpet of recycled milk jugs, and tile of recycled auto glass. Real linoleum and solar tubes are used on the property.

We must live interdependently with nature. Seize this opportunity to learn how. Meet Bev and see all the wonderful things she does on her farm.

Saturday, November 19, 2005
1:30 — 3:00
Reservations required 360.574.1343
or
bevesalt@pacifier.com

MAKE AN ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY FASHION STATEMENT

We have custom embroidered FoCC baseball caps, 1/4 zip sweatshirts, denim shirts, polo shirts and fleece vests.

You'll find ordering information at the bottom of our membership form on page 5 in this newsletter.

GREEN BUILDING in CLARK COUNTY

Green building practices are better for the environment and create healthier workplaces.

Washington's high performance green building law is based on a national standard called Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). This year Washington became the first state to require that new public buildings meet green standards.

The standard is flexible so that builders can gain LEED certification by a point system covering more than 70 environmental standards.

During construction, the use of recycled building materials, construction debris recycling, wildlife preservation and the use of native plants are encouraged.

High performance features in green buildings save money in lower costs for power and water.

Green roofs are an interesting idea. Expensive, yes, but they can last far longer than an ordinary roof. They reduce heating and cooling costs and rainwater sustains grass and other plants.

Our February 2004 FoCC First Wednesday forum celebrated the LEED certification of the Clark County Public Service Center. At that time, local panelists also shared their experience constructing green built residences.

We are pleased that Clark County now boasts another environmentally friendly building. The new Hilton Vancouver Hotel is the first LEED certified hotel in the nation. And The Columbian plans to gain LEED certification with their new office building.

The time has come for green building. Take pride that the northwest is leading the way!

TOXIC ELECTRONICS

Smithsonian magazine, August 2005

Americans discard more than 100 million electronic devices (computers, cell phones, etc.) every year. Are you aware of the tremendous threat to the environment this poses?

Your cathode-ray tube monitor contains 2-8 pounds of lead. The circuit boards in your PC contain silver, chromium, zinc, tin and copper.

Taxpayers bear the cost of landfills and incinerators for the electronics sent to the dump. Your computer, if crushed in a landfill, could leak these metals into soil and water. Burned in a trash incinerator, it would emit noxious fumes including dioxins.

As public awareness of the problem grows, many states are adopting electronic waste reform. Measures include manufacturer take-back programs, landfill bans, and advanced recovery fees collected from consumers by retailers.

The Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition (SVTC) is working hard to get the United States to sign an international treaty that limits trade in toxic waste. In the mean time SVTC research found Chinese workers, who wear no protective gear, working open vats containing hydrochloric and nitric acid to extract gold from components.

The black sludge is then dumped into fields and streams that show levels of lead, chromium and barium hundreds of times higher than allowed by US standards. The chemicals are blamed for high rates of birth defects, infant mortality, blood diseases and severe respiratory problems.

It is dangerous, labor-intensive, and expensive to recycle electronics. Recyclers have to make a profit and the market for the materials is neither large or reliable.

Visionaries dream of the day when electronic devices are returned to the manufacturer, who designed the equipment with safe reuse in mind.

For more on recycling electronics, go to smithsonianmag.com.

RECYCLE YOUR COMPUTER

Your computer has a processing speed that, only yesterday, seemed dazzling. The disk drive that initially had more space than you would ever need is choking on data.

Your old computer is headed for that great bit bucket in the sky.

CREAM (Computer Reuse and Marketing) is a local partnership working to divert usable computers from the landfill. Non-profit organizations will refurbish and distribute these computers. Computers that cannot be refurbished will be recycled.

Take your computer to:

Clark County Jail Work Center
5197 NW Lower River Road
Monday—Thursday
9:00 am to 11:30 am
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Some other electronics are also accepted. For more information call City of Vancouver Solid Waste Services at 360.696.8186.

DONATE YOUR CELL PHONE

Take your old cell phone to the YWCA (3609 Main Street). They will program it to call 911 (only) for a domestic violence victim.

You're a nerd if

you understand this: There are only 10 kinds of people in this world. Those that understand binary, and those that do not. :>)

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IN THIS NEWSLETTER

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- Fort Vancouver Regional Library bond;
- I-912 initiative;
- Port of Vancouver expansion;
- Green buildings;
- Toxic electronics.

Please renew your membership with FRIENDS of CLARK COUNTY using the order form inside this newsletter.

We need your support to help cover expenses as we continue the vital work of protecting our quality of life in Clark County.

If you join at the Donor level (\$100) or above we'll give you a Friends of Clark County baseball cap FREE.

Thank you!