

Art by Karol Paquette

FISHERS CREEK
Neighborhood Association
www.fisherscreek.org



March 2005 Newsletter - A service of your Neighborhood Association

FCNA Leadership

President: Stacey Johnson-
staceyjohnson@aol.com

Co Vice Presidents- Mark Miller
mark.d.miller13@comcast.net
& Heidi Olsen- kurtoly@comcast.net

Secretary: Sandy Moszer msmoszer@comcast.net

Treasurer: Rachelle Moehring
rmoehring@comcast.net

Members at Large:

John Stouffer-john@pnanet.com

Norm Krasne -npk1030@cs.com

Jennifer Maddox- jkmaddox@hotmail.com

Committee Chairs

Area Coordinators: Jennifer Maddox

Grant writing Chair: Heidi Olsen

Grotto Chair: John Stouffer

Matrix/Gables Chair: Sandy Moszer

Newsletter: Heidi Olsen & Rachelle Moehring

Park Chair: Sandy Moszer

Section 30/ Dump Chair: Stacey Johnson

Special Events: Rachelle Moehring

Presidents Message
See last page

Mark your calendars for these important dates.

MARCH-

Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt*

Date: Saturday, March 26th **Time:** 1:30 p.m.
See full-page announcement- this newsletter.

MAY-

The FCNA General Meeting (and elections) has been scheduled for **Tuesday, May 10th**, 7 pm at Fisher's Landing Elementary!

May 22nd, Dozer Day 9-4 See announcement this newsletter

JUNE-

Neighborhood Garage Sale*

Date: Saturday, June 18th **Time:** 9-3 **Cost:** \$5 per participating household
(fee covers large newspaper ad, balloons, and signs directing people to the event)

Neighborhood Clean Up/ Dump Day*

Date: June 25th **Time:** 8-3 **Location:** Fishers Landing Elementary School Parking Lot

Cost: FREE, FREE, FREE

Bonus*See Coupon for appliance removal etc.**

JULY-

Neighborhood 4th of July Parade*

Time: 1:30 p.m

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 Neighborhood Association newsletters 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





New House

New Homes

Kimball Hill Homes has started construction on Phase I of The Gables at Hiddenbrook Terrace. We welcome them to the Neighborhood.

Clean Up Opportunities Offered by the City of Vancouver

◆ **Yard debris and tire coupons.** Each resident of an established neighborhood association is eligible to receive 2 coupons good for free drop-off of yard debris and one coupon for disposal of up to 4 tires. Tire and yard debris drop off is at H & H Wood Recyclers, McFarlane's Bark or West Van Materials Recovery Center during the months of April, May and June. The coupons are attached to the back of this newsletter.

◆ **Free curbside pick up of non-working major appliances.** All single-family residents of organized neighborhoods are eligible for free curbside pickup of a non-working major appliance during the months of April and May. Neighbors should call 696-8186 after March 1st

Road Construction

Construction has begun on the 192nd Avenue Project, Phase III, which will connect SE 34th Street to Hwy 14. The existing section of 192nd Ave. south of Columbia Credit Union will be narrowed to 2 lanes, and the 90-degree intersection connecting it to SE 41st will become a curved corner. For more information, visit <http://www.ci.vancouver.wa.us/transportation/192ave/index.html>.

Dozer Day

Dozer Day is a unique fundraising event that will benefit the Parks Foundation (which helped to create Fisher's Creek Park), Vancouver Police & Fire Public Safety Foundation, the Youth Ambassador Program, and Evergreen School District. Volunteers are needed to work three-hour shifts at various stations throughout the day. Volunteer opportunities include but are not limited to: selling tickets, informational guides, serving Starbucks coffee and hot chocolate, assisting with lines to dozers and dump trucks, supervising a Diamond Dig and much more. Volunteers will receive two complimentary tickets to the event. To learn more, visit the Vancouver Parks Foundation website at www.parksfoundation.us or call Phyllis Goldhammer at the Parks Foundation, 693-7050.

Date: Sunday, May 22, 2005

Time: 9:00 am–4:00 pm

Location: Rinker Materials Rock Quarry

The website has a new look...

Come and check us out!

www.fisherscreek.org

For your latest news and updates as well as communication with your board members.

Thanks John Stouffer for all your hard work.





Easter Egg Hunt

Date: Saturday, March 26th

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Location: Fishers Creek Park

For each child participating in the event please donate a dozen plastic eggs and one bag of candy by Wednesday, March 23rd.*

**Drop off location:
3809 SE 182nd Ct.**

***Please make sure that your donation is clearly marked w/ your family's name. It helps us keep track of who has donated and who hasn't. It's the only way that we can make sure that each child gets to take home a dozen eggs after the egg hunt.**

If you 'd like to volunteer to stuff eggs or help run the hunt, please contact Rachelle thru www.fisherscreek.org

FCNA Mission Statement

The mission of the Fisher's Creek Neighborhood Association is to preserve, protect, and enhance the quality of life in the Fishers Creek neighborhood. It is through this effort that we strive to increase community awareness, and be proactive on those issues that affect residential property values



Support Your Symphony

In conversing with many neighbors since moving into the FCNA area, I have become aware that most of them are not even aware that Vancouver has its very own professional symphony orchestra. I have had the opportunity and pleasure of attending numerous concerts given by our symphony since my arrival from New York ten years ago. Directed by our charming, wonderful maestro, Salvador Brotons, a resident of Barcelona, Spain, the symphony has recently added several musicians to its roster and its playing keeps getting better.

There are four concerts left on the symphony's 2004-05 schedule, including the annual Young Artists concert in April, which features winners of the 2005 Young Artists Competition. In May, Carl Orff's scintillating Carmina Burana, with guest soloists and choir, is the featured work. And, the opportunity still exists to purchase a 3 or 4-concert series at a discounted price.

All concerts are performed at Skyview High School's beautiful auditorium. The Saturday afternoon concert is at 3 PM while the Sunday evening concert, which performs the same works, begins at 7 PM. The dates of all remaining concerts as well as ticket prices, which are below reasonable, and other essentials can be found on the symphony's website: vancouverSymphony.org

I urge each of you to at least try a single concert. Once having heard them, I'm certain you'll want to become a subscriber. Take your children with you and add some beauty to their lives. Perhaps one day they'll aspire to become musicians.

See you at the next concert of The Vancouver Symphony Orchestra.

Norm Krasne

In January the FCNA held a Neighborhood Watch Program meeting to determine the interest level of implementing the program in our neighborhoods. Though turnout was very disappointing, some areas are moving forward with implementing the program and the hope is that the program will continue to grow and gain momentum over time. If after reading the below information you become interested in implementing the program in your specific neighborhood, contact Jennifer Maddox (jfmaddox@hotmail.com) for information and help moving forward.

FCNA Neighborhood Watch Meeting Highlights

January 19th, 2005, 6:30 pm

Fisher's Landing Elementary School

Led by: Jennifer Maddox, FCNA Area Coordinator Chair
Marion Swendson, East Precinct Vancouver Community Policing Specialist

Jennifer explained that a neighborhood watch program is fairly easy to maintain once it is set up. She has experience starting a program in another city neighborhood. She then introduced Marion Swendson.

Marion said that for a Neighborhood Watch program (NW) we need to:

- Pay attention. Know who is in the neighborhood, who belongs and who doesn't. Then know what to do about it.
- Identify suspicious activity. Suspicious activity is anything that doesn't belong. It could be as simple as someone looking at houses or into garages or into cars.
- When reporting suspicious activity, be specific. Learn to be a good witness and get detailed descriptions of people and vehicles (i.e. license plate number).
- Don't rely on others to call. If you see suspicious activity, call 911, even if you think your neighbor may be calling as well. Cont.

To implement the program, a telephone tree needs to be made for each zone. Block captains should be chosen for each smaller area or "block". Each neighbor needs to be given information on what to watch for and who to contact. Basically "If you observe a crime in progress or a suspicious situation, call 911 first, then call your block captain to begin the phone tree."

911 calls are prioritized, depending on the threat to people and if the crime is occurring at that moment. There are 6 districts in East Precinct, with one officer on duty in each district during the day (as well as superiors). The appropriate number of officers is sent to each emergency. In cases of suspicious activity, an officer will drive through the area, looking for the person/vehicle that was reported. If you want to know the outcome, you must ask to be notified.

The neighborhood needs to be divided into zones, with a zone leader in each. FCNA already has 12 zones, with area coordinators who may be able to fill this role, or may have an idea of someone in there zone who is interested.

Neighborhood Watch signs will be put up at each major entrance into the Fisher's Creek Neighborhood, but they need to be followed up with aware neighbors. When someone comes into our neighborhood, they should notice people watching them.

At the meeting it was determined that 2-3 zones: H, K, and D will attempt to implement the NW program in the Hiddenbrook Terrace Sub-Division since all neighbors attending the meeting live in one of these zones. It is hoped that the entire neighborhood will eventually be involved.

GENERAL CRIME STATS AND INFO:

50% of all residential burglaries are committed when windows/doors are left unlocked. We need to focus on taking away the opportunity for crime by locking doors, garages, cars, sliding glass doors, and windows. Doors should have dead bolts, and door latch plates should have 3 inch screws connecting them to wall studs.

Most break-ins occur between 9 am – 5 pm while people are at work. Cars are most likely to be stolen between 12 midnight and 4 am, or in the morning while the car is running to be warmed up. Older Hondas are easy to steal.

Met amphetamine is fueling most burglaries/robberies in Vancouver right now. People are stealing things they can sell easily to make money to buy the drug.

Identity theft, stealing your money, is the biggest crime in the world right now. Protect yourself by using a cross-shredder to shred documents with your personal information, including junk mail, credit card applications and mail catalogs offering credit. Don't put personal information such as names or phone numbers on your answering machine. Guard your purse and wallet. Don't fall for "fishing" calls or e-mails, claiming to need to verify your bank information.



Park Thanks

A few names were accidentally left out or misspelled in last fall's list of park volunteers and donators. We would like to extend our sincere if belated thanks to:

Peggy Champagne

Ryan Theodoriches

Kathy Nelson

Rick and Cathy Bartz

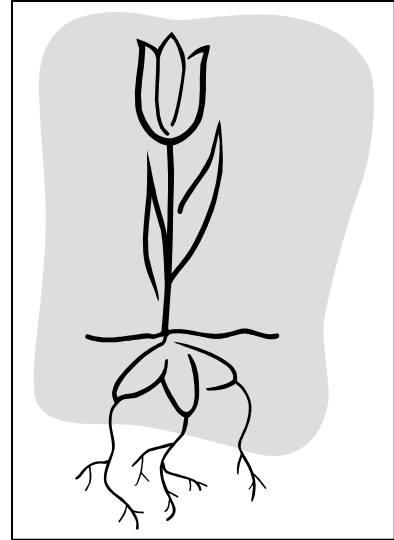
Maria Masson

John Stouffer

Please let us know if we've left out anyone else!

Park Picnic Table

Fisher's Creek Park now has a picnic table! FCNA obtained the table, as well as the pet refuse bag dispenser, through a grant available only to Vancouver neighborhood associations. A big "thank you!" goes to the FCNA grant committee for all its work in completing the complicated grant process. We would also like to thank Kimball Hill Homes and the City of Vancouver for installing the table for us, saving us from having to do even more fundraising for the park.

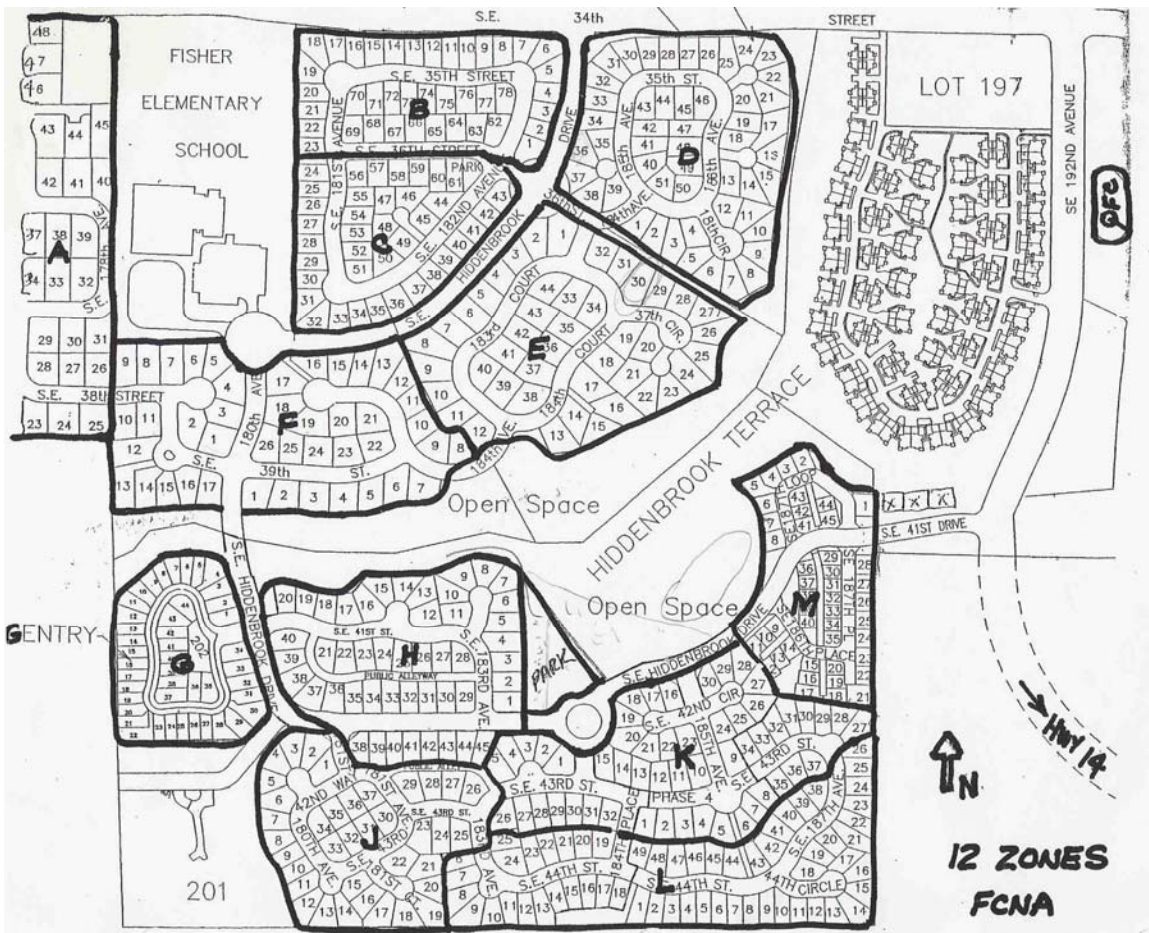


Dog Owners- Here's another great amenity for you when you walk your pet. In case you hadn't heard- On the back of the Fishers Creek park rules sign, there is a box containing baggies for your dog's business.

So if you start out and realize you have forgotten your own bag, stop by the park so you can take care of it.

Thanks

*Newsletter compiled By
Heidi Olsen*



Wanted: New area coordinators for the Gardens (Section N) & Hiddenbrook Terrace (Section L)

Duties include:

1. Hand delivering newsletters and extra flyers throughout the year.
2. Contacting new homeowners and delivering new neighbor welcome wagon packet with info on the area.
3. Being a go-to person for news and or comments for the board.

Please contact Jennifer Maddox if you are interested in becoming an Area Coordinator or being a back up A.C. to help out with delivering the newsletter periodically

Contact her at: jkmaddox@hotmail.com

Current Area Coordinators are:

A-Village Vista- Ted Smith
 B- Hiddenbrook Glen 1 Leigh Ann Tyler
 C-Hiddenbrook Glen 2 Lauri Stokes
 D- Hiddenbrook 1 Jennifer Maddox
 E- Hiddenbrook 2 Heidi Olsen
 F- Hiddenbrook 3 Rachele Moehring
 G- Gentry's Norm Krasne
 H-Hiddenbrook Terrace 1 Lance Thompson

J- Hiddenbrook Terrace 2- Carrie Reschke
 K- H.T. 3 - Sandy Moszer
 L- H.T. 4 -OPEN
 M-H.T. 5- Pete Dorin
 N- Garden's - OPEN
 O- The Gables- Under construction

Results of the Vote on the Grotto Trail

By Mark Miller, Hiddenbrook Community Association

Over the last 2 or more years, there has been much discussion of a trail through some green space owned by Hiddenbrook Community Association (HCA). This trail would have connected to a trail proposed by Nelson Development. The completed trail would have given the entire Fisher's Creek neighborhood access to an area known as the Grotto (Nelson Development is building town homes there).

As most of you are probably aware by now, the HCA Board has been trying to determine if HCA homeowners support the building of this trail. There were petitions both in support of and in opposition to the trail. This created some confusion. So the HCA Board set out to gather as much information about the proposed trail as was possible. The board then put together a voter's guide and a ballot for the HCA Annual Meeting, held in November of 2004. Unfortunately, this ballot included an option for homeowners to grant the board a proxy, if they did not vote "for" or "against" the trail. (A proxy is a way for someone to grant his or her voting power to the board.) Since the board was split on the trail issue, we were also split on how to handle any proxy votes. As a side note, there were 50 votes received prior to the Annual Meeting and they were split evenly (25 for and 25 opposed to the trail).

So, in December, the HCA Board made a final attempt to determine the will of our homeowners regarding the Grotto Trail. We sent the voter's guide and a revised ballot to all homeowners with their 1st quarter dues notice. This provided all HCA homeowners the opportunity to submit a vote regarding the trail and send it back with their dues payment.

Unfortunately, only 57 trail votes were received out of 138 homes. There were 35 votes "against" the trail and 22 votes "for" the trail. Even if it were assumed that these were different people voting from the votes received prior to the Annual Meeting, there would still not be enough votes to allow the HCA Board to grant the easement required for the trail. Because of this, the HCA Board has determined that they will not continue to pursue the trail.

The HCA Board wishes to thank all those who have spent time on this issue over the past couple of years. It is hoped that parties from both sides of this divisive issue will be able to move forward and continue to work together to improve this great community of ours.

Thanks for the memories

From Stacey Johnson
FCNA President

I would like to tell you what an honor it has been to serve as your president for the past several years. In May we will be electing new members for our board positions. I will be stepping down as well. In looking back, I am extremely proud of the work that we have done and yet disappointed that not all of our envisioned goals came to fruition during my tenure. I have been pleased to see our small fledgling group of founders expand to eight committees, which at times have been staffed with quite a number of volunteers. We have endeavored to live up to our mission statement and I am hopeful that all have benefited in some way.

We will be losing some dedicated and talented people from our board. Norm Krasne has been there from the beginning along with me. He is a fantastic proponent of our neighborhood and a valuable asset. While he will be taking a break from our board, I hope that we will still see his thoughtful writings in our newsletter. Sandy Moszer is another treasure that I cannot say enough about. Sandy was instrumental in the development of our park. She has been a storehouse of knowledge, ideas, and motivation. She will be sorely missed, but again, hopefully will still be active in participating in neighborhood issues. Tim Kipfer who has been our web designer from the beginning, has also passed on the torch. Our website under his creative direction has garnered many compliments and accolades.

Those who are carrying on are dedicated leaders and are to be commended as well for the time spent for the good of all, often at the expense of family and personal time. You will be left in fine hands with Jennifer Maddox, Mark Miller, Rachelle Moehring, Heidi Olsen and John Stouffer. They will need some help and I hope that you will consider becoming a part of their team.

I hope that you will attend our May meeting in order to discuss and help decide in which direction we would like our neighborhood association to take in the future. Many people other than those mentioned have helped in the last several years and I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to them in helping the FCNA become what it is today. See you in May! Stacey

Fishers Creek –In the News-

'with permission by The Columbian Newspaper.

The Columbian

Date: 02/24/2005

Homeowners close door on nature trail plan

By JUSTIN CARINCI, Columbian staff writer

Efforts to create a walking trail loop in southeast Vancouver have pitted a neighborhood association that supports the trail against an overlapping private homeowners group, which voted against it.

When developer Dave Nelson bought the Our Lady Queen of Peace Grotto site last year, he knew neighbors had walked the trail religiously since the grotto's creation in 1988. The path winds along deeply shaded Fisher's Creek, past ferns and ponds, in an area the former owners had adorned with religious icons.

This wooded walk could prove a selling point for Nelson's new townhomes, he reasoned.

"Exposure to hiking trails is one of the larger demands of our consumers," Nelson said. "As the lots get smaller and smaller, people need someplace to get out."

Nelson joined an effort to connect the grotto with another, nearby trail, forming a loop. With the city and neighborhood association on board, success seemed inches away.

Last month, the plan fell short by five yards. Five back yards, that is, of houses on Southeast 39th Street.

The Hiddenbrook Community Association, a private homeowners association, owns a small strip of land along a steep bank from those five yards. To complete the circuit, the proposed trail would need to cross that strip.

But at least three times since last summer, the association has rejected that easement.

"It's a dead issue for us," said Hiddenbrook Community Association president John Lynch. He said about 50 homeowners split almost evenly, with a few more opposing the trail than supporting it, in a Jan. 20 ballot.

That decision has angered the Fisher's Creek Neighborhood Association, which has planned the trail for two years. The neighborhood association, a public organization open to anyone within its boundaries, has no say in what homeowners do with their land.

"It's unfortunate that a few selfish people who think that ought to be their own space have to punish the neighborhood," said John Stouffer, who chairs the neighborhood association's grotto committee.

Hiddenbrook Community Association vice president Gary Tier lives in one of the five 39th Street houses. He said he worries about legal liability if someone strays from the trail. He questions whether opening the area would draw crime.

But among Tier's concerns, location trumps all.

"It's a nice walk down there," he said. "I would be all for a trail if it wasn't in my back yard."

The failure to gain use of the land didn't faze Dan George, who heads the trail effort for Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation. He said work on the rest of the trail will proceed once Nelson builds the 88-home Lakes at Fisher's Landing development. Home construction is scheduled to begin this spring and could run for three years.

The trail will open to the public whenever it connects, George said, however long that takes.

"When it comes to acquiring trail property, I have waited sometimes as long as 12 to 15 years for trails to be completed," he said. Until then, only residents of the new development can reach the grotto.

For that to change, the same group that voted down the trail would eventually have to accept it.

"If we cannot acquire the property through this private homeowners association, I'm not sure we want to pursue a trail through the grotto," George said.

As the trail sits in limbo, its supporters find themselves in a bind. They say homeowners would see that the trail isn't too close and that it most likely won't increase crime or cause erosion if only the trail were there to prove it.

"I'm not exactly convinced that it won't be right next to me," said Cindy Kelm, who lives in one of the five houses along 39th. "It seems like it would be right next to my property line."

In October, George led homeowners association members on a tour of the proposed trail and further explained the plans. The walking path would be three feet wide and made of crushed rock or bark chips.

It would run along the creek, George said, separated from back yards by thick brush and a daunting climb.

"It's a very steep bank to get up to their homes," he said. "Someone would have to work pretty hard to get through all that brush."

The trail plan calls for more brush to be planted, George said, although most areas have a pretty thick wall. "You see the backyard fence on one of the houses," he said. "On the others, they're all pretty well screened."

The trail hadn't always been controversial. As late as last fall, homeowners association president Lynch described opposition to the trail as coming mostly from the few homeowners near its path.

"We're working hard to convince everybody it would be a benefit and really not much of a problem at all," Lynch said at the time.

The harder the Fisher's Creek Neighborhood Association pushed for the trail, Lynch said, the more homeowners turned against it.

Troops on either side hit the streets early that summer. Trail opponents went door-to-door with a petition and convinced a majority of homeowners to sign.

When trail supporters found out, Stouffer said, they knocked on the same doors with a petition of support. According to a neighborhood association newsletter, 27 households that had signed petitions against the trail reversed their position to support it.

Combined with 59 new households favoring the trail, the neighborhood association claimed a majority in support.

But in a blow to activists on both sides, the homeowners association board refused to accept either signature drive as valid.

Still trying to convince skeptics, the neighborhood association hosted an informational meeting for the homeowners association last August. Representatives from the parks department, the Vancouver Police Department and city attorney's office, and Nelson Development spoke and answered questions.

The homeowners association board held several official ballots on the trail. Association rules require a majority of households 70 out of 138 to pass such a measure.

Last month, having failed to draw 70 voters each time, the board gave up.

"We have a lot of people who are complacent and don't care one way or the other," Lynch said, "so we don't get the support."

Lynch agrees it's possible that some future board could get a different result, but he can't see it ever coming up again.

"We've gone over this thing three or four times now and we get the same outcome," he said. "So this is probably it."

Justin Carinci is the neighborhood news coordinator. He can be reached at 360-737-4006, or justin.carinci@columbian.com.

Update

Previously: Developer Dave Nelson offered to preserve access to the grotto area in his The Lakes at Fisher's Landing development of 88 upscale townhomes. To carry out Nelson's plans, a public trail would need to cross a small strip owned by an adjacent homeowners association.

What's new: The homeowners association voted Jan. 20 to deny use of its property, putting the trail's future in doubt.

What's next: The grotto area will be connected to another trail starting at the park on Southeast 41st Drive only if the homeowners association changes its mind.

Copyright © 2005 by The Columbian Publishing Co. P.O. Box 180, Vancouver, WA 98666. No part of this publication may be stored in a retrieval system, transmitted, or reproduced in any way, including but not limited to photocopy, photograph, magnetic or other record, without the prior agreement and written permission of the publisher.