

January 2006

Fisher's Creek Neighborhood Association Newsletter



Inside This Issue

- 1 Volunteers & Grant from City Equal Better Park!
- 1 Dumping Grass Clippings & Leaves in Wetlands Illegal
- 2 Message from Fisher's Landing Elementary
- 2 Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Safety
- 3 Name Our Walking Trails
- 3 Are You Prepared?
- 4 FCNA General Meetings
- 4 Message from the President

Our neighborhood contribution to this project is to volunteer our time to actually plant the trees, shrubs, and ferns on the 14th of January.



Volunteers & Grant from City will Equal Better Park!

Your Neighborhood Association Board has been given a \$1,000 grant to obtain native plants for our neighborhood Fishers Creek Park. Our neighborhood contribution to this is to volunteer our time to actually plant the trees, shrubs, and ferns that will be delivered to the park on January 14. The official starting time is 9:00am. These plants will go into the area by the traffic roundabout. There hasn't been much of anything growing there since Himalayan blackberries – an invasive non-native species – were removed last year. This area is part of the natural area within the park. If you let me know you are coming, I will send you a list of plants and links to web sites where you can learn more about the plants we will be using. See the FCNA web site or send an email to stephen_pastor@fws.gov. Please bring gloves and a shovel. Wear boots or sturdy shoes, dress for the weather and plan on getting muddy. Planting requires lifting, digging and kneeling. No experience necessary. Ryan Durocher from the Urban Forestry Department will be telling us about the plants after the work is over. Good support for this planting will show that we care about our neighborhood and may make it easier to get more of these types of grants in the future. Refreshments will be provided by the Fisher's Creek Neighborhood Association. Please come out and show your support!

Dumping Grass Clippings & Leaves in Wetlands Illegal

If you are new to our area, you may not know that the two homeowners' associations on either side of Fishers Creek are responsible for the wetlands and wetland buffer along the creek—some of which I've heard the kids refer to as "the forest". Maybe you've seen the signs. Activities within this area are regulated by a conservation covenant that was established when our subdivisions were built. Dumping lawn debris or anything else in this area is not only inconsistent with the covenant, it is a violation of a city ordinance. If someone maintains your lawn for you, please inform them that our green spaces are *not* a dump, and that they should dispose of lawn debris properly. Wetland signs will be repositioned into the trouble spots to make this more obvious.



Please keep all students safe by using the route marked and by using patience when picking up your child.

Messages from Fisher's Landing Elementary School

After-school visitors (older students) are using the playground equipment, and we have had ripping occur on one of the swings. Please ask your neighbors who reside in view of the playground to call 9-1-1 if they see students standing on the swings or otherwise misusing the equipment, and they think damage is being done.

Parking Lot Safety is a Real Concern to Mr. Segram & Staff

Parents, we need your help! There have been at least two close calls in the past where our safety patrol students were almost hit by motorists. When this occurred, the students were wearing their safety patrol vests and holding stop signs in the crosswalks. We have also had a number of incidents where parents picking up their child have attempted to exit the parking lot down the row of special education buses. This made for unsafe loading of students. Please refrain from using this row to exit. The parking lot is marked with arrows for entering straight in and exiting down the middle row. Please keep all students safe by using the route marked and by using patience during the drop off/loading of students. If you find yourself rushed for time when picking up your child, you should consider having your child take the bus. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Crime Prevention & Neighborhood Safety



This year, the Fisher's Creek neighborhood was the SAFEST of 91 neighborhoods in Vancouver!

Below are some good safety tips to prevent crime and make our neighborhood a more safe and desirable place to live:

- Do not leave cars running in your driveway to warm up. Not only is this illegal in the state of Washington, but it is also an easy target for thieves.
- Keep your garage doors closed when you are not working outside or in them, especially at night. Several houses in our neighborhood have had items stolen from their garages, even in broad daylight.
- Keep a watchful eye on the houses, parks, schools, etc. near you and report anything that looks out of the ordinary to the police. If you witness a crime in progress, call 9-1-1 immediately and write down as much detailed information as you can.
- Make sure that on cold, frosty mornings ALL window surfaces on your cars are well scraped for good visibility so children and pets can easily be seen. Please use extra caution in the morning and afternoon when school is beginning and ending.

This year, the Fisher's Creek neighborhood was the **safest** of ninety-one neighborhoods in Vancouver, with a rate of 16 crimes per 1,000 residents! This is outstanding, compared to an average of 134 crimes per 1,000 residents. Great work! Please stay vigilant so we can continue keep our neighborhood safe and a great place to live!

Name Our Walking Trails

As many people know, there are a couple of walking trails located within FCNA. However, these trails do not have formal names. So, if your kids are going for a walk along the trail, which trail is it? The FCNA is looking for suggestions on names, with the hopes that a small sign can be placed at either end of each (which will have to be approved by the applicable homeowners' associations). If you have suggestions for names, please visit our website at: www.fisherscreek.org and send an e-mail to John Stouffer. A link to his e-mail is located on the home page at the bottom of "Name our Walking Trails" in the What's Happening section.



Are You Prepared?

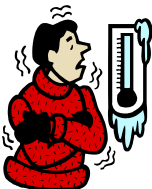
In the wake of Hurricane Katrina in the southern United States, and the tsunami in Asia, citizens have become more aware of the potential for natural and manmade disasters within their own communities. In Vancouver, the possibility exists of a major earthquake occurring sometime in the future. Extreme weather conditions, such as ice storms, can also produce disaster-like conditions.

In a regional event, such as an earthquake, emergency services agencies (i.e., fire, ambulance service, law enforcement, etc.) will be stretched beyond their normal capabilities. In addition, access to grocery stores, pharmacies and other vital services could be extremely limited or completely non-existent for days. With this in mind, it is important for every family to be prepared in the event of a local disaster.

Every home should have an adequate supply of food, water and other items to enable them to survive without any assistance for at least 72 hours. The following is a minimum list of supplies that should be kept in a sealed container:

- Dry and canned food.
- Water (3 gallons or more per person)
- First aid kit
- Portable radio and extra batteries
- Toilet paper
- Your prescription medicine
- Waterproof matches and candles
- Extra clothing
- Basic tools (hammer, screwdrivers, pliers)
- Flashlights and extra batteries
- Rope and duct tape
- Multipurpose pocket knife
- Tarps
- Whistle
- Battery operated radio & extra batteries
- Plastic garbage bags in various sizes
- Can opener (non-electric)
- Extra blankets
- Books and games (and toys for children)
- Paper, pens, and postage stamps
- List of contact names & phone numbers
- Copies of important documents (birth certificate, ID, etc.)

Every home should have an adequate supply of food, water and other items to enable them to survive without any assistance from emergency services for at least 72 hours.



FCNA General Meetings

FCNA General Meetings are usually held twice a year. They are generally held on the second Thursday of May and November at 7pm at Fisher's Landing Elementary School. The dates we have scheduled for 2006 are below:

FCNA General Meeting: May 11, 2006

FCNA General Meeting: November 9, 2006

For more information on the FCNA or happenings within your community, visit our website at www.fisherscreek.org.

Message from the President

Neighbors...

This is the first issue of the FCNA Newsletter of 2006. If you have lived here for awhile, you will notice our new format. We hope you like it!

I want to thank all the members of the FCNA Board who have contributed their time and effort over the last year. In addition, our past presidents, Heidi Olsen and Stacey Johnson, deserve our recognition and appreciation for their significant contributions to our neighborhood.

Other individuals who have served on the Board, such as Sandy Moszer and Rachelle Moehring, have also worked very hard for our community. I wish I could mention all of the others who have done so much in the past to make things better.

For those of you who are new, it is important to distinguish the difference between the Fisher's Creek Neighborhood Association (FCNA) and the individual homeowners' associations. For a brief explanation, visit the FCNA website at www.fisherscreek.org/about.html.

Of particular note this year, is the fact that our neighborhood is the safest of all neighborhoods in Vancouver! The article on page 2 shows that our neighborhood has a crime rate **88% below** the average crime rate of all other neighborhoods in the City of Vancouver!

As always, we are committed to ensuring and improving the quality of our neighborhood. **YOUR** participation in helping shape our community is critical. We welcome your comments, suggestions and ideas, and encourage you to become involved. Don't hesitate to contact myself or any other member of the Board. Happy New Year!

John A. Stouffer
FCNA President

JANUARY 2006

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FCNA Board

- John Stouffer, President
- Mark Miller, Vice President
- Rachelle Moehring, Treasurer
- Lynelle Hatton, Secretary
- Jennifer Maddox, Member-at-Large
- Stephen Pastor, Member-at-Large
- Hank Vaandering, Member-at-Large
- Patrick Rank, Member-at-Large

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