



# Truman Neighborhood News

"Let's keep this neighborhood together"

February 2015

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Council Members

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We welcome new people to our council. These are volunteer positions. Feel free to contact any of the above members for details.

February 26<sup>th</sup>

### Truman Neighborhood Association General Meeting

6:30-8:00 pm at the American Legion Hall Smith Reynolds Post 14, 4607 NE St. James Road.

- Donations for Clark County Food Bank appreciated.
- See **page 7** For information about the food bank's needs and for a list of most needed items.
- Elections for 2015 Council to be held at this meeting.
- Featured speakers will be Mike Kornell from Oxford House and our Clark County Sheriff Liaison Deputy.

MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR!

May 28<sup>th</sup>

### Truman Neighborhood Association General Meeting

6:30-8:00pm at the American Legion Hall. This is our last meeting until fall.

May or June

### Truman Neighborhood Community Bike Safety & Registration Event

Open to all youth in the Truman neighborhood. More information to come.

July 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>

### Truman Neighborhood 3rd Annual Garage Sale

9am-4pm each day. Watch for more information in our May newsletter

September 13<sup>th</sup>

### Truman Neighborhood 4th Annual BBQ & Potluck

New hours this year are 4-6pm – A fun day for the entire family!

September 19<sup>th</sup>

### Clark County Sheriff's Office Public Safety Complex Open House

at the West Precinct at the Fairgrounds from 12-4pm. There will be free food, numerous displays & demonstrations and activities for all!

September 26<sup>th</sup>

### Our Annual Clean Up at the Kings Pond area

will take place from 9am-12pm. More information to come in our August newsletter.

October 22<sup>nd</sup>

### Truman Neighborhood Association General Meeting

6:30-8:00pm at the American Legion Hall

November/December

### Truman Neighborhood's Outreach to Truman School

# OUR COMMUNITIES; DRUG FREE.

## Clark-Vancouver Regional Drug Task Force

It is the mission of the Clark-Vancouver Regional Drug Task Force to work proactively and collaboratively with our community partners to eliminate illegal drugs in Clark County with Professionalism, Integrity, Responsiveness and Enthusiasm.

Our Goals are:

- To identify, investigate, and disrupt or dismantle drug trafficking organizations working in and through Clark county.
- To initiate and conduct investigations of mid and upper-level drug dealers and drug manufacturers.
- To facilitate investigation and problem solving efforts relating to neighborhood drug problems and determine possible connections to drug trafficking organizations.
- To promote inter-agency cooperation relating to drug investigations.
- To promote interdisciplinary cooperation fighting drugs in our community.
- To collect analyze and disseminate intelligence information relating to illegal drug activities in Clark county.
- To participate in establishing and maintaining a communications network between law enforcement agencies in our area.
- To be an educational and information resource for our community partners and other agencies regarding illegal drugs, their use and the drug subculture.

Your assistance is greatly appreciated. While we eagerly seek your assistance, keep in mind that **KNOWINGLY** providing false information is a crime under Washington State Law.

Call the Drug Tip Line to report suspected drug activity in your area at **360-397-6017**.

You can also file an **anonymous** report at [www.clark.wa.gov/sheriff/drugtips/SubmitDrugTip.aspx](http://www.clark.wa.gov/sheriff/drugtips/SubmitDrugTip.aspx)

Information that is most useful for the investigation of drug activity includes the following:

- Involved vehicles and associated license plates
- House address and/or property descriptions where activity is occurring
- Times of day when activity is observed anything else that you feel is out of the ordinary
- Names and descriptions of suspects or other parties involved

(from the Clark County Sheriff's website)



*Neighborhood associations are volunteer groups and not agents of Clark County government. Newsletter information and views are solely those of the neighborhood association and not of Clark County. Clark County Public Information and Outreach Office supports these volunteers by printing and distributing their newsletters.*

# NEIGHBORS ON WATCH

## NOW - Neighbors on Watch Needs You!

We are looking for qualified individuals to join our Neighbors On Watch Citizens Volunteer Program.

We patrol as a two man/woman team in our own vehicles or on foot. We are a non-confrontational eyes and ears only volunteer group with the Clark County Sheriff's Office. This is an opportunity to make a difference in our communities and to help make a safe and secure environment for all neighborhood residents. The following is a summary of what is required to apply and perform these duties.

### Neighbors on Watch:

- Assist the sheriff's office through observation
- Help reduce crime and improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods
- Foster cooperation between citizens and deputies
- Educate citizens on crime prevention
- Create a high visibility, public presence in the neighborhoods
- Unite residents for a dedicated reason
- Increase crime awareness among the citizens of the neighborhoods
- Help make law enforcement more effective and productive
- Provide a safe, secure environment for all neighborhood residents



***Make a difference in your community!***

To become a NOW volunteer, you must:

- Be able to pass a screening process including a criminal background investigation, fingerprints, interviews and reference check
- Be older than 21
- Be a United States Citizen
- Live in Clark County
- Attend a 27-hour training academy
- Be available at least four hours per month
- Coordinate with other volunteers
- Wear provided uniform
- Use own vehicle

For more information or to receive a NOW application, please contact:

Kasey Frazier

[Kasey.Frazier@clark.wa.gov](mailto:Kasey.Frazier@clark.wa.gov)

(360) 397-2211 ext. 3380



The Truman neighborhood currently does not have any volunteers serving as a NOW volunteers, we would love to see this change. Clark County neighborhoods as of October have 16 NOW volunteers serving in their neighborhoods and county at large.

# CRIME WATCH PROGRAM

## Would You Consider Serving As a Truman Crime Watch Block Captain?

Our Truman neighborhood prides itself on having 25 active Crime Watch Block Captains serving our neighborhood. We are recognized by Clark County as having the most active Crime Watch program of any of its 26 neighborhoods. That is not something we take lightly and each of our captains works hard to make sure you are aware of problems in your area, whether there is suspicious or criminal activity occurring.



There are many areas within the Truman neighborhood that do not have a Block Captain to serve their immediate area. If you have never had anyone approach you as your Block Captain then your area is in need of one. We can provide you with a short training session so you know how to go about getting your Crime Watch started. Once you receive the training we will provide you with identification to show your neighbors you are an official Block Captain. It is not a huge commitment; it's a matter of talking with your immediate neighbors who usually live within sight of your home and exchanging information.

Each of you will be the eyes and ears of your block. If you see something suspicious or criminal occurring you call 911 and pass that information on to those on your crime watch list. As Block Captain you will notify the Crime Watch Chairperson of those activities that are of importance to all of us. In addition, you will be notified via email from the Truman Crime Watch Chairperson of any suspicious activity in other areas in the Truman neighborhood. We never reveal specific addresses or names when we pass on information through email and all email addresses are secure and never released to others.

Our Crime Watch chairperson works very closely with our Clark County Sheriff's Office liaison deputy and can also alert you of anything they feel is of importance to pass on to our neighbors. If you have questions or are interested in serving as one of our Crime Watch Block Captains, please email us at [trumancrimewatch@gmail.com](mailto:trumancrimewatch@gmail.com). You can also call our Truman Neighborhood Crime Watch Chairperson, Barb Cabe at 360-695-7430 and she will be happy to speak to or meet with you to answer your questions.

## Neighbor Recognized by Clark County Sheriff's Office

The Clark County Sheriff's Office held their Employee Recognition Award for 2014 on January 29th. Barb Cabe was fortunate enough to attend and witness many award presentations and recognition at this event. I attended at the invitation of the Sheriff's Office because one of our own neighbors was honored. We have had a neighbor who prefers not to have his name out there due to the volunteer work he is doing for our Truman neighborhood and Clark County. For the past year one of our Truman neighbors registered with Washington State Department of Transportation as the Adopt-A-Highway volunteer for our neighborhood. WSDOT provides the paint and our neighbor, with the aide of his small generator and sprayer, goes out and removes graffiti from state and county highway walls. He has on numerous occasions painted over graffiti on the SR 500 sound barrier wall. He has also been called upon by different deputies in the county who know this neighborhood volunteer is willing to go outside our neighborhood to paint over this vandalism. He has done this all as a volunteer who feels compelled to remove the graffiti before the vandals and their friends get credit for it. Because of his many hours of work we have seen a significant decrease in graffiti along SR 500 and elsewhere.

The Clark County Sheriff's Office recognized our neighbor along with one other civilian in Clark County with the Citizen Service Medal, the only two civilian awards given that evening.

*Continued on next page*

# HOME SAFETY

In addition our neighbor's award our Truman neighborhood liaison Deputy from the Clark County Sheriff's Office Deputy Kevin Schmidt was awarded the Enforcement Deputy of the Year. If you see Deputy Schmidt around the Truman neighborhood be sure to congratulate him for a job well done!

## Keep Your Home Safe From Intruders

*From Deputy Kevin Schmidt & Deputy Bryce Smith*

We have been asked by neighbors who are sometimes unable to attend our regular Truman meeting if we can share the information given at our meetings. We feel this might discourage neighbors from attending our meeting but felt our last meeting had some very important information which could benefit our Truman neighbors who were not present at the meeting on Thursday, October 30th.

The presentation featured that evening was Clark County Sheriff's office Deputy Kevin Schmidt & Deputy Bryce Smith who informed us about property protection. There was a lot of information given, in addition to answers to the many questions from those in attendance. Here are just a few of the tips.

1. The best protection is to know your neighbors. If you know who lives nearby you will be aware if something is not right.
2. Most residential neighborhood burglaries occur during the weekday and in daylight hours, not typically at night.
3. Keep your home well-lit at night.
4. Do not leave your garage door opener in plain sight in your vehicle nor any items of value.
5. Doors with good locks and peep holes are the first line of defense. There are safety measures you can install on your front door to slow an intruder down.
6. If there is someone at your door, let them know you are home but not interested in what they are after. Never open your door to a stranger, 85% of the break-ins happen right through the front door.
7. Usually the front door is either unlocked or they kick it in with one kick, even dead bolt locks don't stop them. If you have deadbolts be sure the screws are at least 2 1/2-3" in length.
8. If you see anything suspicious you are always encouraged to call 911, don't ever second guess whether you should or not, call even if you're not sure.



After this meeting we all walked away feeling better prepared to protect our homes. Please consider serving as a Truman Crime Watch Block Captain, you will play an active role in helping your immediate neighbors know what is going on and alert each other if there is cause for concern. Please see the article in this newsletter on the previous page about the responsibilities of being a Block Captain and get involved.



Sign up to be added to our Truman Crime Watch email list by emailing [trumancrimewatch@gmail.com](mailto:trumancrimewatch@gmail.com). Your email address is protected.

# NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

## Who Are Our Truman Neighborhood Association Members?

**You are, that's who!** Truman Neighborhood Association of Clark County encompasses approximately 1500 residential homes and each one of you, our residents are considered a member of the Truman Neighborhood Association. There are no dues required to be a member and volunteering for a committee etc. is also not a requirement. We encourage you to attend our Truman membership meetings of which we hold only three per school year with no summer meetings. We always provide informative guest speakers. Our Clark County Sheriff's Office liaison deputy is always there to bring us current on what is happening relating to crime in our Truman neighborhood and surrounding areas and he always takes our questions. We hold our meetings in February, May and October usually the 3rd or 4th Thursday of the month depending on availability at the American Legion where we hold our meetings. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know your neighborhood and neighbors. We always have a time for refreshments and socializing at the end of each meeting. Our Truman Council consists of eleven neighbors who voluntarily serve you our Truman neighborhood.

The Truman Neighborhood Association meetings are among the best attended (usually 55-60 neighbors) neighborhood meetings in Clark County. We feature guest speakers at each meeting who educate us about issues important to our neighborhood and Clark County. You always have the opportunity to ask questions of our speaker and/or our deputy. The next meeting will be held on **Thursday, February 26, 2015, 6:30-8:00pm at the American Legion.**

If you are interested in receiving email updates throughout the year other than the three Truman newsletters you receive each year, please email us at [trumanneighborhood@gmail.com](mailto:trumanneighborhood@gmail.com) and let us know you would like to be added. Your email address is always protected.



## A Message from WSDOT Regarding Activity at SR 500 & NE 54th Avenue

The work that is going on near the intersection of SR500 and NE 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue is related to a project assigned to my office. We are starting construction on a new half-diamond interchange on I-205 at NE 18<sup>th</sup> street. The material that we are excavating from that project is of very good quality for embankment construction. Because of the quality, a portion of the surplus excavated material from the I-205 project will be transported to two locations near SR500 on NE 54<sup>th</sup> to be stockpiled for future use. As you know, there are still two signalized intersections on SR500: one is located at NE 54<sup>th</sup> and one at NE 42<sup>nd</sup>. Although neither of these two intersections is funded for reconstruction at this time, they are on our 20 year plan list. So when we do receive funding to address the safety and mobility needs at NE 54<sup>th</sup> and NE 42<sup>nd</sup>, we will have some good embankment material nearby and ready to use.

We know that construction in or near a neighborhood can be frustrating, due to added traffic and noise, so we have a provision in the contract that allows the contractor to only haul from 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM Monday through Friday. Additionally, the contractor can only use NE 54<sup>th</sup> via SR500 for access in and out of the site. These provisions should help mitigate some of the neighborhood concerns. Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Leon Winger, Vancouver Area Engineer, Washington Department of Transportation, [360-905-1500](tel:360-905-1500)

# HELPING OUR COMMUNITY

## Reaching Out to Those In Need During the Holidays

December found us helping five students in need at Truman Elementary School. Some of our Crime Watch Captains and Truman Council came together and raised funds on very short notice. We were able to purchase the basic necessities for these Truman students who were in need, helping to make their Christmas a little brighter. Each student was given a warm coat, warm boots, hats, gloves and socks. We also helped a family in need in cooperation with Oscar's Market. Thank you to Ken and Brenda of Oscar's for partnering with us to help make another family in our neighborhood feel a little more happiness during the holidays.

We want to thank those of you who were able to contribute to this endeavor and please know Truman Elementary School thanks you!

Watch for more information later this year, we hope to make this a yearly tradition. We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with Truman Elementary School. We hope to expand this effort by giving those of you who would like to help the opportunity to be a part of this next year.



## Clark County Food Bank Is In Desperate Need *You Can Help at Our February 26th Meeting*

We would encourage you if you are able to bring a donation or two to our February 26th meeting to contribute to North Clark County Food Bank. Since the City of Battle Ground has stopped their funding assistance to the food bank we wanted to reach out and help stock their shelves. Our council voted to use the money normally collected to cover cost of the room rental for our meeting to go to the food bank. We will use funds from our treasury to pay for the room rental for our February meeting. If you forget to bring a donation we will pass the hat and those funds will also go to the Clark County Food Bank.



**“Most Needed”**

Canned Tomato products  
Tuna  
Macaroni & Cheese  
Soups  
Hygiene & Toiletry products  
Pasta & Rice  
Laundry & Dish soaps

Pasta Sauce  
Canned Meats  
Peanut or Almond Butter  
Jams & Jellies  
Oatmeal & Cold Cereals  
Pet Food Items  
Cleaning supplies

**While shopping consider picking up an extra item or two  
from this list and donate to those in crisis throughout  
North Clark County**

**Truman Neighborhood Association**

13215 SE Mill Plain Blvd, Suite C8, #557

Vancouver, WA 98684

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**TRUMAN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING**  
**Thursday, February 26**  
**6:30-8:00**  
**American Legion Hall Smith Reynolds Post 14**  
**4607 NE St. James Road**

Truman Neighborhood is on Facebook. If you are aware of a local event in our neighborhood or want to share what's happening around in your area, this is your chance. Search for Truman Neighborhood and "Like" us.

