

**Neighborhood Associations Council of Clark County**  
**Jan. 13, 2014 7-9 PM 4700 NE 78<sup>th</sup> Street, Vancouver, WA**  
**Meeting notes**

**Welcome and introductions: Doug Ballou, Chair**

**In attendance:** Doug Ballou, NACCC; Holly Gaya, Clark County PIO; Milada Allen, Felida; Neil Chambers, Andresen/St. Johns; Art Stubbs, Green Meadows; Christie Brown-Silva, Sifton and Heritage; Barb Cabe, Truman; Sandra Bennett, East Fork Frontier; Shane Gardner, CCSO; Nathan Miller, Phoenix Protective Corp.; Sandra Day, North Salmon Creek; Lynda Maguire, East Minnehaha; Karen Llewellyn, CCPW; Vicki Fitzsimmons, Sherwood & Fairgrounds; Ila Stanek, West Hazel Dell; Jacky Sabin, Clark County Volunteer Legal Program; Stephan Abramson, Pleasant Highlands; Jeff Mize, CCPW

**Announcements:**

- To update the local **Comprehensive Growth Management Plan**, the Board of County Commissioners is considering a recommendation to plan for about 562,000 residents by 2035, compared with about 430,000 today.

The most likely 2035 projection is 562,207, representing a medium-growth scenario. At present, the county is planning for about 584,000 residents by 2024. That goal was set in 2007, but population has increased relatively slowly since then.

An appropriate population target is extremely important to plan for adequate numbers of jobs and homes, and to establish a cost-effective strategy for capital improvements, including roads.

During the hearing, the Board also will consider plans to meet state requirements for public participation in growth planning.

Anyone interested can watch for related news and announcements in 2014 and 2015. To request email bulletins, contact [commplanning@clark.wa.gov](mailto:commplanning@clark.wa.gov).

- **The Master Composter/Recycler Program invites Clark County residents to join others in the community with a passion for sustainability and become a Master Composter/Recycler.** Applications are being accepted for a free "learn and serve" volunteer training in composting, recycling, and other waste reduction and sustainability techniques. This comprehensive training will include backyard composting, vermicomposting, green cleaning, green building, recycling and more.

Master Composter/Recycler volunteers help promote a healthy and sustainable community as waste reduction ambassadors. They contribute thirty hours of service over the course of the following year in exchange for the free training - sharing their skills and knowledge about sustainability. This community service can include tabling at community events, helping to host workshops, environmental education, administrative help, creative work, and helping to operate composting

demonstration sites.

Training begins in early February and will occur Thursday evenings, February 6 through April 10, 2014 from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Clark County Operations Division Conference Center at 4700 NE 78th Street in Vancouver, WA, 98665.

Space is limited and pre-registration is required. To download an application visit [www.columbiasprings.org/mcr](http://www.columbiasprings.org/mcr). For more information call 360-882-0936 x 224, email [mcr@columbiasprings.org](mailto:mcr@columbiasprings.org)

The Master Composter/Recycler Program at Columbia Springs is funded and supported by Clark County Environmental Services.

- The **December 12, 2013 NACCC meeting** was well attended and included discussions about Clark County's research and process to comply with I-502 which legalizes the growing, processing and sale of marijuana. Jeff Swanson, Clark County's Railroad Coordinator provided updates and growth projections. Since Doug couldn't attend the meeting due to commitments related to the annual children's holiday party there are no written notes from the meeting.
- Doug will be preparing a letter to the Board of County Commissioners stating NACCC's continued support for the Clark County Sheriff's Office and requesting their budget requests are considered a priority. Truman Neighborhood Association has already submitted a letter.

**Jacky Sabin with the Clark County Volunteer Lawyers Program (CCVLP)** The CCVLP is a nonprofit organization that provides free legal assistance to low-income Clark County residents in matters that arise in Clark County and are civil (non-criminal) in nature. CCVLP provides legal assistance for: divorce, custody, visitation, landlord/tenant, credit issues, bankruptcy, guardianship and other civil issues. Services offered include consultations and advice clinics, review of papers, limited legal services and attorney representation.

To access services you should first call CLEAR at 1-888-201-1014, the toll-free legal hotline, to be screened and referred to CCVLP. There are not staff attorneys at CCVLP and employees cannot provide legal advice.

Jacky focused on home foreclosure assistance at our meeting. She talked about options for people who are facing foreclosure and stressed that there are more options available if you seek assistance when you first realize you are at risk of defaulting. She encouraged neighborhood associations to provide information about the Home Foreclosure Program in their newsletters and let people know there are also free seminars the first and third Tuesday of each month at 1409 Franklin St. Suite 101, Vancouver, WA 98660 from 6 – 7 PM. For more information, contact the Clark County Volunteer Lawyers Program at (360) 334-4007.

**Clark County has dissolved its 17-year parks partnership with the city of Vancouver and expanded its own parks program.** Jeff Mize answered questions and said he expected a smooth transition. Parks will remain open the same hours and provide the same amenities. County workers will continue to provide the same level of maintenance.

Clark County Parks will remain part of Clark County Public Works. As part of expansion and reorganization, the county has added four positions: a parks manager, two program coordinators and an office assistant.

The new parks manager is **Bill Bjerke**, the county's longtime parks maintenance superintendent. The two program coordinators, **Eric Christensen** and **Jeremy Kanoth**, both previously worked for Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation and will continue doing much of the same work as county employees. Eric is Parks Facilities Coordinator and Jeremy is Parks Resource Management Coordinator.

Beginning April 1, Clark County Parks will have a new phone number. Until then, county residents can call (360) 397-2446 to report a maintenance issue or to reach parks employees.

#### **Roundtable:**

- **Art Stubbs** expressed concern about many of the county leadership team leaving. Jeff Mize reminded him county departments know it is important to have people trained and prepared to take over in the event of an absence or vacancy as was the case in Public Works. Art's term with the Clean Water Commission expires in Feb. 2014. He has sent a letter stating he will continue if the Commissioners wish to keep him.
- **Sandra Bennett with the East Fork Frontier Neighborhood** reported a bit of flooding along the river. Aside from that, all's quiet.
- **Sgt. Shane Gardner, Clark County Sheriff Outreach reported:**
  - **Neighborhood Association Liaisons:** We are in the process of finalizing which deputy will be your contact liaison. Once they have been given their Neighborhood Assignments they will be in contact with each of their assigned Neighborhood Associations.
  - **Graffiti:** Sgt. Gardner addressed the graffiti around the county. He asked that we open an online report which has a case number attached to it and include a photo (the online form allows up to three photos), the location and cost for cleanup (if applicable). Documenting the graffiti is essential for prosecution. To file an online crime report, go here: <http://www.clark.wa.gov/sheriff/report/index.html>. Detective Rick Torres is working on graffiti issues. Detective Torres can be contacted at: 397-2211 ext. 5473.

- The IF Project is based on the question: *If there was something someone could have said or done that would have changed the path that led you here, what would it have been?* The project requires a unique collaboration of formerly and currently incarcerated adults working together with law enforcement personnel to affect change for those who are facing issues and challenges regarding incarceration and recidivism. Their work is built upon — and inspired by — these people sharing their personal experiences surrounding the issues of incarceration. For more information go to: [www.theifproject.com](http://www.theifproject.com)
- Explorers Academy: The Explorer Program is designed to give students ages 15.5 to 21 an opportunity to observe the criminal justice system and assist them in making an informed career decision. Explorers provide non-enforcement assistance to the Sheriff's Office and serve their community in a variety of ways. 15 explorers went to the Academy from Dec, 26- 31. Several of the explorers are students who are presently in the Criminal Justice Classes at the Clark County Skills Center.
- Deputy Adam Beck was hired in February 2013 as a Reserve Deputy and has now joined the agency as a full time deputy. Welcome.
- A new partnership with WSU Vancouver: Sgt. Gardner explained that we are presently working with WSU on a digital web design project. Look for more details in the future and in fundraising events to assist in the cost of this endeavor.
- Chief for a Day: January 14th at 5:00 PM at the Mill Creek Pub in Battle Ground, Clark County Sheriff Garry Lucas will swear in 6 year old Cole Merle to be our 2014 Honorary Sheriff.

Cole has been in the news recently for his toy drives for "sick kids." Cole was diagnosed with Stage IV Wilm's Tumor in September 2011. Wilm's Tumor is a relatively rare kidney cancer that primarily affects children. They removed the tumor, which was over two pounds, along with one of his kidneys. Cole underwent weekly chemotherapy for six months, but was re-diagnosed with re-occurrence of cancer in his lungs. He's been receiving chemo ever since, to try and reduce the number of spots on his lungs.

The Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission (WSCJTC) will hold its Chief for a Day celebration on Thursday, August 21, 2014. In partnership with local law enforcement agencies and hospitals, Chief for a Day is about celebrating the lives of children who have been diagnosed with a life-threatening or chronic illness. The hope is to provide these children with a day of fun they will never forget and to become a part of their precious lives. It is a celebration of life for all.

Following the swearing in, Law Enforcement officials including Sheriff Lucas and Chief Richardson from BGD will serve customers until 9:00 PM as a Tip-a-Cop event to raise money for Chief for a Day. Riverview Community Bank has an account called Chief for a Day where contributions can be made. All contributions will be used to make this a special year for Sheriff Cole and his family.

Sgt. Gardner would also like to obtain six donations of \$250 which will allow six additional children to take part in Chief for a Day. The money will be used to buy gasoline cards, etc. and local law enforcements agencies will be asked to provide the children with uniforms. If you know of businesses or individuals who are willing to help make this possible for additional children, please contact Sgt. Shane Gardner at (360) 397-6079.

- Christie Brown Silva, Sifton and Heritage Neighborhood Associations, recently acted as Principal for a Day at Endeavor Elementary School in the Evergreen School Dist. While Christie was principal, a young child set off the fire alarm which added additional excitement to the day. Christie is also involved in the PAL Program.
  - PAL Peer Assistance and Leadership is an award-winning, Nationally Recognized Evidence-Based Prevention Program owned and operated by the non-profit organization, Workers Assistance Program, Inc. (WAP). This versatile course creates environments in which youth participate in productive pursuits with peers, using decision making, higher order thinking skills, and resiliency building. PAL students learn to adapt the power of peer pressure to influence others positively and, ultimately, they make a difference in the lives of others! Positive peer influence is utilized as a central strategy for addressing issues like bullying, low achievement, at-risk youth, drop-out prevention, substance abuse prevention, teen pregnancy, suicide, absenteeism, behavior problems, and other community issues. The Clark County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) reads to and spends time with PAL students throughout the school year. And, this year the CCSO Marine Patrol will bring their boat to the schools and talk with students about water safety. The participants are building relationships and learning about options and trust.
  - Christie also said there are plans for a new Ft. Vancouver Library in Orchards in the next five to ten years.
- Karen Llewellyn, Clark County Volunteer Coordinator, reported that 13,000 hours were donated at volunteer events in Clark County in 2013. And, on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Monday, Jan 20, there is a, there is a Vancouver Lake Park trail expansion and cleanup event scheduled. If you would like more information or want to volunteer, go here: [www.parkhero.org](http://www.parkhero.org) or call Karen Llewellyn at 397-6118 ext. 1627. Vancouver Lake Park is located at 6801 NW Lower River Rd., Volunteers are asked to meet at the north shelter. A map is available on the registration form. Karen said she is looking forward to another great year in 2014.

- Vicki Fitzsimmons, Chair of Sherwood Neighborhood Assoc. and serves on the board of a couple other associations, touched on some big accomplishments over the last year. She again thanked people for helping with the ramp planting at I-5 and 78<sup>th</sup> St., and the annual Children's Holiday Party at Sara J. Anderson Elementary School. This year the Pioneer Choir performed at the party. It was their first year and hopefully they will be back next year. Vicki co-chaired the event with Doug Ballou and they also plan to be back in action next year. Great party that served approximately 400-500 students and their families.
- Jeff Mize, Clark County Public Works PIO, attended Leadership Clark County on Saturday. He said his take away was: "It's nice to be important but it's more important to be nice."
- Neil Chambers, Andresen/St. Johns Neighborhood Association, said they are working on their next newsletter and planning their next meeting.
- Sandra Day, North Salmon Creek Neighborhood Association, said that after last month's elections they have a great board but they are missing a president. Sandra will be the NACCC representative if and until someone else is selected. Sandra said a few Freeholders attended their last meeting and they are interested in following their progress. She also cautioned everyone travelling through the 134<sup>th</sup> St. / I-5 Interchange as construction continues in the area. She said it can be a bit tricky, especially when it's dark.
- Lynda Maguire said E. Minnehaha is currently using [www.Nextdoor.com](http://www.Nextdoor.com) and Barb Cabe said she is receiving information about E. Minnehaha. Lynda explained that Sue Lintz set it up to allow neighboring association to receive updates. There was discussion about the site, mostly good reviews but both Sifton and West Hazel Dell encountered some problems. Shane offered his assistance to untangle the problem.
- Ila Stanek, West Hazel Dell Neighborhood Association, has cut back to two meetings a year. Their next meeting is April 15. West Hazel Dell is one of the neighborhoods that encountered problems with [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com). Sgt. Gardner will assist with correcting the problems
- Steve Abramson with Pleasant Highlands said they are preparing for another meeting in a month or so and there is considerable development in the area.

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting: February 10, 2014