

West Hazel Dell Neighborhood Association 2023 JANUARY NEWSLETTER



Welcome to 2023, if you can believe it. Through Clark County Outreach Office we will have our January **Zoom** neighborhood association (“NA”) meeting to be held from **6:30-8:00 pm on Thursday, January 12, 2023.** The link to that meeting is: <https://bit.ly/WHDNA-01-12-23>. All residents in our area should have received a mailed postcard alerting them to this meeting. Please share this newsletter with any of your neighbors who may not have downloaded it.

Ila Westergard Stanek, president, whdna@comcast.net (360) 573-7376 (Check out our new **WHDNA.org** website which is still under construction but will provide more frequent and topic-specific info.)

For more detail about neighborhoods, go to the county web pages: www.clark.wa.gov/county-manager/west-hazel-dell and/or <https://clark.wa.gov/county-manager/about->

WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE JANUARY 12th ZOOM MEETING

You can connect with your laptop, computer, iPad, or phone. The very nicely shortened address: <https://bit.ly/WHDNA-01-12-2023> is most welcome. Type it in a few minutes prior to meeting start time (6:30 pm), settle back and see what you can learn and to whom you can turn. We have two programs, one from CCSO and one from the Commission on Aging (see page two).

There’s a new Sheriff in town! Clark County Sheriff’s Office (“CCSO”) top officer is newly elected **John Horch**. He has spoken with neighborhood associations in the past as a busy deputy handling all manner of positions. Now we are proud to call him “Sheriff Horch.”

Remembering that it’s his first couple of weeks in office, we should still be able to inquire of his plans for the department going forward. Personally, I’m curious about the possibility of a law enforcement training facility being brought to our area. I’ve also received calls about vehicle thefts, graffiti at or around schools and businesses, as well as thoughts on initiating a “NOW” (Neighbors on Watch) program, similar to what the City of Vancouver offers. At the last “NUSA” (Neighborhood Council of the United States of America), there were reports from multiple cities using the program with great success. Vancouver’s police department was one of those reports and it demonstrated impressive successes. Bring any questions you might have for Sheriff Horch about what’s happening around your area.

If you live within the West Hazel Dell Neighborhood Association (“WHDNA”) boundaries, you are a “member” of our neighborhood association.

WHDNA now has slightly adjusted **boundaries**. We still begin on the southern and western sides at the Vancouver city limits; on the north we go to NE 104th Street, NE 11th Avenue and NE 99th Street; on the east we now stop at I-5.

That adjusts our voting districts as well. We have added 212 residences to District 1 and 1,794 to District 2. WHDNA now provides liaison services to 7,231 homes. **Welcome to all the new West Hazel Dell NA neighbors.**

To make the association work for everyone, we need input, good or bad; it all helps us get a handle on things. Currently, we are asking for **volunteers to serve on our board** and others who could act as conduits for the widespread areas of West Hazel Dell NA boundaries. Please contact me if you are interested in seeing WHDNA continue to thrive. You are needed!

Thank you for considering this fun task, Ila

ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD AT THIS MEETING. After a rousing response from the September newsletter I'm encouraged that West Hazel Dell NA can charge forward with fresh faces and energies. If you have a couple of hours every other month to get together and discuss what might make our lives in West Hazel Dell more enjoyable, safer, or richer in any way, please put your name forward either by connecting with me before the 12th, or raising your hand during the election portion of the meeting (last half of meeting, after speakers). We have four officers (president, vice president, secretary and treasurer) and multiple at-large positions. My hope is that we can have seven or eight board members and better cover the NA.

Aging Readiness Plan Update

*The Clark County Aging Readiness Plan assesses the county's readiness to serve as a home for a growing number of older residents. The plan includes strategies to improve the community's capacity to support its growing older population and ultimately benefit people of all ages. The plan covers the topics of housing, transportation/mobility, health care, support services, and civic activities. **Susan Ellinger and Jenna Kay** are the principals on this project and will be at our Zoom meeting on Thursday, January 12th to tell us more about it.*

The Commission on Aging is updating the Aging Readiness Plan and wants public feedback to help assess implementation to date, refine existing strategies, brainstorm new ideas for the updated plan, and guide the creation of a new chapter focused on emergency preparedness.

The commission will host interactive public workshops in 2023 at the following times and locations:

- **Workshop #1: Strategy Feedback & Brainstorm.** Attend one of the following:
 - o Jan. 18, 2023, 4:30-6:00pm, in-person event at Public Service Center
 - o Jan. 18, 2023, 4:30-6:00pm, virtual event via Webex
 - o Mar. 15, 2023, 3:30-5:00pm, in-person event at Battle Ground City Hall
- **Workshop #2: Strategy Priorities.** Attend one of the following:
 - o Apr. 19, 2023, 4:30-6:00pm, in-person event at Public Service Center
 - o Apr. 19, 2023, 4:30-6:00pm, virtual event via Webex

For workshop details, please visit: <https://bit.ly/agingreadiness>

*The Commission on Aging, supported by the Clark County Council, is a nine-member volunteer group that implements the Aging Readiness Plan and provides leadership addressing needs of aging community members. **For more about the commission, visit www.clark.wa.gov/aging***

Our condolences go out to the family of **Laurel Whitehurst** who passed away recently. She served as our WHDNA Treasurer for several years and brought strength and enthusiasm along with a balanced checkbook. Laurel was the fire behind the Arts Commission of Clark County and a joy to work with. She inspired such a positive attitude in everything she worked on. She will be greatly missed by all who encountered her and felt her spirit.

ANY TIME IS FARMING TIME—EVENTS, ANNIVERSARIES, PLANS

The **Heritage Farm at 78th Street**, once the County Poor Farm, is readying the land for winter with community residents with rented garden plots making certain their plots are prepped. In addition to the neighbors who use the Heritage Farm to grow their vegetables throughout the year, Washington State University Extension Service has an ongoing operation at the site (1919 NE 78th Street) and several other organizations enjoy agricultural projects there. If you have any ideas, interests, concerns or profit-making plans for the Heritage Farm, please forward them to me. *Ila Stanek, Sustainability Steering Committee for Heritage Farm member*

Bi-Zi Farms is celebrating **150 years** of producing fresh fruit and vegetables for our community. That's when the Zimmerman Family began their efforts at **9504 NE 119th Street** and where Bill and Peggy Zimmerman and their extended family continue the work today, as do their children, Joe, Doug and Amy. The family pronounces their farm name as "Busy" (and we know they are), but many of us have been calling it "Bizi" for years. No matter what you call it, there is something there you will want to take home to your family. **They are there for us.**

HAZEL DELL PARADE OF BANDS' FUNDRAISING



Every year on the third Saturday of May our country celebrates **Armed Forces Day**. Hazel Dell celebrates with the **HAZEL DELL PARADE OF BANDS**. This is sponsored by the **Hazel Dell/Salmon Creek Business Association** ("HDSCBA") and many local business sponsors. This tradition started in 1964 and brings thousands to Hazel Dell each May.

HDSCBA joins with **Clark County Fire District 6** ("CCFD6"), **CCSO**, the **Vancouver Lions Club**, **City of Vancouver** (through **CVTV** who broadcasts it for us), and many more too numerous to list. This is a great family event we look forward to it each year now.

If you, your club, business or family are looking for a way to provide support to the parade this year, you are much appreciated. Watch for the coming fundraising activities that are attempting to secure funding for the **2023 Parade of Bands**. You will see announcements in the various shops and member businesses. The deadline to determine whether or not the parade happens is **March 1, 2023**. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have; drop me an email.

ITEMS OF INTEREST:

www.bikeclarkcounty.org—checkout what's going on along our streets for bikers.

www.ccf6.org—Another great place to see what's happening and when. Go to their site and get on their mailing list. They are the people we call for help in so many ways. I can attest to the prompt and professional care they provide when my daughter broke her leg this fall.

www.clark.wa.gov/aging meets regularly to address issues of our senior citizens.

<https://clark.wa.gov/community-planning/historic-preservation-commission>—These hybrid meetings deal with the varied areas, buildings, etc., to preserve in Clark County.

Check out **www.WestVanForYouth.org** and connect with organizer, Caitlin Ramirez, the Community Prevention Project Coordinator (360) 949-1551; Caitlin.Ramirez@esd112.org.

*I would like to thank **Brendan McCrain** for his work in creating the **WHDNA.org** website for us in advance of this year. It's not complete but we are working on adding items and issues. If you have any ideas or thoughts to add, please let us know. Another most welcome note of appreciation goes to **Jeff Maag** who has cleaned up a portion of some nasty graffiti near Eisenhower Elementary School. A person can often provide assistance in a neighborhood association without even serving on the board. It's called community and that is what we are.*

<p>West Hazel Dell Neighborhood Assn. 6400 NE Highway 99 Suite G, PMB 178 Vancouver, WA 98665-8748</p>
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A message from your president:

Our neighborhood association ("NA") now includes over 7,231 homes; about 20,000 people. It's quite a diverse area. It is difficult to know what our community members want to know about, let alone what their problems might be. As a neighborhood association, our power is in our people and we have a voice. Our concerns need to be put forward to our county councilors and/or agencies so they can be acted upon. They can't fix what they don't know about. We have three new councilors and our area includes two voting districts so both **Glen Yung** and **Michelle Belkot** represent us. **Sue Marshall**, new District 5 councilor, is also a great resource.

WE NEED TO ADD MEMBERS TO OUR BOARD and this is the time to do it. Our new Bylaws have been approved so that's one task done already. Board members are unpaid volunteer positions. The board can consist of as many wonderful neighbors as want to help out. We are not presently a 503(c)(3) tax exempt association. So currently any money given to any WHDNA events is a *donation* and not tax exempt. The board members can decide how often they meet, bimonthly or quarterly for an hour or two to determine topics for the bimonthly NA meetings.

We have residents from all over . Yet, there is no representation of any of those cultures in our NA footprint. I think that is really sad, but without neighbors stepping up to spend a little time meeting and bringing issues and information forward, those diversities remain untapped. That is a loss to us all. I will welcome anyone who is interested in seeing WHDNA continue to thrive. Clark County Outreach Office and Print Shop prints, mails and/or posts our newsletters and provides a NA listing on its website. Now we have our own website, too. We just need people.

Your WHDNA continues to have representation at the Neighborhood Association Council of Clark County ("NACCC") monthly meetings. I am the vice-chair of NACCC and recognize its value. If you are interested in sitting in on a NACCC Zoom meeting, please drop me a note and I will forward an invite your way. **NACCC** meets the second Monday of each month (holiday or not) from 7:00-8:30 pm. The neighbors who have attended have come away with a better understanding of what other Neighborhood Associations ("NAs") in our county are dealing with. Many of the concerns are shared county-wide. **More voices equal more impact.**

Please consider giving a little time to our community. **Thanks, Ila**

Email me at whdna@comcast.net or call (360) 573-7376 and I'll get back to you.