

PROEBSTEL

Neighborhood Association

Who we are...

Boundaries – The association is part of the official Clark County neighborhood program. The boundaries are quite expansive and include more than Proebstel. Livingston Mountain, Green Mountain, Camp Bonneville and Northeast Rawson Road are in the boundaries. There are 3,053 households within the boundaries.

Meetings – The group meets intermittently at Proebstel Church, 18702 NE Fourth Plain Road. Meetings are announced via email and on the county's web site.

Email address:
proebstel.na2@gmail.com

Website: <https://clark.wa.gov/county-manager/proebstel>

Board members – Kirk VanGelder, president; Jared Lester, vice president; Ann Shaw, secretary; Wendy McCullough, Allen Thomas.



Patti Reynolds takes advantage of a gap in traffic to get her mail.

The NE 212th Ave. 'freeway'

Going to the mail box is tricky due to high-speed traffic

Patti Reynolds calls it the "212th freeway" and said she feels she's putting her life at risk when dodging the 70-miles-per-hour traffic on Northeast 212th Avenue to check her mail box.

Northeast 212th Avenue stretches from Northeast 83rd Street on the south to Northeast 159th Street on the north. It forms much of the western boundary of the Proebstel Neighborhood Association.

And neighbors living on the east side of Northeast 212th Avenue must dart to the west side of the street

six days a week to get their mail.

"It's a two-lane road — kinda — because the big trucks with their very large side mirrors extend into the gully where I hide to get my mail," said Reynolds.

"The road feels like it is getting narrower simply

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- Meet Matt Little, Proebstel's new Clark County council representative
- High-voltage power line scheduled to be built through Proebstel neighborhood

NE 212th mail boxes

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because there is so much more large traffic on it,” she said.

Reynolds takes a grocery bag and gets her mail every second or third day.

“I can stand there for 10 minutes waiting for cars and gravel and crap to fly past me, and then go across, hoping I’m not hearing cars,” she said. “Then all of a sudden I’m half way there and there are cars barreling down at me, not slowing down at all.”

So, she and her neighbors came up with a solution for getting their mail: They bought an orange traffic cone.

“I put it out in the middle of the lane that I’m standing in, which forces them, theoretically, to go around me at 70 (miles per hour),” Reynolds said. “Is that legal?”

It’s certainly not a good idea, according to Ken Lader, director of public works for Clark County, and Deputy Phil Walker of the Clark County Sheriff’s Office.

Lader told the Proebstel Neighborhood Association at its November meeting he understands Reynolds frustration and the danger she and others face just to get their mail.

But the orange cone is not the answer, he said.

“That cone, it might stop, I don’t know, 70 to 80 percent of the traffic,” Lader said.

“I wouldn’t say that it is something I would recommend as practice,” he said. “Whether it’s legal or not to put it out there, I wouldn’t even have that conversation.”

He suggested getting a post office box.

“I’m not trying to be flippant about



“As far as the mail, I don’t have a good answer to that but it’s not safe to assume that (the orange traffic cone) is going to protect you”

— Ken Lader, Clark County public works director

it because it’s your mail box,” Lader said.

Most accidents are caused by excessive speed or the driver being distracted, he added.

“As far as the mail, I don’t have a good answer to that, but it’s not safe to assume that (the cone) is going to protect you,” Lader said.

CCSO deputy Walker, who has patrolled in east Clark County for

more than a decade, has the same issue in his personal life.

“I’ve done the head-bob with the mirrors and had gravel thrown on me when I’m trying to check my personal mail, so I completely relate,” Walker said.

He mentioned wearing a high-visibility vest or possibly carrying a lantern when checking the mail.

Jared Lester, vice president of the PNA, said Northeast 212th Avenue has become a well-used route for traffic between Camas and Battle Ground.

“I do think we’re in an interesting spot because of the north access,” he said.

“You do have narrow roads and you do have ditches because of the type of soil we have out here where we need that water runoff or we would flood our own properties every fall,” Walker said.

Walker said neighborhood associations will ask for more speeding tickets to be written, but 85 to 90 percent to the time the tickets go to folks who live in the neighborhood.

Lester said the situation is unlikely to improve.

“More than ever I’ve seen people come right through our neighborhood just to go north,” he said.

“We are more dense than ever and we have a lot of growth in our area. I think more so than ever we’ll have people who aren’t from our area who are speeding.”

PacifiCorp plans to build high-voltage power line through Proebstel

PacifiCorp plans to begin construction in 2027 or 2028 on a high-voltage power line from Swift Dam through east Clark County — including Proebstel — into Oregon.

The Portland-based power company owns most the easements it needs to connect its hydroelectric dam on the north Lewis River with Portland.

“The new line will increase reliability of the connection between the Swift generation (facility) and Pacific Power customers,” Simon Gutierrez, senior communications

specialist at PacifiCorp, told The Columbian in autumn.

The transmission project, which will install primarily 230kV power lines, will run through parts of Cougar, Amboy, Yacolt, Hockinson, Proebstel and east Vancouver into Oregon.

An opposition group has formed to oppose the PacifiCorp power line.

Move the Line East mailed out a flyer recently to property owners with the PacifiCorp easement.

The easement was obtained more than 50 years ago when there were few family homes along the easement.

Move the Line East (movethelineeast.com) is attempting to get PacifiCorp to reroute the power line along public land to the east, land which has already been logged.

Another option is to partner with the Bonneville Power Administration to upgrade the existing line running to the west along the Lewis River highway to Interstate 5.

“PacifiCorp retains the right to clear tall trees way beyond the easement affecting many more property owners along with considerable wildlife,” the group says.

Meet Proebstel's new councilor

Matt Little of Camas eked out 49-vote victory to win district 4 council seat

Proebstel has a new voice on the Clark County Council, as conservationist Matt Little of Camas won a 49-vote victory in November over farmer Joe Zimmerman of Brush Prairie.

Clark County is governed by a five-member council. Each council member is elected by district. The Proebstel Neighborhood Association is in district 4, which includes southeast Clark County and a bit of the central portion.

Little, 50, is policy director for the western region of Ducks Unlimited, a huge conservation group that raises millions of dollars annually to preserve primarily wetlands. He also runs a non-profit business providing the Salmon Watch youth education program in local schools.

As a county councilor, Little will earn \$72,252 a year.

Little's wife, Paula, works at the Banfield Foundation to make veterinary care available for low-income pet owners. Married 17 years, the Littles have two daughters.



"I grew up in Minnesota going to church and hunting and fishing with my dad. Those two things influenced most everything I have done since."

— Matt Little, Clark County council, district 4 representative

Little is a Minnesota native. He graduated from Dartmouth College with a degree in biology.

He has a master's degree in Public Administration from the Maxwell School of Public Affairs.

"I grew up in Minnesota going to church and hunting and fishing with my dad," Little said. "Those two things influenced most everything I have done since."

In fact, Little took a few days off from campaigning in October to hunt elk with a muzzleloader in the Willapa Hills.

"I put in for the special permit drawing before I decided to run for office," he said.

Little also hunts ducks and geese, plus fishes. He serves as policy chairman of the Washington Backcountry Hunters and Anglers and is co-chair of the new Washington Fish and Wildlife Conservation Partnership.

Little, whose father was a pastor among other jobs, attends Grace Church in Camas.

Little has worked in Washington, D.C., as an advisor on natural resource and agricultural issues to both Republicans and Democrats in Congress.

He has been a park ranger at Crater Lake National Park, worked for the National Wildlife Federation and been executive director of the Cascade Forest Conservancy.

Little succeeds Gary Medvigy, who was appointed to the council in January 2019, won election in fall of 2019 and then topped Little for a four-year term in 2020.

Draft county land plan out about June 1

Planning commission, council on tight schedule for Dec. 16 adoption

Clark County is scheduled to make public by June 1 the draft of its updated comprehensive plan to guide growth through 2045.

Jose Alvarez, land-use program manager for Clark County's Department of Community Planning, said the draft environmental statement from the county's consultant is due at the start of June, which will be followed by a 30-day, period for public comment.

Clark County has a tight schedule slated in order for the county council to adopt the plan by Dec. 16. The 60-day appeal period regarding the plan is expected to open Dec. 26.

Washington's Growth Management Act requires jurisdictions to update their plans periodically to keep up to date with changes in state law, land-use changes, population growth projections and housing projections.

County planning commission meetings are scheduled tentatively for June 19 and July 17 regarding the plan. The Clark County Council has the plan on its schedule for July 9 and Aug. 13, with extra days available Aug. 19 through 21.

The plan's final environmental impact statement is scheduled to be issued on Oct. 16. The council has sessions on the plan scheduled for Dec. 3, Dec. 9 and adoption on Dec. 16.

Kirk VanGelder, PNA president, voiced concern to the county that the public participation process is too back-loaded.

"The public comment period for the final is like mid-December," he said. "It's only when we get the final plan that people are going to look at it more carefully and then react to it."

For more on the plan, visit the Clark County Department of Community Planning website.

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OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE
MONDAY, APRIL 7
AT 6:30 PM
PROEBSTEL CHURCH,
18702 E. FOURTH PLAIN ROAD, VANCOUVER

An update will be presented on **Clark County's comprehensive plan revision**, which will guide growth through 2045. Hunter Decker, county forester, will discuss thinning and **wildfire prevention efforts in Camp Bonneville**. An update also will be presented on the county consultant's report on the **periodic review of the Camp Bonneville clean-up**. A representative of Move The Line East will discuss PacifiCorp's plan for **230kV power line through Proebstel** and efforts to relocate the line. A brief report will be presented on the City of Vancouver's **proposed upgrading of one mile of Northeast 192nd Avenue** between East 18th Street and Southeast First Street.

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's Neighborhood Outreach Office supports these volunteers by printing and distributing their newsletters.