

FRIENDS OF



CLARK COUNTY

# SMART GROWTH

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

[www.clarkfriends.org](http://www.clarkfriends.org)

(360) 695-5570

April 2004

## MEMO FROM STEVE STUART, EXEC DIR

It continues to be a busy winter for Friends of Clark County in both our education and advocacy programs.

To educate and inform Clark County residents on the important growth-related issues facing them, FoCC continues to conduct monthly forums. We look forward to lively discussions on topics such as NIMBYism and whether the County and its Cities can pay for capital facilities to support projected growth. For more information on the topics and times, please see the calendar in this newsletter.

Our advocacy work continues to focus on the comprehensive plan update/urban growth boundary review, though there is a brief hiatus while Cities put together capital facilities plans. Look for Action Alerts, beginning in May, which will alert you to the hearings that will address those capital facility plans.

One key concern of Growth Management has been the lack of "affordable" housing. FoCC is working with the SW Washington Community Land Trust, which was recently re-incorporated, to provide a great community resource for low-cost housing that helps preserve a mix of housing costs in our urban areas.

FoCC has also been partnering with river stewardship groups such as Fish First, Friends of the East Fork, and the Clark-Skamania Flyfishers, to help prevent further degradation of the East Fork of the Lewis River by gravel mining operations.

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Please renew your membership with FRIENDS of CLARK COUNTY using the order form in this newsletter.

We need your support to help cover the costs of our newsletters, public forums, and to continue our vital work protecting our quality of life in Clark County!

## BE A FRIEND TO CLARK COUNTY

By Linda Wolfe, FoCC Board

Stop using chemicals in your yard. Admit it, the first sight of an ugly bug and out come the chemicals!

You may think a few chemicals here and there won't hurt you or anyone else, but it all adds up.

According to the EPA, homeowners are spending more than \$1.9 billion dollars on pesticides for their homes and gardens.

Keep the following in mind:

- \* They smell bad;
- \* They can make your family, pets and wildlife sick;
- \* They leach into the groundwater;
- \* Pesticides kill bugs, so birds, frogs, etc., have less to eat;
- \* They also kill bees and without their pollination there are fewer fruits, vegetables & honey;
- \* The more you use, the more you need;

Remember, chemical herbicides were developed by the Pentagon for use as defoliants in the Vietnam War.

Be a friend of the environment and consult a Master Gardener for safer alternatives.

## FRIENDS of CLARK COUNTY

P.O. Box 61711  
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(360) 695-5570

[info@clarkfriends.org](mailto:info@clarkfriends.org)

### Board of Directors

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Vice President  
Kerri Altom, east Vancouver

Secretary  
Linda Wolfe, Vancouver

Treasurer  
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Val Alexander, La Center

Bridget Schwarz, Ridgefield

Executive Director  
Steve Stuart, Vancouver

### Mission Statement

Friends of Clark County is a nonprofit membership based organization creating, educating and empowering advocates for Smart Growth.

Our mission is to conserve & protect SW Washington's quality of life.

### UPDATE FROM RON BARCA, PRESIDENT

Why are you a member of Friends of Clark County? Have we done anything for you lately? Let's review the last year and see if our performance meets your expectations.

2003 has been the "Mother of All Land Use Reviews". The Growth Management Act sprawled from a 5 year review to a 10 year update, with many new assumptions being put forward by Clark County (CC) government. CC Long Range Planning staff and concerned special interests spent thousands of hours analyzing those updates.

Is Friends of Clark County a special interest group? You bet we are. Why, we sit smack dab in the middle of every attempt to convert rural land into sprawling subdivisions and commercial strips. It is not in your interest as a taxpayer. It is not in your interest as a conservationist. It is not in your children's interest – either for their health or the health of their surrounding environment.

Those are the special interests worth fighting for. The special interest of money opposes our principles. For them, there is never enough, and progress is measured in development.

During 2003 our Executive Director, Steve Stuart, spent an enormous amount of time analyzing the alternatives proposed by Clark County entities. He analyzed proposals from the Responsible Growth Forum, the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce, the GMA steering committee and each of the cities in Clark County.

By June, FoCC offered our own alternative known as "2A". It was the middle of the road, and within reason. It was not zero expansion - there is no way that version could stand the political heat. We focused on "Mixed Use zoning", density in residential areas and job growth.

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### INTRODUCING ERIN GUERRA

We're excited to announce our newest Board member, Erin Guerra.

Erin graduated from Clark College in 2000, where an environmental biology class spurred her concern for environmental issues. As a member of Clark College's Model United Nations team, Erin studied and advocated for sustainable development in second and third world countries. This developed her respect for the importance of community organizing and service. Now, Erin is committed to engaging in her community in a range of ways -- from playing in city league sports to volunteering as a CASA - Court Appointed Special Advocate.

Erin will be a great asset to the Friends Board. Her experience serving on Clark's Finance Committee, as conference organizer for Model United Nations, and going through the process of researching, planning and now owning her own small business has given Erin a range of skills and insights that we know will help us serve our members even better. Welcome Erin!

## THE PLIGHT OF THE EAST FORK

By Val Alexander, FoCC Board

The East Fork of the Lewis River is in trouble. Known as "The Jewel of Clark County", it is one of the very last undammed rivers in the Northwest, with spawning beds for Chum, Chinook, Coho Salmon and Steelhead. Three are listed as endangered species.

J.L. Stordahl and Sons, a gravel mining company, has proposed to expand its operation for mining the Daybreak area next to the river. This would seriously affect the entire length of the river, upstream and downstream, by altering flow rates, contaminating the spawning pools with mining fines and eventually contaminating the exposed Troutdale formation that is nearby. (The Troutdale formation supplies much of the groundwater for Clark County and Portland.)

Many other impacts will occur, including exacerbating erosion, destroying riparian habitat, and increasing the already high summer stream flow water temperatures to levels which are lethal to juvenile fish. Flooding is also possible.

The Stordahl Company has submitted a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) to the state and federal agencies. State agencies have given their approval. The HCP is currently being reviewed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service. They have yet to issue a determination.

The HCP has been reviewed by several experts in river hydrology, geology and biology. These professionals have commented that the HCP uses incorrect and outdated data and that the potential damage by mining cannot be mitigated.

A recent article in The Columbian reported that Governor Locke and Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell have written letters in support of the proposal. They had not seen the latest scientific documentation of the impacts. Their representatives have since been briefed by Friends of the East Fork and they are investigating further.

Stordahl already has the Tebo pit just a few miles away from the Daybreak area and is mining in it. Tebo is located on a bench high above the river and has recently been expanded an additional 70 acres. They don't need the proposed Daybreak Mine expansion. There will be no loss in jobs if they're denied permits for this expansion. Stordahl will increase profits from this expansion. And approval of this project could set a precedent for gravel mining throughout the country.

Several qualified scientists - geologists, hydrologists, biologists, have worked for many years to preserve this incredible gift of nature. They have a plan for restoration that will replenish fish runs and stabilize the river. Now it is on the brink of being permanently damaged by a company using their huge resources to convince authorities that their proposal will not harm the habitat.

**ACTION ALERT!** Go to the Friends of the East Fork website at [www.lewisriver.org](http://www.lewisriver.org) for the latest updates and links to detailed information. Send your comments to the agencies listed in the adjacent column. Testify at the hearing on April 29<sup>th</sup> at 7pm before Hearings Examiner Larry Epstein. (Clark County Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin St., 6<sup>th</sup> floor.)

## CONTACTS

Friends of the East Fork website is [www.lewisriver.org](http://www.lewisriver.org).

County, state and federal agencies and lawmakers need to hear from you! Some agencies to contact are:

Clark County Community Deve  
P.O. Box 9810  
Vancouver, WA 98666-9810  
Attention: Josh Warner  
[joshua.warner@clark.wa.gov](mailto:joshua.warner@clark.wa.gov)  
- or - Susan Rice  
[susan.rice@clark.wa.gov](mailto:susan.rice@clark.wa.gov)  
360.397.2375

Ms. Laura Hamilton  
National Marine Fisheries  
510 Desmond Drive SE # 103  
Lacey, WA 98503-1263  
360-753-5820

Tim Romanski  
U.S. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife  
510 Desmond Dr., SE, Ste.  
102  
Lacey, WA 98503-1263  
360-753-5823

Paula Ehlers  
Department of Ecology  
PO Box 47775  
Olympia, WA 98504-7775  
360-407-0271

Governor Gary Locke  
360-902-4111  
[governor.locke@governor.wa.gov](mailto:governor.locke@governor.wa.gov)

Contact State Representatives  
through the legislative hotline  
at 1-800-562-6000—or -  
[www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

Senator Patty Murray  
202-224-2621  
[senator\\_murray@senate.murray.gov](mailto:senator_murray@senate.murray.gov)

Senator Maria Cantwell  
202-224-3441  
[maria@cantwell.senate.gov](mailto:maria@cantwell.senate.gov)

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Board Vice President Kerri Altom.

Kerri and her husband Baksheesh Ghuman are happy parents of a baby boy. Raav was born on October 17th, which was both his due date AND Mommy's 35th birthday.

We know he's going to be a great little citizen. Raav has already attended his first environmental non-profit board meeting!

## MAKE AN ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY FASHION STATEMENT

In this newsletter you'll find an order form for custom embroidered FoCC apparel.

Save \$\$ if you order when you join / renew your Friends membership.

## COWLITZ TRIBE MOU ACTION ALERT

Comments about the Cowlitz proposal for trust status can be made to the Bureau of Indian Affairs:

Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Stanley Speaks  
NW Regional Director  
911 NE 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue.  
Portland, OR 97232-4169.

The comment period closes on April 12, 2004.

More information is available at:  
[http://www.clark.wa.gov/bocc/current\\_issues/issues.html](http://www.clark.wa.gov/bocc/current_issues/issues.html)

## CLARK COUNTY and COWLITZ TRIBE MEMORANDUM of UNDERSTANDING

By Val Alexander, FoCC Board

The Cowlitz Indian tribe has applied for trust status from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) for property they have purchased at the I-5 junction at La Center.

The tribe has listed a gambling casino as one of the potential uses for the property.

The Clark County Board of Commissioners (BoCC) approved a Memo of Understanding (MOU) contract with the tribe, represented by John Barnett, tribal chair, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

The BoCC stated that they did not approve development at the I-5 junction location where the Barnetts have purchased property.

But if the property gains trust status from the BIA without an MOU, the county would have to supply sheriff, fire and infrastructure costs for the property without property tax payments from the tribe.

That is because trust property is not subject to taxes and other regulations (like county codes) that affect non-Indian lands.

The contract (MOU) with the county would increase the Cowlitz tribe's chances of Bureau of Indian Affairs approval of trust status.

Many people spoke at a public hearing on February 10<sup>th</sup> for and against the Memo Of Understanding. Many wanted the commissioners to delay a decision.

Some of the reasons cited for not signing involved environmental concerns – a creek that crosses the property feeds into the East Fork Lewis River. If several acres of blacktop were there, the runoff would jeopardize the river. Sewage disposal was also a concern.

At a workshop on March 10 representatives of the tribe discussed the issues with local citizens. They stated that the Cowlitz Indians are indigenous to the area. The City Council decided to send a letter to the BIA opposing the tribe's request for land trust status.

The city of La Center's funding is dependent upon the non-Indian casinos located there. Competition from an Indian casino with expanded gambling rights could be a disaster for the La Center businesses and city budget.

More recently, the Cowlitz tribe blocked funding for the Cathlepotle Plank House project at the Ridgefield National Wildlife Preserve. Again they claim their tribe is indigenous to the area and should be involved in the project. The Chinook tribe has been working on this project, a part of the Lewis & Clark bicentennial, for many years.

Friends is concerned about the potential for environmental damage from increased development in an area zoned for agriculture. Contact information is in the adjacent column.

*GET INVOLVED!*

## WHAT DOES TRANSPORTATION CONCURRENCY MEAN?

By Bridget Schwarz, FoCC Board

The state Growth Management Act (GMA) mandates concurrency. That means that transportation infrastructure must be in place, or funded, before new developments are approved.

Clark County has established travel speed standards along designated transportation corridors to measure concurrency compliance.

Every project that generates more than 10 trips requires a traffic impact study. For projects that add up to 50 pm peak hour trips, the traffic impact study covers a radius of 1 mile; for up to 250 trips the study area is 2 miles, for over 250 trips the area is 3 miles.

Impacts to all the transportation concurrency corridors and intersections of significance are included. By law, highway impacts can not be considered.

Projects that reduce the travel speed standard below the established Level Of Service (LOS) are denied.

Typically, however, the developer offers to mitigate traffic impacts by offering transportation improvements.

Two problems are evident in the attempt to meet transportation concurrency.

First, we are running out of cheap fixes.

Second, the true traffic impacts from residential developments are not always addressed. Developers often make boundary line adjustments and submit separate development review applications for each parcel in a large subdivision.

That keeps the number of trips below 50—even when hundreds of homes will be built. As a result, the developer only has to study or mitigate traffic impacts for a mile around their project.

Other types of development cannot take advantage of this “loophole” because they cannot submit multiple applications, i.e. for a big box store or office building.

It is true that developers pay for over 60% of county road projects. And they should. Most of those roads serve the large parcels they cut up to build residential subdivisions.

## TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES PROJECT

The Transportation Priorities Project is a grass roots effort to take action for Clark County's transportation future.

During 2002, the first phase of this project (TPP I) was a progressive series of 40 meetings with over 500 citizens. They told TPP I volunteers they want to learn more about transportation planning, funding, and how roads get built.

The next step (TPP II) is based on feedback from those meetings.

Over the last several months TPP II members have been meeting with representatives from all the transportation jurisdictions in Clark County.

For the very first time, all of these transportation planners have developed a common agenda.

TPP II asked for, and got, 3 funding levels. The first has no increases and basically covers maintenance and safety projects.

The second level includes TPP II recommended projects with a modest increase in funding.

The third level provides a higher transportation system investment that keeps our work force, goods, and services moving.

(Because none of these agencies have the responsibility, neither light rail or an I-5 bridge are included.)

TPP II needs your feedback.

To complete the TPP II survey, get more background information, or join TPP II as a volunteer, log on to [www.tppii.com](http://www.tppii.com). Or, contact Jessica Stalberger at 360.823.6105.

## WORMS EAT MY GARBAGE \*

Using a worm composting system, you can recycle most kitchen food waste and produce nutrient rich fertilizer for your garden and house plants. The process is called vermicomposting.

Worm composting also shows a personal commitment to a better use of the waste you generate.

Worm composting is easy to do!

Briefly, you find a suitable location and set up a worm bin. Add damp bedding and worms. Bury your kitchen waste - anything that won't smell rotten as it decomposes. Then harvest worm castings and add fresh bedding as necessary.

To get started, you need

- ◆ a worm bin, the correct size for the kitchen waste you produce ("food" for your worms);
- ◆ worm bedding (shredded newsprint is best);
- ◆ the right kind of worms (usually *Eisenia fetida*)

The next Clark County WSU Extension class on worm composting systems is May 22 from 9 to noon. The class costs \$25 and includes a worm bin and worms.

For more information contact Monique Krahn; 397-6060 X 7710.

To register send a \$15 check to Clark County Treasurer  
11104 NE 14th Street #C-100  
Brush Prairie WA 98606.

A \$10 materials fee will be collected at the class.

\* *A how-to guide written by Mary Appelhof ISBN 0-942256-10-7*

*continued from page 1*

An article in this newsletter written by Board Member Val Alexander gives information on the most recent developments and lets you know how to be heard. There is still time before a scheduled hearing on April 29 to help craft a better plan for the East Fork.

Finally, FoCC continues to lay the groundwork for an exciting project. We will bring together members of many different interest groups (including builders, environmentalists, businesses, and neighborhoods) and public entities to draft a vision for what Clark County should look like at built-out.

By engaging our community in this discussion, we hope to create a plan for growth that provides a true vision to work toward in our 10- and 20-year growth updates.

Environmentally and fiscally, we believe this visioning work will produce many benefits to our community. Stay tuned, as there will be more to come regarding the Built-out Vision project.

## FRIENDS of CLARK COUNTY FUN RAISER

Want to have fun? Want to help raise funds for FoCC?

Want to help Friends enhance some of the last natural habitat on the Columbia River? Great!

Join us as we remove an overgrowth of English Ivy at Wood's landing. (After this brief encounter, you will understand why this plant has earned a place on Clark County's list of noxious weeds.)

Bring your garden gloves. We'll provide a hot lunch and a cold beer. Mary Wood will explain the Wood's Landing chum salmon spawning project and the effort to buy the adjacent undeveloped parcel for a preservation land trust.

JOIN US SUNDAY MAY 16 AT NOON  
For more information and directions  
Call us at 695.5570

Bev's Place Organic Gardening/Permaculture Living Tour  
Saturday May 29, 1:30 — 3:00  
Reservations required (574.1343)

Seize this opportunity to learn how to live interdependently with nature. Sustainability involves both organic gardening and permaculture living concepts.

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Between the Executive Director and the FoCC board, we attended - and in many cases organized - hundreds of meetings throughout the county.

In December the Clark County Commissioners laid a foundation for growth well beyond the 1.5% annual growth rate that FoCC and Metro (regional government of the Portland area) picked as appropriate for the next 20 years. Clark County Commissioners are pushing to add more acres to our urban growth boundary than the total for all of Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington Counties combined. Staggering!

When the decision comes down, appeals are assured. Friends of Clark County has helped build a strong record that favors only growing as much as we can afford.

Friends prides ourselves on being your advocates, but we also want to educate citizens about the issues that we advocate for. The strength of FoCC lies in the concept of the constituents advocating on their own, on issues close to their hearts.

Friends sponsors monthly public forums. Topics are such as health impacts of growth, impacts of the Comp. Plan update, and the effects of sprawl on urban wildlife.

Coalition building took place with many organizations in 2003. The Neighborhoods Association of Clark County provided feedback as we crafted our response to the County's growth plan. Sierra Club co-sponsored monthly public forums in 2003 and 2004. Friends continues our affiliation with the Coalition for Liveable Futures, a Metro based organization.

FoCC helped spark the revitalization of the SW Washington Community Land Trust, which we hope to have launched before summer of 2004. This land trust initiative is to create an interest in the community for affordable housing to help low income families trying to break through into ownership of their own home.

What else did FoCC do in 2003? Throughout the year, Friends distributed news via our list server to alert you to actions that needed grass roots support for good land use planning or environmental issues that threaten public interests. Wet land destruction, habitat destruction and the loss of sensitive land to development, are high on your priorities and we keep you informed.

Friends advocates on your behalf. We educate and train you in subjects that help you clearly state your beliefs and explain how your principles are being violated and abused. We alert you to important issues and actions, and we have created a network of like minded organizations to broaden the base of contacts and expertise.

Are we doing good work for you? We think so. To say it plainly, we believe you really got your money's worth in 2003. We are interested in your feedback so that we may better serve our members in 2004.

Sincerely, your President of the Board  
Ronald H. Barca

## CHECK OUR CALENDAR

### THEN MARK YOURS

The first Wednesday of every month, Friends of Clark County sponsors a public forum. Our panelists have expertise on the evening's topic. After their presentation a lively discussion follows.

JOIN US AT OUR  
FIRST WEDNESDAY  
PUBLIC FORUMS  
7 - 9 PM

6th Floor Hearing Room  
Clark County Public Service Center

*April 7*

*Are you a NIMBY?*

Successful advocates will share the secrets of their success. Decision makers will explain how to prepare effective testimony.

*May 5*

*Annual membership meeting*

Come and meet the FoCC Board of Directors. We'll review our projects from 2003, share our plans for 2004, and get your feedback. Then we'll have some Cinco de Mayo fun!

*June 2*

*Capital Facilities Plans*

The CFP spells out how the county and cities will pay for the growth they project under the 20 year Comp Plan. Clark County and Vancouver long range planners will explain their plans.

*Co-sponsors Sierra Club Loo Wit*

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CLARK COUNTY

# SMART GROWTH

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## IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

- update from our Executive Director
- update from the President of our Board
- overview of Storedahl mining project
- overview of Cowlitz tribe land trust
- schedule of first Wednesday public forums
- fund raiser on May 16 at Wood's landing

Please renew your membership with FRIENDS of CLARK COUNTY using the order form inside this newsletter.

Please consider joining at the Donor level (\$100). We need your support to help cover expenses as we continue the vital work of protecting our quality of life in Clark County.

You will also find a description of our FoCC custom embroidered apparel. We'll make you a special deal if you place an order when you join / renew your membership.

Thank you!

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