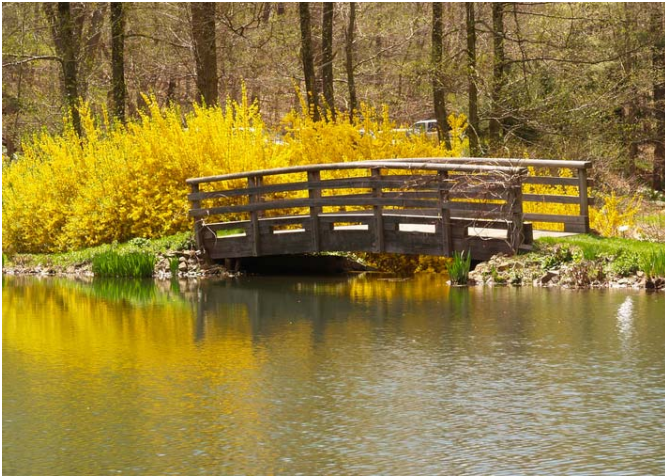


# Oakbrook Neighborhood News

March/April 2010

Next Meeting is March 16<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday at 7:00PM. To be held at the Oakbrook Apartments Community Room.



## Minutes for our Meeting held

January 19, 2010

17 residents in attendance

**Troy Price**, police sergeant, is our new city liaison to Oakbrook neighborhood. Troy replaces Dave Miletich who was our city liaison for many years. Troy attended the neighborhood meeting to listen and answer questions as well as getting acquainted. Troy spoke to neighborhood concerns of some vandalism on 37<sup>th</sup> and 38<sup>th</sup> St as well as 97<sup>th</sup> and 98<sup>th</sup> Ave where houses have been egged. There are also a number of cars that have been keyed. There is less police presence in the neighborhoods due to position cuts by the City. Sergeant Price told neighbors not to leave anything out on car seats or in view as vandals are breaking out windows and grabbing items. There is a website to report property vandalism that involves less monetary damage, but no immediate police intervention. This way it is mapped and noted. [www.vancouverpolice.org](http://www.vancouverpolice.org)

## Old Business

Jessie with Friends of Trees from NW Service Academy and AmeriCorps spoke regarding the upcoming neighborhood tree planting. Jessie pointed some of the many benefits of trees to our environment such as: 1) shade for cooling, 2) decrease in crime, 3) improved mental health as well as 4) increased property values. Other environmental benefits were discussed such as

1) better air quality which improves overall health of individuals, 2) Interception of stormwater runoff and the water retention of soils are increased.

Vancouver has a 19% tree canopy and the projected ideal is 40% canopy.

The tree planting on March 20<sup>th</sup> is a great community builder as well as getting trees planted. Getting kids involved is encouraged and one can go on the website to pick trees. The forest service will look at the strip being chosen for the tree and make sure the right trees are planted for the right space, making sure the appropriate trees are planted. There are also fruit trees that one can choose for the yards. These trees are large and volunteers will deliver, dig holes, mulch and stake trees.

Oakbrook is setting aside \$500.00 to subsidize 20 trees at \$25.00 apiece. So the bottom line for each tree is around \$23.00 each for trees that would normally cost \$125 to \$150 each. If you didn't get in on it this time please remember that the opportunity will most likely be there again next year. Why not come out on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March to help out with the planting

### **New Business**

Oakbrook neighborhood residents discussed concern of noise pollution coming from I205. This is being experienced by many people. There was a question of the possibility of a retaining wall to block some of the sound. The berms previously established were considered. The number of trees dying in Beaver Marsh may be a contributing factor. This also is presenting some concern as there is no access for emergency vehicles if a fire breaks out in Beaver Marsh. It was recommended that this be put into the neighborhood action plan. Urban Forestry in parks and schools to be considered in future action plans also.

Discussion of distributing the Oakbrook Newsletter led to the realization that there are three blocks South of Burton Road that aren't getting newsletters and because Burton is a natural boundary possibly these blocks would more naturally belong to Burton Ridge Neighborhood Association. We are separated by space and possibly issues as well. This will be looked into. Consideration for relinquishing about three blocks across Burton Road to another Neighborhood Association was made.

It was recommended by Doug Meisner that letters of appreciation be written to Dave Miletich and Myk Heidt for their support and participation with Oakbrook Association. Both of their positions have changed. Dave's position was cut by the city and Myk has moved out of the area. They will be missed.

The benefits to property owners adjoining the wetlands was considered and discussed. Friends of Peterson Creek made a contribution to the case and there was some matching money from neighbors. Ray and Lela Keim as well as Butch and Jody Lacy made very sizable donations. It was expressed that benefiting landowners should participate. Ray expressed interest in developing a landscape buffer which has been done before in Clark Co where landowners have an easement and can possibly take down their fences adjoining the wetlands. This also will be considered in the new action plan set forth by the neighborhood.

Concerns were again expressed about dogs set loose in the park to run as some people outside the area tend to just let their dogs off leash. Some of these dogs have been identified as pit bulls and there is a noted incident where a smaller dog was attacked and killed by one. This

makes our park unsafe for everyone and needs to be addressed. If you need to report an incident or you see a dog off leash you make a report to Animal Control at 360-397-2488.

### **Treasurers Report**

The Oakbrook funds remain the same except for the bank service charge of \$2.00 which leaves \$1826.62.

Respectfully Submitted, Eileen Anderson

## **Doug Rickard, District 3 NPO**

**Phone:** (360) 487-7535

**E-mail:** [Doug.Rickard@ci.vancouver.wa.us](mailto:Doug.Rickard@ci.vancouver.wa.us)

### **District 3 includes these neighborhoods:**

[Burton Ridge](#) , [Ellsworth Springs](#) , [Father Blanchet Park](#) , [Forest Ridge](#) , [Image](#) , [Kevanna Park](#) , [Marrion](#) , [North Garrison Heights](#) , [North Image](#) , [Northwood](#) , [Oakbrook](#) , [Ogden](#) , [Vancouver Heights](#) .

Hello, I'm Corporal Doug Rickard the new East Precinct District 3 Neighborhood Police Officer, or **NPO** as we refer to them. The **NPO**'s are the liaisons to the citizens within their district and are available to meet with neighbors to discuss crime issues, livability issues, attend community meetings and to answer questions about crime trends and prevention. These officers are the main contact person for a citizen within a district to go to when there are crime issues or other concerns that the police department can assist them with. These officers work cross departmentally as well to assist citizens with problem solving strategies as well.

### **Some other Neighborhood Concerns**

It was reported by a neighbor living on 103<sup>rd</sup> Loop that there have been several cats found injured in the last 6 months. Also some people have reported that their cats are missing. If you have any knowledge concerning this type of problem you can report to Doug Rickard, our NPO (Neighborhood Police Officer). Phone 360-487-7535 or call Animal Control at 360-397-2488.

# Friends of Trees Planting Day

**Hello Burton Ridge, Marrion, Fircrest, Oakbrook, & Ogden Neighbors.**

Our planting day is next Saturday, March 20, 2010. We will be meeting at Salvation Army-Center for Worship & Service 1500 Northeast 112th Avenue, Vancouver, WA

We are planting 58 trees that day all over the Burton Ridge, Marrion, Fircrest, Ogden, & Oakbrook Neighborhoods!

Since this is a volunteer run organization we have asked that you pick a job to support the planting day efforts. Without your help we could never do this event, so THANK YOU!  
Please scroll down and read more about the volunteer role(s) you have chosen. Please read carefully.

**For those on planting crews:** We need help in planting all of these trees! Please be dressed for the weather! You may bring your own gloves, although FOT has some available. All other tools are provided.

We need you to arrive at **8:30am for registration**. Then you will mill about for half an hour enjoying coffee, tea, hot chocolate, bread fruit, juice, donuts, pastries and meeting your planting team and neighbors while we organize everything.

Your time commitment varies depending on how many trees your team plants, how big they are, and how fast you do it. Plan on being outside until 1pm. You are invited back to the Salvation Army for a tasty lunch.

**For those of you who have chosen to help with food:** We will have coffee and bagels donated in the morning. Please feel free to bring anything else that you would like to provide for breakfast (donuts or other pastries, etc.) We are also working on organizing a lunch for everyone. This could include a crock pot of soup, sandwiches, sides, desserts, etc. The more food, the merrier!

**For those who are truck drivers:** We need trucks and drivers at the moment we only have 4 and need 6! If you can borrow a truck of a friend or family member, let me know ASAP! Please arrive between 8 and 8:15am for registration: *tell registration* you are a truck driver at the time of registration. You will need to find your Crew Leader and let them know that you have arrived. From there, you and your crew leader will help each other to load the trees onto your truck. Reminder, we need open bed trucks.

**For those who would like to help with unloading trees from the big trucks at the staging site:** Please arrive with your strong back at 7:00 am.

**For those who are helping with clean up:** Please arrive around 12 and plan to stay until 1:30. We need help carrying stuff to cars and mopping and vacuuming.

**For those who are doing summer inspection, office work or other:** we will contact you later. If you cannot make it that day, please let me know.

Please feel free to call or email me with questions.

Thank you for planting trees and restoring Vancouver's urban forest!

**Jesse Batty**

AmeriCorps|Neighborhood Canopy Restoration Coordinator  
(360) 619-1127

City of Vancouver Public Works

[www.cityofvancouver.us/urbanforestry](http://www.cityofvancouver.us/urbanforestry)

Friends of Trees

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

Thank you again for letting us know which volunteer role you would like to participate in on Saturday March 20. We are also still looking for pickup truck drivers to carry trees, so if you know anyone who would be willing to drive their truck for a crew on Saturday, please let me know.

I wanted to keep you aware of about three things that will happen at the end of this week and next week, the week prior to planting.

**1) Utility Locates** have been called in for your address, meaning someone will come out and mark for any important underground utilities in your yard or planting strip.

**2) For yard trees**, please use a flag from your Neighborhood Coordinator that I will be dropping off today, a stick, a rock, anything, to mark where you would like your tree to go.

**For street trees, please mark where you are placing trees** if you are receiving less trees than what was marked by the urban forester, so our hole digger digs in the correct places. Also please mark where you'd like each tree if you are receiving different species in your planting strip, so we don't plant your magnolia where you wanted your hawthorn and vice versa.

**3) Finally, Friends of Trees hole diggers** will be going around on Thursday and Friday of next week to dig holes where you've marked. Please cover these holes until planting day with plywood, a recycling bin, anything. If your hole is in your back yard and our hole digger cannot find your flag, no worries, we will dig the hole on Saturday.

Finally, planting day arrives where we will all be meeting at the Salvation Army Center for Worship & Service at 1500 NE 112 Ave. We will have breakfast and then break up into 6 crews led by a pickup driver who will carry 10 trees for you and your closest neighbors. We'll then all meet back for lunch at the Salvation Army.

Thanks again for planting with Friends of Trees and for unifying and beautifying your neighborhood!

Jesse

There is plenty to do and your help will be very appreciated. This is a great opportunity to give back to our community. If you have questions or need more information you can call Jesse at 360-619-1127.

## Oakbrook Officers

Chairperson: Ray Keim 904-1766, [raykrayk@yahoo.com](mailto:raykrayk@yahoo.com)

Vice Chair: Tom Hitchcock 885-1962, [tomhitch@comcast.net](mailto:tomhitch@comcast.net)

Secretary: Eileen M Anderson 256-0803, [eileenmanderson@comcast.net](mailto:eileenmanderson@comcast.net)

Treasurer: Joanne Dixon 891-2660, [jojoe@teleport.com](mailto:jojoe@teleport.com)

### Supporting Volunteers:

Newsletter Editor—Lela Keim 944-9064, [roobyred@comcast.net](mailto:roobyred@comcast.net)

Newsletter Distribution—Larry Sickles 892-2639, [lsickles@comcast.net](mailto:lsickles@comcast.net)

Neighborhood Sale & Clean-up—Jerry & Joanne Dixon 891-2660 [jojoe@teleport.com](mailto:jojoe@teleport.com)

NPO—Corporal Doug Rickard 360-487-7535 [DougRickard@ci.vancouver.wa.us](mailto:DougRickard@ci.vancouver.wa.us)

City Liaison---Sergeant Troy Price --- [troyprice@ci.vancouver.wa.us](mailto:troyprice@ci.vancouver.wa.us)

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