



Friends' Focus

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Upcoming Events

Important notice

Upcoming Tour

If you would like to join us for a free tour of the JBLM composting facility (mentioned on pg 3) please sign up now

Up to 15 people can attend on September 12 or 16 around 10 am

Please RSVP so we can alert the base.

Please call or email

(253) 851-9524
FOPC@comcast.net

Orton Junction fight still continues to Court of Appeals this fall

Almost one year ago, a group of environmental organizations, including Friends of Pierce County won a positive decision at the Growth Management Hearings Board over prime farmland in Sumner, the developer - Investco, and City of Sumner appealed the board's decision.

Within the last two months, all the other environmental groups in the original appeal have entered into settlement talks with the City of Sumner and Investco.

Friends of Pierce County has vowed to continue through the appeal process, alone.

In order to do that, we have found another attorney to represent us and we need funds to pay for legal fees.

We are asking for your help to sustain this win and keep this land from being paved over.

Please send in your tax-deductible donation as soon as possible to help Friends of Pierce County pay for legal fees to defend the Growth Management Hearings Board win.

Put "OJ" on the memo line of your check.

You will receive a donation letter for your tax records.

Time is of the essence, so please send in donation today.

Thank you so much for your continued support of this very important issue.



Orton Junction, taken Oct 2011.

Inside this issue:

Garden in Lakewood - a must see in Pierce County

Thanks to our supporters:

Joyce Huseby

Connie Sue Martin

Carmela Micheli

Karen Kiehlmeier

Bill Nerin

Jane Moore

David Friscia

In this issue

Welcome board member,

Rob Boisvert Pg 2

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You make a difference!

If you are looking for a local, undiscovered gem this summer, try the Lakewold Gardens.

Located in Lakewood, Washington, Lakewold offers landscape architecture by Thomas Church surrounded by rare and native plants, State Champion trees, over 900 rhododendrons, 30 Japanese maples and stunning statuary. A Washington State historic landmark,

Lakewold's Georgian-style mansion and historic architecture complete the 10 acres where visitors can step back in time to an elegant past or enjoy a relaxing moment to contemplate the future. Picnics are welcomed.

Lakewold Gardens is located at:
12317 Gravelly Lk Dr SW
Lakewood, WA 98499

For more information, admission fees, and hours, please go to:

www.lakewoldgardens.org.

Photo: Used by permission from Lakewold Gardens.



Vision

Communities will strive to utilize all planning strategies that balance the elements of environment, equity, and economics.

Board of Directors

President: *Connie Sue Martin*
Vice Pres.: *Larry Johnson*
Treasurer: *Carmela Micheli*
Secretary: *Joyce Huseby*
Position 5: *William Rehberg*
Position 6: *Robert Boisvert*

Please consider joining us on the board, we would love your input!

Go to our website for application.

For information, contact:

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Friends of Pierce County is a 501 (c) 3 organization.

Membership fees and donations are tax deductible.

County tries to correctly identify Ag Resource Lands

Last year, Friends of Pierce County asked the Council and Executive to correct a long standing problem - to identify its agriculture resource lands correctly on the county's map. We also asked them to come up with a way to better protect what was left.

Development pressures continue to threaten Pierce County's farmland. One-fourth of Puyallup Valley's farmland is slated for future development (Pierce County Agriculture Strategic Plan, 2006).

Over estimating current farmland acreage provides a false buffer when cities and the county consider development applications in these areas. If the Council waits another two years to fix the maps, more acres could be lost during this time frame to development.

In 2007, the County Executive initiated a similar amendment, staff and planning commission supported the map correction. The County Council at that time denied it because it would show less ARL in their database and maps.

Under the county's current criteria, the land that is incorrectly mapped does not meet ARL standards.

Friends of Pierce County believes everyone, including the public should know how many acres of ARL properties the county has left.

With such a low number remaining, the county and public, working together, should form a viable plan to seriously protect what is left.

Welcome new board member, Robert Boisvert

Rob was born in San Diego, California.

His parents were both from Massachusetts, and his dad was a career Navy man. Following his assignment to San Diego, he was posted to the East Coast.

They settled in the small town of Dighton, Massachusetts.

Rob received a Bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland, a MS from Central Michigan University and a MA from the US Naval War College.

His first trip to Fort Lewis, Washington was in 1973 following his enlistment in the Army.

Over the course of many years he returned to Fort Lewis and purchased a home in Lakewood in 1992.

Rob just recently retired (for the second time) -

from federal employment at Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

His first retirement followed 26 years in the Army.

Rob has been posted to many locations in the United States, as well as The Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, Egypt, and Hawaii.

Rob is involved in FPC because growing up in New England, he had exposure to the benefits of what a Land Trust can do for the community and the environment.

Rob said, "I hope that I can contribute in some measurable way to FPC".

His hobbies include playing tennis, fly-fishing, hiking, cooking, and camping out in his 1987 VW Vanagon.

Food waste composting done well in other areas, but not here

Pierce County does not have curbside food waste composting as is found in other areas from Seattle to San Francisco.

The reasons for this are many and will be discussed in a future article on this topic.

Why Compost?

Seattle Public Utilities mentions the benefits of composting: less garbage saves money and energy, reduces the need for landfills, decreases emission of greenhouse gases, compost nourishes soil for healthier plants, and helps us sustain the environment for future generations.

Based on the examples mentioned here, food composting can be done economically and responsibly.

What about other areas?

Olympia residents can compost all meat, bones, fish dairy, cheese, fruit and vegetables in their recycling carts to name a few.



San Francisco's composting program has produced 600,000 cubic yards of rich soil amendment, Photo: Larry Strong, Recology

San Francisco, CA has mandatory recycling and composting, along with a Zero Waste policy, which requires all San Francisco residents to separate recyclables, compostables and trash. They accept fruit, veggies, meat, bones, seafood, shells, breads, cereal, even spoiled food, including pizza boxes and waxed paper.

An Earth911.com article showed that San Francisco's urban composting program reached a milestone Nov. 2011, as the city's solid waste and recycling collection company (Recology), picked up its millionth ton of food scraps – more than two times the weight of the Golden Gate Bridge.

Since its launch in 1996, the City by the Bay's compost program has saved 2.7 million cubic yards of landfill space and produced 600,000 cubic yards of finished compost. More than 200 Bay Area farms and vineyards have applied this nutrient-rich soil amendment to their fields.

Recology picks up more than 600 tons of food scraps and garden waste from the city's residents and businesses each day.

Seattle residents can compost pasta, rice, meat, shells, fish, dairy nutshells, eggshells, fruits and vegetables including greasy pizza boxes, food and soiled paper plates, among other items.

Local example from JBLM

A recent article (found on north-west military.com) shows the Joint Base Lewis McChord Net Zero policy is a great example of how to save money and be a good environmental steward. The base recycled 261,760 pounds of food saving \$21,062 in disposal cost. The base also composted 4,000 tons of its organic waste to a high quality soil amendment, which they used on base to revitalize soil.

How does Pierce County measure up?

At present, the county plans to leave it up to residents to compost food on their own and not have a curbside pickup.

The county offers instead to educate people to waste less food, voluntary food waste collection from businesses; and try to keep other materials out of the landfill.

Still, here in Pierce County, food waste and even pizza boxes are still not accepted in Pierce County's curbside recycling.

Friends of Pierce County is working on a comprehensive article on this topic and will post it to our website and send out via email once it is done.

To make sure you get the article, please send in the brightly colored paper with your correct email address and check our website for any updates - FriendsOfPierceCounty.org.

Join FPC today!

As a member, you will receive newsletters and email updates informing you of county-wide planning, development and environmental issues.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Email: _____

____ Enclosed is \$35 for my annual membership dues.

____ Enclosed is a donation for \$_____.

I am interested in helping with the following:

____ Environmental

____ Education and Outreach

____ Fundraising

____ Membership

____ Communications

____ Budget/Finance

Non-profit org
U.S. Postage Paid
Tacoma, WA
Permit No. 1347

P. O. Box 2084
Gig Harbor, WA 98335

