



# Friends' Focus

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## Upcoming Events

### *Pierce County Livable Community Fair*

April 8th at the Puyallup Fairgrounds

### *Key Peninsula Livable Community Fair*

May 13, Key Peninsula Civic Center

**See insert in this newsletter for fun upcoming FPC events within the next few months**

## What is happening in Pierce County?

There is a lot happening in the county right now, too much to mention here. Below is a summary of issues that might interest you:

**School impact fees** - The County Council will take another look at school impact fees at the request of several school districts starting on **April 3, at 1:30** in the council chambers. The Community Development Committee will have a study session, then they are set to review the ordinance on June 5th.

**Transportation Impact Fees** - The urgency behind this issue is a major stretch of road is out of concurrency and the County needs to

expedite funding. The Growth Management Act gives counties up to 6 years to solve traffic problems after the development is approved. The County must solve problem or face penalties.

**Testamentary Divisions** could allow rural lots to be divided into 1/2 acre or less lots, so an ordinance establishing limitations on testamentary divisions is scheduled for consideration by the Planning Commission on **March 28, 2006**. In general, the ordinance will establish a planning review process for testamentary divisions and will require that lots created through this process meet min. lot size and setback requirements

for the existing zone in which the building permit is to be issued.

**Conservation Futures** - Pierce County received a record number of applications this past cycle - double its normal load. In 2004 approximately 40 properties were nominated, and 20 properties will be purchased with \$20 million from county-approved bonds.

Properties are distributed throughout the county. This cycle represents the largest purchase ever made. The next cycle for application will



Transportation impact fees

Could help roads keep pace with growth

## Inside this issue:

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## Auction planning on now - don't miss the fun!

We had our first fun-filled auction meeting last month to plan our next fundraiser. Friends enjoyed many yummy selections of appetizers and fine wine at my home.

**The auction will be held on October 21 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Snake Lake Nature Center in Tacoma. Wine and beer will be available as well as appetizers. Tickets \$15**

If you can donate nice items, services or if you would

like to help drop off donation forms at places you shop, please let me know. We have great lead time on this so we can take it at a slower pace, but we do need to act now as some businesses allot their donations at the beginning of the year.

We plan have another get together soon and you don't want to miss this chance to make new friends and help out Friends of Pierce County.

**Next Get Together Thursday, April 6 6:30 p.m. my house RSVP to 253.851.9524**

**Wine and appetizers!**





## Vision

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

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

*Membership fees and donations are tax deductible.*

## Spotlight on Secretary, Cindy Johnson – Acedebo

Cindy was born in Seattle and grew up in Renton, Washington.

She received a BA from University of Washington (UW) in Political Science, with a Minor in Environmental Studies; New England School of Law, Boston, MA, Juris Doctor.

After graduating from the U.W., she moved to Hawaii to bartend on a snorkeling boat. After taking a year off from school, she moved to Boston to attend law school. She came back to Washington for good and currently lives in Puyallup - and really loves living there.

She is an attorney practicing in environmental, land use, contract, and real estate law. She and her husband recently opened Acebedo & Johnson, LLC., a law firm in Puyallup.

She is involved in FPC, because in her own words, “FPC helps inform people about important environmental and land use issues; so that we can all get involved to make a difference in our communities”.

Cindy enjoys photography and travel. Last year, she traveled to Africa (Botswana & Zambia) and the Philippines.



## Livable Community Fairs gear up

Two great events focused on livable communities will take place this spring. The Pierce County Livable Community Fair will be on April 8 and the Key Peninsula Livable Community Fair will be on May 13. The Livable Communities Fair is your chance to learn how to help make your community a better place to live. Check out all the information for the Pierce County Livable Community Fair: *Arts & Culture; Public Service & Information; Economic Development & Employment; Education & Outreach; Environment, Habitat Protection, Land Use & Development, Sustainable Design; Parks, Recreation & Conservation; Public Safety & Health Social & Civic Services; Transportation & Infrastructure; Volunteer Opportunities; and Youth Activities.* Go to: [www.livablepiercecounty.org](http://www.livablepiercecounty.org)

**On the Key Peninsula**, the theme is, “*Showcasing people, agencies and organizations making the Key Peninsula more livable*” for the Key Peninsula Livable Community Fair.

It will be held on Saturday May 13, 2006 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 pm at the Key Peninsula Civic Center on 17010 South Vaughn Rd. Please call (253) 884-7899 for more information on this event.

### Volunteers needed

Friends of Pierce County will have a booth at both of these events. If you care to sign up for an hour shift on May 13 or April 8 to help us out, please let me know what date and time will work for you.

**Thank you in advance for your support!**

## Earth Day events promise to inform and inspire

With Earth Day next month, there are a lot of great events to get you thinking about the bigger picture. I would like to share two here:

### 1- **The Earth Charter: Local & Global Connections for Earth Day**

Attend this interdisciplinary (science and social studies) educator workshop to learn about the Earth Charter and ways to use it in your class—in time to share with students for Earth Day. Participate in hands-on curriculum exercises and get resources for teaching about sustainability and involving your students in local service-learning and action opportunities. The workshop will include a presentation and Q & A with Dr. Richard Gammon, an expert on environmental sustainability and global climate change. Dr. Gammon is a Professor of Chemistry and Oceanography at the University of Washington and co-directs their renowned UW Program on the Environment.

#### **DETAILS**

**Date: Thursday, March 30, 2006 5 pm to 8 pm** (come at 4:30 for a brief tour of Islandwood).

Location: Islandwood Outdoor Learning Center, Bainbridge Island, WA

Cost: \$20 (includes classroom resources, curricular activities, professional clock hours, and light dinner)  
Registration: Online through World Affairs Council (WAC) [www.world-affairs.org/calendar.cfm](http://www.world-affairs.org/calendar.cfm)

This event is Co-Sponsored and Co-Presented by: Facing the Future: People and the Planet, World Affairs Council, YES! magazine

For more information: Contact WAC at (206) 441-5910 or email: [tneighbor@world-affairs.org](mailto:tneighbor@world-affairs.org)

### 2- **The Indicator Conversation**

#### ***How to Measure Sustainable Prosperity in the Pacific Northwest***

The health of our economy is based on the health of our ecosystem; how can we measure this relationship? Are there tools we can work with? Facilitator Peter Donaldson presents an overview of the best indicator models, regional score-cards, and municipal report cards currently in service throughout the bioregion. Join us for an open dialogue on how our local community might develop its own system for measuring what matters as a

way of informing local policy, integrating education, and leading ourselves towards sustainable prosperity for generations unborn.

Peter Donaldson is a national facilitator for Open Space Technology and Founder of Salmonpeople Projects, working with communities throughout the bioregion to awaken watershed wisdom and deepen the behaviors of citizen stewardship on **Wednesday, March 29, 2006 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the Tacoma Community College Gig Harbor Campus**. For more information, contact TCC Gig Harbor at 253.851.2424 or email to: [jmott@tacomacc.edu](mailto:jmott@tacomacc.edu) or check website at <http://www.tacomacc.edu/ghc>



## Maritime Gig Parade preparation begins

Do you have an artistic flair, do you like connecting with students on environmental issues? If yes, you are the perfect fit to help us craft a theme for the upcoming Maritime Gig Parade in June.

We would like to have a host of students in the parade with us showing their concern and caring for the environment. We have the capability to do a small float and would like ideas on what to

hand out. If you would like to help make the connections, make sure the parade goes smoothly or just would like to walk in the parade contact us!

Please attend the first committee meeting on this issue. If you cannot attend, but have some great ideas to share, please call Marian at (253) 851-9524.

We would love to have you join us!

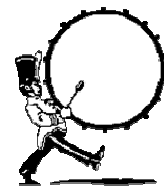
### **First Committee Meeting**

**Date: March 22, 2006**

**Time: 4:30 p.m.**

**Location: My house.**

**RSVP for directions.**



***Common sense is the knack of seeing things as they are, and doing things as they ought to be done. - Harriet Beecher Stowe***