

Upcoming Events

Environmental Club Registration

Open now to students at Artondale, Purdy and Voyager Elementary Schools until September 1

Call (253) 851-9524 or email FOPC@comcast.net

Registration form will be mailed to you or you can download one at our website at: friendsofpiercecounty.org



Environmental Clubs shine at Maritime Gig

Over 50 students, parents, and volunteers of the Friends of Pierce County Environmental Clubs turned out to march in the Maritime Gig Parade on June 7.

The rain held off for parade participants and parade entries made their way through downtown Gig Harbor during the two hour event. Friends of Pierce county float's theme was "Student's Saving Salmon".

Students portrayed what salmon need to survive - Artondale were the bugs and insects, as salmon food. Purdy students were

trees and plants for healthy habitat, and Voyager students were water warriors protecting water quality for salmon.

Students carried painted salmon while a fisherman tried to lure them in. Along the parade route, students chanted "Save the Salmon" to the crowd. Students also handed out Swedish fish candy to kids and information about the clubs to adults. Students and adults had a blast marching and connecting with the crowd.



Students line up for start of parade



Water Warriors show shields and swords to defeat water pollution



"Salmon" follow behind boat eluding capture by fisherman

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Green Drinks brings together friends of like minds

Many thanks to Paddy Coynes Irish Pub on 815 Pacific Avenue in Tacoma for allowing Friends of Pierce County to host Tacoma Green drinks in June. Approximately 30 like-minded friends, working for other environmental organizations or employed with local jurisdictions came together for tasty meat pies, sauted vegetables and tasty dip (all donated by Paddy Coynes).

Tacoma Green Drinks are held the 1st Thursday of every month at locations of the host's choice.

The next Tacoma Green Drinks will be on Thursday, July 17 from 5:30-8:00 pm at Tempest Lounge, 913 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, hosted by the Tacoma Food Co-Op. For more information, contact Karin Van Vlack at earthout-reach@yahoo.com.

Thanks to Paddy Coynes Irish Pub of Tacoma for their wonderful food, service and beer!



Past President, Tracy Engels, briefs Green Drink's participant on FPC activities.



Vision

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

Board of Directors

President:	<i>Julia Martin Lombardi</i>
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Spotlight on Treasurer, Carmela Micheli

Carmela Micheli currently serves as our Treasurer. Carmela was born and raised in Tacoma and went to school at Tacoma Community College and University of Puget Sound studying early childhood development. She completed Montessori Training at the Spring Valley School in 1973.

Loving kids, she worked for a fellow student who opened a school for two years. Carmela bought the school and has owned Arcadia Montessori for 32 years providing preschool, kindergarten & child care (recently she added 1st through 3rd grade at her school). Carmela has lived in Washington all her life and has been on the Gig Harbor peninsula since 1971.

She is involved in FPC, in her words, "Because in caring for our environment, it is important that we do all we can toward educating ourselves about what is happening in our community and try to effect positive change when we can". "This is what I see FPC doing and this is what I want to be a part of and contribute to".

Her hobbies include: going to musical events, trying to learn Italian, working in her yard and going to the San Juan Islands to sit on the rocks and watch the whales go by.



Carmela enjoys dinner at Paddy Coyne's for Green Drinks in June

For information, contact:

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

Membership fees and donations are tax deductible.

Website hosted by:



More tips for a greener you in 2008

As promised, here are more Green Tips:

- **Turn off lights and electronics** when you leave the room. Unplug your cell phone charger from the wall when not using it. Turn off energy strips and surge protectors when not in use (especially overnight).
- **Go paperless.** Consider reading your newspaper and magazine subscriptions online. Switch to electronic banking and credit card payment too.
- **Recycle your technology.** Dell, Hewlett Packard, Apple, and IBM, among others, offer recycling programs.
- **Do full loads** of laundry and set the rinse cycle to "cold."
- **Switch to fair trade coffee.** Go to www.transfairusa.org for more information.
- **Opt into a clean energy program.** Check out the [Green Power Network](http://www.eere.energy.gov/greenpower) at the US Department of Energy. Go to <http://www.eere.energy.gov/greenpower> for more information.

Source:

<http://www.divinecaroline.com>

County's affordable housing task explores developer incentives

The 2000 census revealed the median income for a household in the county was \$45,204. Median housing sale prices vary across Pierce County, ranging from \$205,000 in South Tacoma to \$379,000 in Gig Harbor.

In 2006, the County's appointed task force on affordable housing laid out strategies for housing affordability in Pierce County in the report, *Strategies for Housing Affordability in Pierce County*.

The report states "affordable housing has become a concern of citizens and elected officials...residents are slowly being priced out of the communities where they have been raised, educated and now employed discouraging individuals from considering future residency".

This year, task force members from Friends of Pierce County, Master Builder's Association, United Way, Association of Realtors, Mobile Home Owners Association, Non-profit developers, Tacoma Housing Authority, Pierce County Planning Commission, MKL Housing, Associated General Contractors, banking industry and citizens continue to work their way toward affordable housing. Pierce County staff presented the group various incentives for developers to encourage affordable housing. Some of the incentives currently being considered are:

- waiving impact fees collected for roads, schools and parks
- expediting permitting
- bonus housing units

- reducing parking requirements

Recommendations that move forward in the process could conflict with community plans in areas of open space, infill compatibility, lot width, and parking.

There is discussion to amend community plans or pass language to waive community plans when there is a conflict with achieving affordable housing.

The task force recommendations will be finalized before they appear at the local Land Use Advisory Commissions. Recommendations are expected to be heard by the County Council in September 2008.

For more information go to: www.co.pierce.wa.us/pc/services/home/property/pals/news/new.htm or call Dan Cardwell, Senior Planner Pierce County at (253) 798-7039.

Vanishing Vera Vista signals end to low income housing

Olympic Plaza plans include adding more retail at the NW corner of Pt. Fosdick and Olympic Drive in Gig Harbor. The Vera Vista Apartments is being demolished to make way for more commercial development.

Vera Vista, a 22-unit apartment complex on approximately 4.5 acres and has been on this site since around 1985. The average monthly rent was \$516.

The median income for Gig Harbor was \$43,456 in 1999. The Gig Harbor Community Plan (GHCP) reveals that the median value of a house in Gig Harbor was \$215,400 in the year 2000. A household would require an annual income of about to \$63,000 to afford a mortgage on a 2000 median house. The plan states, "It is evident that this either excludes a large portion of the community from homeowner-

ship or cost-burdens these households". Where do the people who make less than \$43,456/year live? Multi-family housing apartments, like Vera Vista.

The GHCP states, "It is apparent that the city's housing stock does not fully provide for all economic segments" and "There is an unmet need for affordable housing for current residents". The GHCP reveals that "34.8% of renter households were cost burdened in 1999".

According to the Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A.020), goal 4, states, "Encourage the availability of affordable housing to all economic segments of the population of this state, promote a variety of residential densities and housing types, and encourage preservation of existing stock".

The Pierce County Planning Wide Policies, state – "The County and each

municipality in the County shall meet their projected demand for the preservation of existing housing stock through repair, maintenance, rehabilitation and redevelopment. The city's comprehensive plan Goal 5.4.1 (Maintain a "No Net Loss" policy toward affordable housing units) discourages demolition of existing smaller houses which have reasonable potential for being salvaged.

What is being done at the city to meet these policy goals? Contact Mayor Hunter at HunterC@cityofgigaharbor.net or call (253) 851-8136. Ask him to appoint a task force to take up issue, have the discussion, and begin the public process. Without better guidelines, low income housing will disappear.



Vera Vista in 2006.

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. - Martin Luther King Jr.

Join FPC today!

As a member, you will receive newsletters and weekly 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

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