



Port Gardner Neighborhood Association News



Next Meeting – Monday, May 9, 2016 – 7 PM

We will meet at our usual place in the Sequoia High School cafeteria at 35th and Grand Av.

Agenda:

6:45 Meet and Greet

7:00 Police Report

7:15 Niels Tygesen, Planning

7:45 Gene Fosheim

8:15 Executive Board Elections and Announcements

Monday, May 9

Metro Everett Planning – Two Events Happening...On the Same Night!!

Our monthly PGNA meeting will host **Niels Tygesen from the Planning Department** to speak about the Metro Everett planning which is taking place in the city. What is Metro Everett? (You may have also heard the terms, Metropolitan Center or Metro Center). This is an area of the city from I-5 on the east side to the BNSF tracks on the west side which encompasses downtown, the Everett Station, and a little bit of the residential areas to the north and the south of this. It is an area of Everett where much of the housing and job growth during the next twenty years is expected to take place.

On the same night the city will host a community-wide meeting on Metro Everett planning at the **Everett Performing Arts Center, 2710 Wetmore**. This event will happen in two parts. **From 5:30 – 6:30** there will be an open house at which you'll have the opportunity to ask city staff and consultants about the planning. **Then from 6:30 – 8:00** there will be a presentation about Metro Everett and the opportunity to discuss this in small groups.

Can you be in two places at the same time? Almost. Niels is planning to be at the open house/workshop portion of the event and then come to Sequoia to speak at our PGNA meeting. You can do likewise. Whether you can attend either event or not, you can still stay on top of this Metro planning process by visiting Metro Everett News Flash at www.everettwa.gov/metro, and signing up to get alerts about other events, walking tours, discussions, and other opportunities to provide your ideas about Everett's growth.

Author, Gene Fosheim, to Talk about his Book, Mill Town Boy

Also at our May 9 meeting Gene Fosheim will talk about his new book, Mill Town Boy. This is the story of Gene's father, Raymond Fosheim, and his life in Everett encompassing most of the twentieth century. His story is also the history of Everett. Except for his service during World War II, Raymond was a life-long resident of Everett.

Gene is a founding board member of Historic Everett and President of the Everett Museum of History. Come and listen to this local historian tell the story of an ordinary man's experience living his life and raising his family in Everett.

April Meeting Recap

Mayor Ray Stephanson gave us a virtual tour of what is currently happening around Everett or on the drawing boards at City Hall. Here are a few of the things he told us:

- He hopes that construction of the pedestrian/utility bridge leading from Grand Avenue Park to the waterfront will be started by the end of the year.
- The Navy will bring three destroyers to Everett this year to replace the three frigates that have departed. An additional destroyer will arrive in 2017. The Nimitz will be back in 2019. Another carrier will be assigned to Everett in 2025 when the Nimitz is retired.
- Freight mobility project funds have been approved by the legislature to make it easier for big trucks to get between I-5 and the Everett waterfront. In the short term this will mean that intersections can be widened at 41st and Rucker, Pacific and Rucker, and Pacific and West Marine View Dr. In the long term it is planned to have a curving truck route between the Pacific and Rucker intersection and somewhere further north on West Marine View Dr. This would allow the city to make Rucker Ave. north of Pacific through downtown into a slow-speed pedestrian and bike-friendly street like Colby.
- The city is asking the council to approve an expansion of the multi-family property tax exemption to encourage more housing development downtown.
- Lobsang Dargey's apartment/commercial building on Grand Ave. between Hewitt Ave. and Wall St. is still in receivership which means the development of the all-year farmers market and other commercial ventures is on hold. It is hoped that logjam will be broken soon because a developer has been allowed to sign an agreement to finish the street level portion of the building. Most of the apartments have now been rented.
- The city has found housing for the first six high-cost individuals under the housing-first recommendation of the Streets Initiative Task Force. The state legislature approved \$1,500,000. to help the city fund a 60-unit housing-first apartment. It will be tough to reach the goal of housing the first twenty people by June, but the mayor remains fully committed to this approach.
- The city will be switching from hybrid diesel buses to all-electric ones. The break-even point for the new buses is seven or eight years. Their life span is 15 or 20 years. The environment and the budget are both winners.
- Although he can't say who will be providing it yet, the mayor says that the first public commercial plane service will begin operating at Paine Field next year.
- Council Member Paul Roberts and the mayor both commented on Sound Transit Board's light rail expansion draft recommendation. They are both pleased that the plan allows for a route with stops serving the many jobs at and near Paine Field and Boeing, but are displeased that the timing for completing service to Everett has moved from 2033 to 2041. They asked for people to review the ST3 plans and comment online at <http://soundtransit3.org/survey>.

PGNA Executive Board Elections

PGNA Executive Board elections will be held at the May meeting. We are hoping to gain two more members. PGNA has seven board positions, but we currently have only five people filling them. Can you help? The duties of the individual positions don't matter as much as getting a full range of ideas and input as we sit down for one-hour monthly board meetings on the Monday nights a week after PGNA meetings. It's a good way to become involved and help decide what we make of our neighborhood. If you are interested in serving, please contact a board member or come to the May meeting.

Dean's Doodles

At our Port Gardner Neighborhood meeting in February, we had Cindy Barker from West Seattle Be Prepared talk to us about what her neighborhood has done over the past 5-6 years to prepare themselves to deal with earthquakes, massive power failures, and even the possibility of oil train explosions. Her neighborhood has created numerous “hubs” which would become nerve centers of the neighborhood during emergencies. They have “hub captains” and regular practices to iron out problems in communications, and to discover real issues in dealing with emergencies. I highly recommend that, if this concerns you, you check out their web site: <http://westseattlebeprepared.org>.

So what would the Port Gardner neighborhood be like if we were to do something like this?

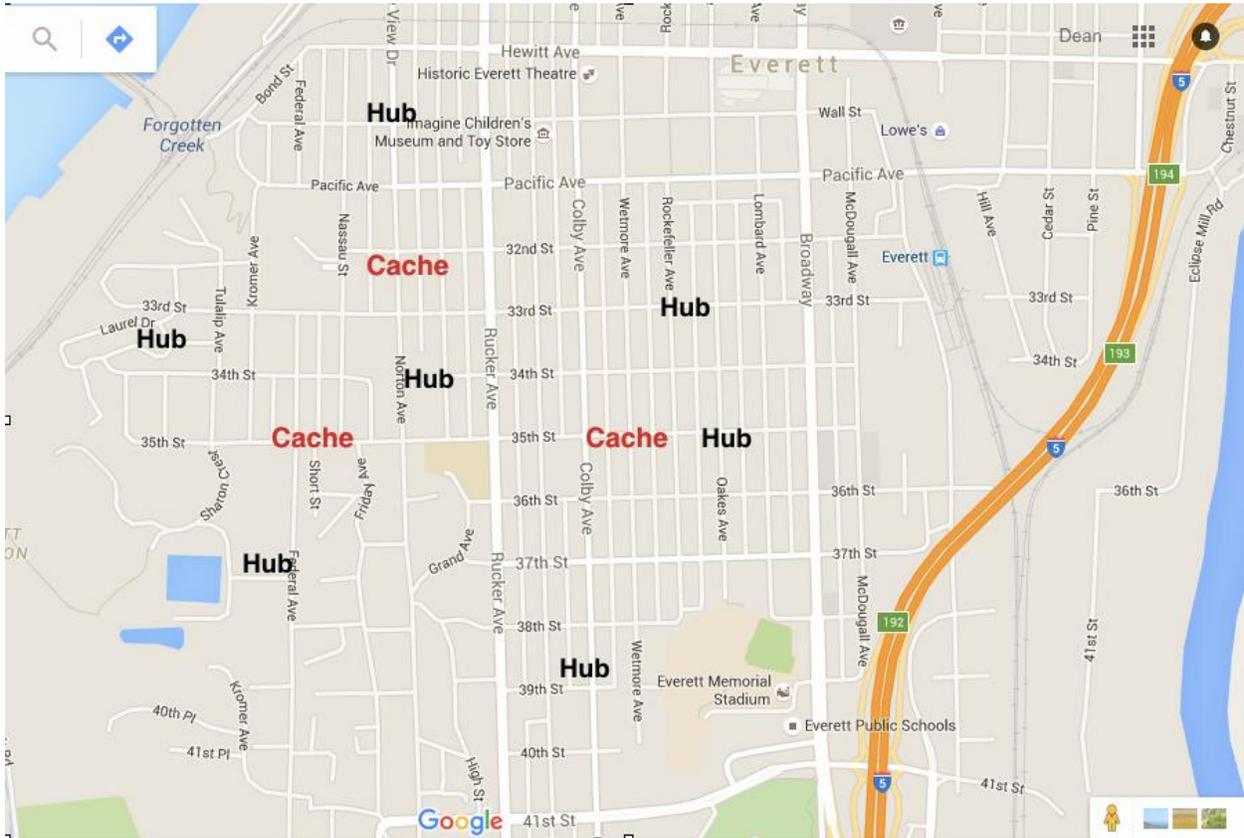
1. We would establish several “caches” of critical emergency tools and equipment that could be opened and distributed as needed by several designated people in the neighborhood. Equipment would include natural gas shutoff wrenches, common household tools like hammers, wrenches, and crowbars for prying, caution tape to warn people of dangers, communications devices that could be used in case cellular phone service is not available, etc. We have already begun to establish these caches.
2. We would designate certain sites where people could gather in emergencies to identify needs and resources available in the neighborhood. These are called “Hubs” and each would have a volunteer “hub captain” who would have initial responsibility for establishing the hub in an emergency. Hubs would have temporary shelters, tables, chairs, clipboards, and white boards for tracking emergency needs and resources.
3. We would identify where critical needs exist in our neighborhood—homes with elderly or invalid people with special needs. (Map your neighborhood).
4. We would identify neighborhood resources such as schools, community centers, etc. where people could be sheltered temporarily if their homes are damaged.
5. We would identify people living in our neighborhood with critical skills that might be needed in an emergency—CERT trained people, medical people, people with construction skills, ham radio people, kids with bikes.
6. We would have established communications channels with local police, fire, and medical organizations.

We could go on and on.

I have established a Facebook group where our needs and plans can be discussed: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1683907258561630/>, or just search for Port Gardner Be Prepared. This is a CLOSED group, but anyone can ask to join. Later, when we have developed more plans, we can open the group or share our work more widely. If you would like to join, just go to this address and request to join or contact me at deansmith4@me.com or 425-328-9979.

Twelve people in our neighborhood have already joined the Facebook group. In May I will be calling a meeting of these interested people to discuss next steps for making “Port Gardner Be Prepared.”

Here is a map of what our neighborhood plan might look like:



Project Homeless Connect Needs Donations

Last year Port Gardner neighbors were very generous in helping provide hygiene supplies to homeless individuals and families through Project Homeless Connect. This year, the one-day event will take place Thursday, July 14th, from 9am to 2pm at Everett High School, 2416 Colby Ave. Project Homeless Connect is an event designed to provide immediate services to people experiencing homelessness. Besides picking up donated supplies, and enjoying a good meal, participants are able to get many services such as medical or dental care, talk to someone about Social Security or veteran's benefits, have eyes and ears tested, or just get a good haircut. Last year hundreds of professionals and volunteers were able to help about a thousand individuals.

You can make a difference! Simply buy some hygiene supplies in **full-size containers**, and bring them to the May or June PGNA meeting. Items needed are: soap/body wash, 2-in-1 shampoo conditioner, body lotion, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, washcloths, and razors. They will be happily collected and taken to the event by Leisha Brown. If you would like to volunteer at the event on July 14, contact Leisha at leishabloomfield@hotmail.com.

Downtown Volunteer Planting Opportunity May 13

The Parks Department is inviting the public to help them plant the big downtown planters you see on many street corners. These planters come to life with color and brighten the downtown streets as the flowers come into bloom. This is a short, fun event that takes place **8:30–10 AM on Friday, May 13**. If you would like to help, meet at the corner of **Hewitt and Colby**.