



Photo courtesy <http://philip.greenspun.com>

WHO WE ARE

The FNC is a chartered organization representing the residents of Fremont [8th Ave NW to Stone Way N; 50th St to the Canal].

DUES

The FNC is a membership organization, with annual dues for the calendar year payable in January. If you didn't pay your dues yet this year, please fill in the membership form and send it in, along with your dues check.

FREMONT INFO ON THE 'NET

FNC has now an electronic mailing list, through which Fremont residents can be informed of the latest news and developments of the neighborhood. To join the FNC mailing list, send an e-mail to fnc@scn.org with subject SUBSCRIBE. More info on FNC can also be found at <http://www.scn.org/fnc>

FREMONT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS

Generally the fourth Monday of each month, 7:00-9:00 PM at History House, 790 N 34th St. The meeting dates for the next few months are:

February 27th
March 27th
April 24th (Annual Meeting)
May 22nd
June 26th
July 24th

The FREMONT Neighborhood Council

Incorporated 1980 Winter 2006 Newsletter

HELLO FREMONT!

As I go over our previous newsletters and skim through what we have been writing, I come across a common theme and that is change. Yes, Fremont has been changing for the past few years and the only thing different now is the pace of it, which seems to be faster than ever. On a stroll anywhere in Fremont (and particularly in lower Fremont), one comes across numerous developments, from traffic improvement projects to new houses, condominiums, shops, restaurants and other businesses. These changes have been for the most part positive and have made Fremont an even more vibrant and captivating place to live and work. But our neighborhood has also faced some challenges that have come with these rapid changes.

The Fremont Neighborhood Council (FNC) has been the voice of Fremont residents since 1980 and using an all volunteer force, has worked on a variety of issues over the years with the goal of improving the quality of life for the residents of Fremont. Most recently, FNC has

- Lead the effort to implement Residential Parking Zones in lower Fremont
- Allocated funds to install traffic circles on 36th St., east of Fremont Ave.
- Alleviated (or at least has tried to!) the impact of Fremont's increasingly popular nightlife on the neighborhood
- Moved ahead to develop affordable housing in Fremont
- Dealt with different land use and public safety issues
- Worked with the city on different park projects in Fremont
- And many more...

Not only can we improve on what we already do, there are also additional areas that we can become active in. But this can only happen with increased involvement from members of our community.

As old houses are torn down and replaced with multi-unit residences, the population of Fremont must be increasing. But fewer people have joined FNC in the past few years and even fewer have become involved. At this point, we are not short in funds, but more than ever, we need you to contribute your time and effort to issues that are important to Fremont and its residents. Only by working together will we be able to face our challenges and solve our problems. Please join us and help us represent Fremont to the City and its adjacent neighborhoods, and help keep Fremont a great place to live and work.

In this newsletter, we describe some of our activities in the past year. To find out more about FNC and how to get involved, please come to one of our meetings, held on the fourth Monday of every month, from 7-9 pm at the History House in Fremont (790 N. 34th St.). You may also check our website (www.scn.org/fnc) to learn more about our activities or join our electronic mailing list by sending an email to fnc@scn.org to stay current on issues relevant to Fremont.

Wishing you the best in 2006 and beyond,
Vafa Ghazi
President

RESIDENTIAL PARKING ZONE PETITION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Residential Parking Zone (RPZ) is a city of Seattle program that restricts non-resident parking with time limits, thereby easing congestion for residents in the zone (more information may be found at <http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/rpzprogram.htm>). In 2003, a parking study by Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) found that a large region of lower Fremont qualified for RPZ. That area ranges from 35th Ave. to 39th Ave. and from Albion Place to 2nd Ave. NW. Following a process devised by SDOT, a design committee made up of residents and business representatives met 5 times over 2004 and 2005 and crafted the following RPZ design proposal for the qualified area:

- West of Fremont Ave (excluding Fremont Ave)
 - 2 Hour parking 7AM-Midnight Mon-Sat on South/East side of the street
 - No parking Midnight to 4AM on both sides of the street every day
- East of Fremont Ave (including Fremont Ave) & north of N 36th St (including N 36th St)
 - 2 Hour parking 7AM-Midnight Mon-Sat on South/East side of the street
 - No Parking Midnight-4AM on South/East side of the street every day.
- East of Fremont Ave (excluding Fremont Ave) & south of N 36th St (excluding N 36th St)
 - 2 Hour Parking Mon-Sat 24 hours a day on both sides of the street.

Next, the design proposal needs to be presented to the residents of the proposed RPZ area in a petition. 60% of the residents must sign the petition in order for the RPZ to be implemented. Petitioning has been well under way on the west side of Fremont Ave., particularly on Evanston, Dayton, Francis and Phinney. While the volunteers have done a great job collecting signatures from residents interested in this proposal, the work is not complete and not all residents within these blocks have been contacted. If you are willing to volunteer some of your time to contact the remaining residents please let us know through e-mail at fnc@scn.org.

On the east side of Fremont Ave., the petitioning has not started yet. Volunteers are needed to help collect signatures in: 3600 block of Linden, North 36th St., 3600 block of Whitman, and the residential portions of Fremont Ave south of Bridge Way. If you are interested in helping to collect signatures on the east side of Fremont Ave., contact Julia DeBroux at 545-4483.

LIQUOR RELATED PROBLEMS IN FREMONT

In recent years, Fremont has become increasingly popular as a destination for its nightlife and late night entertainment. A number of new bars and nightclubs have opened up in Fremont, while the existing ones have also seen an increase in their popularity. During the same period, Fremont has been dealing with increasing alcohol-service related incidents, such as vandalism, litter, public drunkenness, urination on private property, noise, property destruction, dangerous and threatening behavior and other disturbances.

FNC has held a number of community meetings between bar owners and residents to help resolve these issues and address the concerns of Fremont residents. While there has been expressed willingness on the major bar owners' part to address these issues, little has changed and as a result, the neighborhood has continued to face the liquor related problems mentioned above.

As a result, FNC has adopted a policy to object to liquor license renewals of all major bars in Fremont (in addition to the existing policy of objecting to the issuance of any new alcohol licenses in Fremont), until the liquor related problems are addressed by the bar owners through the long-promised self-policing programs. While no new or renewal applications for liquor licenses have been denied because of this policy, these actions have resulted in most of those applicants signing the Good Neighbor Agreement with the city of Seattle. This is a step, however small, in the right direction. FNC is welcoming comments from residents and businesses in Fremont regarding the recent state of liquor related problems in the area and any proposals they may have to improve the situation.

Additionally, Mayor Greg Nickels has created a task force of club owners, neighborhood businesses and residents to research how comparable cities have resolved regulatory and public safety issues regarding nightclubs, including noise. The task force will then make recommendations on what steps Seattle should take to keep its neighborhoods vibrant places with nighttime entertainment while addressing the concerns of the people and businesses in these neighborhoods. As a member of this task force, I would like to ask you to email me at fnc@scn.org with any suggestions or recommendations that you may have for this task force. I will then try to present your ideas in our meetings. The task force is currently scheduled to present its final recommendations to the mayor by February 8th, 2006, although this deadline may be extended.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The FNC, in partnership with the Capitol Hill Housing Improvement Program, continues to move forward with the development of the surplus City Light site at 3622 Albion Place for affordable housing. In December, we were notified that we had received funding from the State Housing Trust Fund. This combined with the funding award from the City of Seattle last spring, means that all of our public funding is now in place. The final step is to apply for an allocation of Low Income Housing Tax Credits. Capitol Hill Housing is submitting this application on January 19th, and will know if it is successful by early February.

In the mean time, we have continued to work with the project architect to refine our proposed design. The program for the proposed housing, which we have developed in response to community needs, has not changed. In the 19 units proposed for the site, we will be serving households with incomes below 30%, 50% and 60% of area median income, or below \$23,000, \$39,000, and \$47,000 for families of four. One unit will be designated for live/work.

We hope to have all funding in place in the very near future. We are committed to participating in the City's public design review process, and additional formal meetings will be scheduled as part of the application and permitting process. Updates will continue to be provided at the FNC's regular monthly meetings, as well as in the neighborhood newsletter.

Questions or comments can be directed to Capitol Hill Housing's Director of Property Development, Susan Cary, at 206-329-7303, or April Thanos, Chair of FNC's Housing Committee, at 675-8761.

LAND USE

The biggest news in land use is that the QFC store at 40th and Stone Way has not been abandoned as some have rumored. The best information we have is that the project will be built starting some time in 2006.

New P-Patch in Fremont-Hazel Heights

Fremont's newest p-patch is located at N.W. 42nd Street and Baker Ave. N.W. A master plan was completed in December by Barker

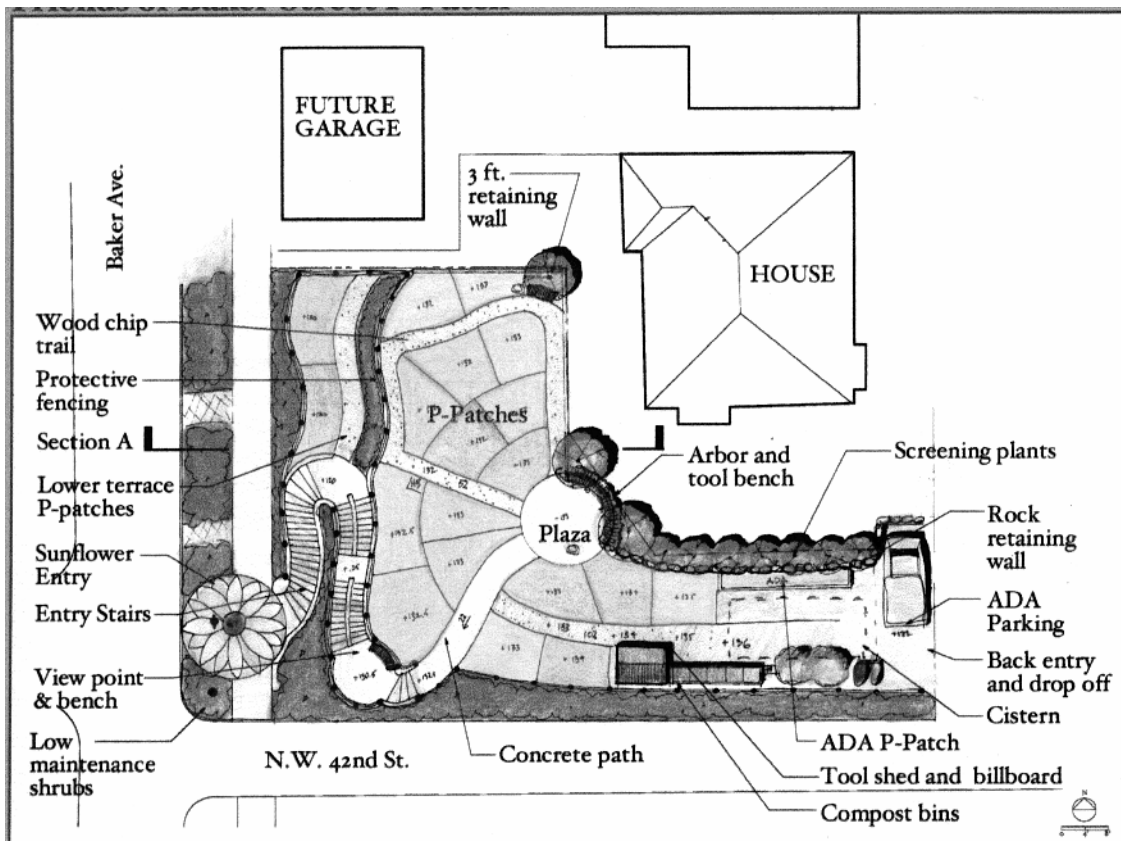
Architects. The volunteer committee agreed on the name Hazel Heights; Hazel Hurlbert was the last owner/resident of the house on the double lot. She and her husband, Don Hurlbert, had used the site for gardening for many years. The p-patch will have at least twenty garden plots, and a small viewing plaza and sitting area.

The P-Patch trust was able to purchase the lot with a generous donation by an anonymous neighbor. The City funded the master plan with a \$15,000 Small and Simple neighborhood matching fund grant. (the FNC contributed \$500.) The committee will be working next to get a "large" grant from the City, and contributions from as many neighbors, businesses, and foundations as possible in order to raise the funds needed to construct the p-patch.

If you are interested in signing up to be on the Hazel Heights waiting list for a p-patch, go to <http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/neighborhoods/ppatch/waitlist.htm>, or call 206-684-0264. If you wish to volunteer or contribute, please contact the committee chair, Dave Clarridge: dclarridge@aol.com, or call the FNC Board contact, Toby Thaler, 206-783-6443.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE FNC

Remember, your annual membership is due each year in January; the renewal form is included in this newsletter!



The Fremont Neighborhood Council

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www.scn.org/fnc

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**HAVE YOU RENEWED
YOUR MEMBERSHIP
THIS YEAR?**

Please come to the
February 27th meeting!

YOU CAN JOIN THE FREMONT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL!

Membership is open to residents of Fremont [between 8th Ave NW & Stone Way N, and from the Canal to 50th St]. Anyone else is welcome to become a supporter, with the same benefits as members but no voting power. Memberships are counted on an annual basis, with dues being paid every year in January. There is one vote per membership.

Name(s): _____
Address: _____
City: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

<p>Mailing List Promise: The FNC will <u>not</u> sell or distribute your name/address/phone/email. This info will be used by the FNC only to inform you about Fremont.</p>

Annual Dues: \$12/Individual \$20/Household \$50/Angel \$7/Senior-Low Income [Checks only please, no cash or money orders] Please make checks payable to FNC and mail to the return address on the address panel.

SDART DISASTER PREPAREDNESS TRAINING

SDART (Seattle Disaster Aid & Response Teams) is the City of Seattle's all-hazard personal and neighborhood preparedness program, see also http://www.cityofseattle.net/emergency_mgt. SDART's goal is to help residents and neighborhoods prepare for major emergencies. It is a shelter-in-place program.

Fremont Neighborhood Council Public Safety Committee would be happy to coordinate a SDART Disaster Preparedness Training Session(s) for Fremont neighbors, if there is enough interest. To sign up, please email: fnc@scn.org; please include the phrase "SDART SIGNUP" in the subject line and include in the text any dates you cannot attend (don't compromise your home security). Lead time for scheduling is usually a couple of months. Training sessions are only available on weekday evenings.

The purpose of the SDART training session will be to help you identify supplies you may need, suggest procedures and plans for you as well as your neighbors, explain the City of Seattle's role in the event of a disaster, and present you with your own SDART preparedness guide book.