



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 this past January, please fill in the membership form and send it in, along with a check for your annual dues.

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:

March 28

April 25 (Annual Meeting, at Fremont Baptist Church)

May 23

June 27

The FREMONT Neighborhood Council

Incorporated 1980 Spring 2005 Newsletter

HELLO FREMONT!

Over the last few months, as the full darkness of winter has been setting in both outside (thanks to the Earth's orbit) and inside (thanks to social malaise), I have had a lot of time to notice Fremont.

Fremont is a great place. We (Sooze and I) love living here. Fremont is warm and colorful and exciting and occasionally loud. I know I'm preaching to the choir here, since nearly everyone who gets this newsletter already lives in Fremont; after all, that is what the Fremont Neighborhood Council is all about!

Over the last year we have continued to strive for a better Fremont for all of us. We have worked on traffic improvements and parking controls, and struggled with the impacts of Fremont's growing popularity for (and number of) drinking establishments. We are moving ahead to develop affordable housing in Fremont. We continue to push for better bicycle routes and are still working on creating a Community Center for Fremont in Fremont. And that's just the beginning!

The FNC is here to represent you, the residents of Fremont. We take that pretty seriously, and so we continue to follow the issues of the last thirty years: zoning, development, housing, and transportation. I think that we each make a difference. The combination of our efforts makes the world a better place. A better place in which to live, a better place to raise children, a better place to be a cat or a dog. A world where each person has the chance to grow up, flourish and pass that world on to the future.

As I wander around in the darkness each evening (okay, as the dog leads me around by the leash) I have noticed some delightful changes in Fremont. This winter there seem to be quite a few more people who have joined us in leaving their decorative outdoor light on year round. Thank you each and every one of you---it brings a smile to my face to see your displays of an evening. Now that the (amazingly) early spring is upon us, I can see that lots more gardeners are taking the time to terrace and shape their growing spaces with rocks and bricks of various sorts. Each time I see some scraggly grass and moss, or overgrown ivy, replaced with flowers and herbs my heart soars. Planting a tree is a gift to the future, a promise of care for the world to come---but planting a garden is a gift to your friends and neighbors right now, which we can all enjoy with our eyes of an evening.

Our public spaces are getting major expansions --- Peak Park is coming to fruition. There is hope once gain for the extra lot beside the Slippery Slope. Our major mural is looking spiffy after the fall cleanup.

Please join me walking/working/wandering about Fremont. To paraphrase a certain Fremonster, "a neighborhood is what happens when a bunch of neighbors come together".

Please join the FNC. Send a few dollars for membership. Come to a few meetings. Join a committee. Talk to your neighbors. Lend your hand(s) --- Fremont is a place for all of us, where we can all find something worthwhile to be doing.

-Benjamin k Grossman, President

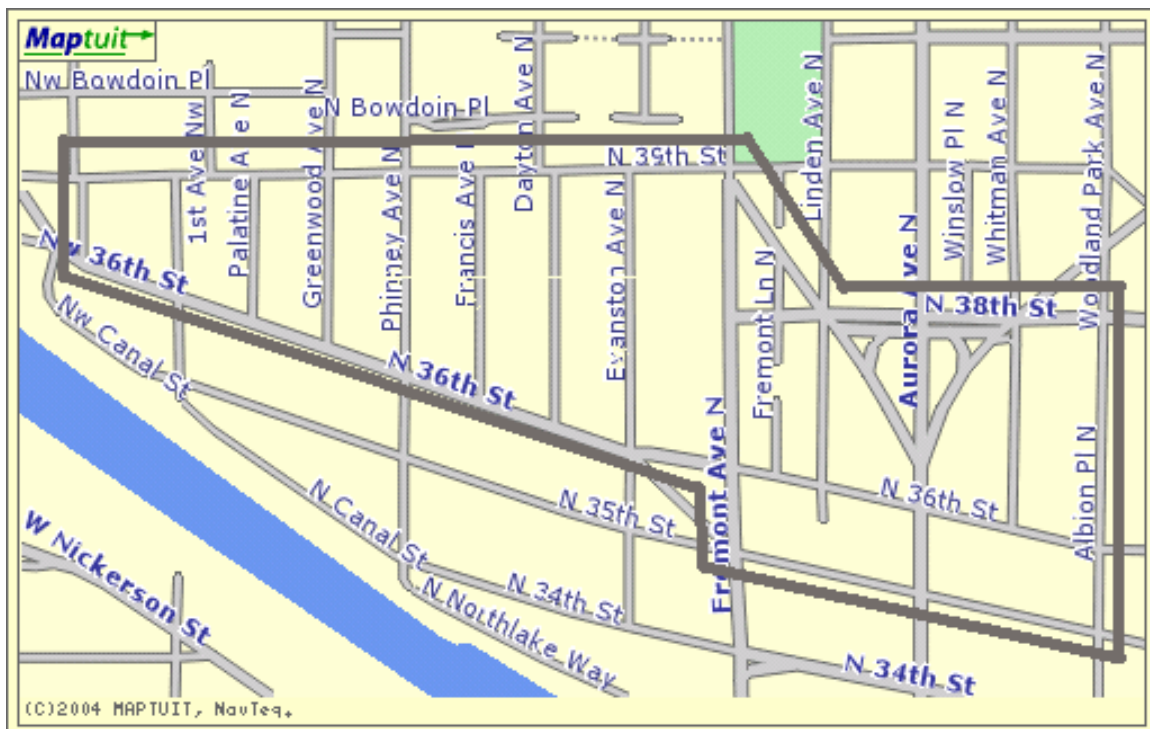
RESIDENTIAL PARKING ZONE

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. The Fremont RPZ has been in the works for four years; in 2003, a parking study by Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) found that a large region of lower Fremont qualifies for RPZ. The area that qualified ranged from 35th Avenue to 39th Avenue and from Albion Place to 2nd Avenue NW (see map below). RPZ restrictions will not affect parking in front of commercial buildings. More information on RPZ may be found at <http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/rpzprogram.htm>.

A series of public meetings kicked off in July 2004. The first one, organized by SDOT, was an informational meeting to familiarize the residents with the process and to form the design committee, the task of which would be to craft an RPZ design. The design committee, made up of 9 residents and 9 business representatives, held five meetings in Fremont Community Church from last October until February to discuss various possible options for RPZ and to come up with the best design that would meet the needs of both residents and businesses in lower Fremont. The meetings, all open to the public, were well attended with about 30-40 people at each meeting. Members of public got their chance to express their thoughts on what they expected from an RPZ and how it would address their problems. After hours of discussions, the design committee was able to agree on the following design:

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

The design is now being submitted to SDOT. In the next step of the process, the design proposal will 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. After a petition has been validated, SDOT will make a final decision which can be appealed within 15 days once the public has been notified.



Map of Fremont's Proposed Residential Parking Area

NEW P-PATCH SPROUTS IN FREMONT

In the heart of West Fremont, on a bluff with astounding views of the ship canal and parts west, lies the newest aspiring P-Patch in Seattle. Part of an imminently developable double lot at Baker Avenue and 42nd Northwest, the site was saved by the committed work of neighborhood activists-including Neighborhood Council Board Members Toby Thaler and Pete Hanning. Thanks in part to a very generous donation from an anonymous Fremont resident, it's now owned by the P-Patch Trust, and will join the Whirled Peas Patch the Neighborhood Council helped found a decade ago in East Fremont.

One of Fremont's last unbuilt lots, the site has been farmed and gardened since it was first settled. With old overgrown flower and garden beds, wild lilacs and rambling roses buried but alive among the blackberries, and old fruit trees still producing, the lot definitely has an excellent pedigree for a prospective P-Patch! Beehives were kept by longtime residents Hazel and Don Hurlbert, and there are even rumors of goats and cows grazing before the house next door was built in the 1950s. Now your help is needed to make this Fremont's next amazing community garden.

In late winter or early spring 2005, the P-Patch Trust, neighborhood activists and P-Patch staff will start a community design process. With its amazing views but potentially problematic unsecured slope and difficult alley access, the site has enormous potential but could be rather expensive to construct. As part of a community design process, neighbors and other volunteers will likely work with a landscape architect to figure out how to make a beautiful new P-Patch on the site. After costing out the design elements, the community will be ready to begin fundraising for the project.

P-Patch Program Director Rich MacDonald notes, "While there is no set time for construction, projects of this complexity typically take at least a year before plants are in the ground." As with any new P-Patch, plots ultimately are assigned to the people who work on the project, and then to others on the wait list.

Please contact the City P-Patch Program to volunteer, to sign up for the wait list for this site, or for further information: www.cityofseattle.net/neighborhoods/ppatch/ or 684-0264. Be sure to note you are interested in "Fremont West at 42nd & Baker NW," since this P-Patch site is too new to have a formal name yet.

LIQUOR-RELATED PROBLEMS IN FREMONT

For the past two years, 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 to help resolve these issues and address the concerns of Fremont residents. Last April, FNC invited the liquor license holders in Fremont to a meeting, so they could hear the concerns of Fremont residents. As a starting point, FNC asked the liquor license holders to support two programs to address these problems:

- Signing a Good Neighbor Agreement with the City of Seattle, pledging to follow a set of guidelines that are devised by the city to mitigate problems around bars and night clubs throughout the city
- Hiring and deployment of trained security personnel during the high-problem hours to patrol the areas immediately surrounding the bars for any potential unruly behavior

While there was expressed willingness on the major bar owners' part to support these programs and in particular, help hire trained security personnel through the Fremont Chamber of Commerce or some other mechanism, as a group the liquor license holders failed to implement the program. 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 already 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 mentioned above. FNC is carefully monitoring the situation regarding disturbances in lower Fremont and will take further actions, if necessary. FNC also welcomes comments from residents and businesses in Fremont regarding recent state of liquor related problems in the area.

FREMONT BRIDGE & BRIDGE APPROACH IMPROVEMENTS

Big changes are in store for the Fremont Bridge approaches. Starting this summer, preliminary construction will begin on the replacement of the concrete structures that connect the Fremont Bridge to Fremont Avenue. The FNC has been actively involved in the design process and worked with SDOT and representatives of the bicycling community to ensure that the finished project will result in improved conditions for cyclists in Fremont. The first changes cyclists will see include new bike lanes on west bound 34th Street between Stone Way and Fremont Avenue and on Fremont Avenue between 36th and 46th streets. For more information on the Bridge project, visit the City's website at: <http://www.cityofseattle.net/transportation/fremontbridgeapproaches.htm>.

BICYCLE ISSUES

The FNC has continued to work towards better cycling conditions throughout the neighborhood by participating in the Seattle Bicycle Facilities Collaborative. The Bicycle Alliance of Washington and Seattle City Council Member Richard Conlin recently sponsored the collaborative to identify and prioritize additions and improvements to the city's bicycling facilities. A representative from the FNC board served as team leader for the Northwest sector of the city and several improvements were recommended for the Fremont neighborhood. Key recommendations include the striping of a west-bound bike lane on 34th street west of Fremont Ave, changes to the drainage on the Burke Gilman trail near Sound Mind and Body (notoriously known as "Lake BGT"), the construction of a drinking fountain in Ship Canal Park, and bike lanes on 8th NW and 3rd NW. For a PDF copy of the report, email Matt Stevenson at mattstevenson.geo@yahoo.com.

If you are a bike commuter or recreational cyclist and have ideas for how to improve cycling conditions and facilities in Fremont, please contact Matt or any other board member with your suggestions. Better yet, come to a meeting and share them with us in person!

WALLINGFORD DESIGN GUIDELINES IMPACT EAST FREMONT

In the late 1990s, Fremont prepared and the City Council adopted as part of its comprehensive plan the Fremont Neighborhood Plan. A plan for Wallingford was also prepared.

As a result of City planners' drawing lines on a map without talking to residents first, the Fremont and Wallingford planning areas overlap. And as a result of City Council refusal to resolve the "border dispute," the problem was perpetuated with Wallingford's urban village overlapping on Fremont between Stone Way and Aurora north of 40th Street.

In theory, Wallingford is supposed to work with Fremont on any land use planning that affects the overlap area. In practice, coordination has been rare. The most recent example are proposed neighborhood specific design review guidelines for Wallingford. Design review guidelines affect most developments in commercial zones, such as along Stone Way, often requiring changes in projects, especially when they are adjacent to single family blocks.

Wallingford's proposed guidelines were prepared without any communication with the Fremont Neighborhood Council or Fremont Works, the neighborhood group overseeing the Fremont Neighborhood Plan, nor with any of the affected residents in the affected blocks of East Fremont. A number of blocks along Midvale and Whitman Aves. have "edges" where single family zoning is adjacent to land susceptible to high density commercial/residential development. It is these blocks that need specific protection under the design review process.

The FNC Land Use Committee has been working with Team Wallingford to try to resolve problems in Wallingford's proposal. On March 3, The City Council's Urban Development and Planning Committee (Chair, Peter Steinbrueck) held a public hearing to consider Wallingford's proposal. The Committee meets to consider amendments on March 9 at 2 PM. (new Municipal Bldg. at 5th and James), and is likely to vote on the proposal on March 23. If you would like further information, please contact Toby Thaler (Fremont@louploup.net) or Councilmember Steinbrueck).

[All neighborhood plans are available at <http://www.seattle.gov/dclu/planning/comprehensive/cnppackages.htm>. All design review documents, including Wallingford's proposal, are at http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/dclu/Publications/Design_Review_Guidelines/default.htm]

FNC MEMBERSHIP

The FNC exists to represent the interests of the residents of Fremont. If you live here, we would like to see you join us and help us in making Fremont the best place to live in the whole world. We all live in neighborhoods and it is our neighborhoods that frame and support our lives. You can help make Fremont into the kind of place that refreshes your spirit. Or, you can join your neighbors in the Fremont Neighborhood Council and strengthen your community's voice. The Fremont Neighborhood Council has been speaking out on behalf of Fremont residents since 1980. The FNC counts membership on an annual basis, with dues coming up every year in January for the full calendar year. Please join us, so we can continue to represent the neighborhood to the City, our neighbors (Ballard, Phinney Ridge, Wallingford, Queen Anne), and help keep Fremont a great place to live, work and play.

FNC maintains an electronic mailing list through which Fremont residents can be informed of the latest news and developments of the neighborhood. The list now has about 225 members and is growing. To join the FNC mailing list, send an email to fnc@scn.org with subject SUBSCRIBE. FNC also has a website that contains information about the FNC, meeting dates and locations, minutes of the past meetings, copies of newsletters and links to other Fremont sites. The address is: <http://www.scn.org/fnc>.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN FREMONT

The FNC, in partnership with the Capitol Hill Housing Improvement Program (CHHIP), continues to move forward with the development of the surplus City Light site at 3622 Albion Place for affordable housing.

Last July, we initiated a community meeting for early design guidance that was held under the auspices of the City's public design review process. At that meeting, a number of design-related comments were made with the intent of minimizing the impact of a new project on Albion Place and concentrating access on Woodland Park Avenue. Since then, CHHIP and the FNC have been working with the project architect to refine the proposed design in response to community input, consistent with current City zoning requirements for the site. We have also met with a variety of public and private funding sources in order to determine the optimum program for the proposed housing in response to community needs. In the 19 units proposed for the site, households served would have 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 would be designated for live/work.

On January 20th, a special community meeting was held to update neighborhood residents on project status. While the community in general has been very supportive of the proposed project, a few nearby residents have expressed concern about the type of development allowed under current zoning. Funding applications to the City and the State are in the process of being prepared, and we hope to have all funding in place early in 2006. We are committed to participating in the City's public design review process, and additional formal meetings will be scheduled in the future as part of the application and permitting process. Ongoing updates will continue to be provided at the FNC's regular monthly board meetings as well.

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



Map showing the location of the affordable housing project at 3622 Albion Place N.

The Fremont Neighborhood Council
3518 Fremont Ave N #111
Seattle WA 98103-8814

www.scn.org/fnc

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ANNUAL MEETING

APRIL 25, 7:00-9:00PM;
AT FREMONT BAPTIST
CHURCH, 717 N 36TH ST.

INCLUDES "STATUS OF
FREMONT ISSUES",
AND SNACKS!

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/Free 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.

FREMONT PARKS

People are moving to Fremont. Identified as an urban village, Fremont is slated to accept its fair share of density as the City of Seattle grows in the future. As part of that growth it is important that we have the parks and open space needed to accommodate that growth and let us have a place to enjoy the world around us. There has long been recognition of the lack of adequate parks space in Fremont and in the past 6 years we have seen the acquisition of two new parks, the development of one of them, and a new P-patch. This is an exciting time as we watched the creation of Ernst Park, next to the library, the acquisition and planning of Fremont Peak Park in upper Fremont and a new P-patch in the Ross neighborhood.

But we are not done. In this coming year community groups are applying for funding for two park projects in Fremont: 1) to develop the Fremont Peak Park, and 2) to acquire the property to the west of the newly created Ernst Park (beside the library) and to incorporate it into the new park.

Get involved! If you are interested in Fremont parks please contact Chip Nevins at chipnevins.wa@netzero.net to find out how you help.