AMBERGLEN CONNECTIONS

A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER SERVICING THE RESIDENTS OF AMBERGLEN & SPONSORED BY AMBERGLEN GOOD WORKS





FEATURED ARTICLES

THE WASHINGTON STATE
INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL
(WSIKF) PAGE 3

FOSTER CARE RESOLUTION IN
WASHINGTON STATE
HIGHLIGHTING
LADONNA KIRKPATRICK
PAGE 4-5

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PUBLISHERS/EDITORS	2
NOTES	
WA STATE KITE FESTIVAL	3
FOSTER CARE	4
RESOLUTION IN	
WASHINGTON STATE	
2024CONRES - 43 - PASS	5
- HUM - WASHINGTON	
STATE FOSTER CARE	
System	
AMBERGLEN FAMILIES'	6
EXPERIENCE WITH FOSTER	
CARE	
AGW SUMMER CALENDAR	7
AGW COMMUNITY	8
SAFETY EVENT	
ADDITIONAL AGW	9
SUMMER QUARTER	
AMBERGLEN COMMUNITY	10
BENCHES PROPOSAL	
AMBERGLEN NEW FURRY	11-12
FAMILY MEMBERS	
SUMMER RECIPES	13-15
SUDOKU	16
REAL ESTATE	17
WELCOME BASKET & HEART-FELT NOTES	18

PUBLISHERS/EDITORS NOTES

GREETINGS AMBERGLEN NEIGHBORS!

WE REALIZE IT HAS BEEN A WHILE SINCE OUR LAST LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY, BUT A LOT HAS HAPPENED IN OUR LIVES REQUIRING IMMEDIATE ATTENTION. MY BEST FRIEND AND THE LOVE OF MY LIFE LOST HIS MOTHER IN JANUARY. POLLY (MARY) LATHAM, RON'S MOTHER WAS A WONDERFUL WOMAN AND SHE LIVED A LONG AND FULFILLING LIFE, 94.

COVID TOOK HER FROM US IN EARLY JANUARY. A VERY DEAR FRIEND, RON FOSTER LOST HIS LIFE TO CANCER IN APRIL, LEAVING BEHIND HIS PARTNER OF MANY YEARS, CINDY, WHO IS STILL STRUGGLING WITH HIS DEPARTURE. AND THEN RON'S YOUNGER BROTHER, ANDY PASSED IN MAY FROM CANCER. EXCUSE MY "FRENCH" BUT SO FAR THIS YEAR HAS KIND OF SUCKED FOR US. HOWEVER, WHEN WE WALK DOWN THE STREETS OF OUR BEAUTIFUL COMMUNITY, OUR WONDERFUL NEIGHBORS WAVE AT US, STOP AND TALK WITH US AND SHARE THEIR LIVES WITH US, WE KNOW THERE IS NO OTHER PLACE WE WOULD RATHER BE AND LIVE BUT HERE IN AMBERGLEN. THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE FOR US AND BEING A PART OF OUR AMBERGLEN FAMILY! WE LOVE YOU ALL!

On a lighter note, the twins are sure growing and learning! We have them every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 6am to 4pm or 6:30pm if their daddy is on call. Ron and I had the opportunity to join the twins and their parents at their swimming lessons a few Sundays ago, and since their mommy, Brandy just got a beautiful tattoo to represent her daughters, she could not go into the water with them so I went in her place, What a joy! I am so glad I did that!



HANNAH AMBER



SCARLETT JANE

Due to our busy lives, Ron and I have committed to publishing the newsletter on a quarterly bases rather than monthly. There will be four newsletters per year, Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter.

HOPE YOUR SUMMER HAS BEEN GREAT SO FAR!

RESPECTFULLY,

DEB AND RON

Washington State International Kite Festival (WSIKF)

THE WASHINGTON STATE INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL (WSIKF) IS A WEEK-LONG KITE CELEBRATION AND COMPETITION HELD ANNUALLY DURING THE THIRD FULL WEEK OF AUGUST SINCE 1981. IT IS RENOWNED IN INTERNATIONAL KITE MAGAZINES AS ONE OF THE BEST PLACES IN THE WORLD TO FLY KITES. THERE IS RARELY A DAY THAT GOES BY WITHOUT THERE BEING A KITE FLYING ON THE BEACH.

STARTING ON MONDAY AND ENDING ON SUNDAY IN AUGUST, PARTICIPANTS AND SPECTATORS ALIKE WILL FIND THE SKIES ABLAZE WITH COLOR, HIGH FLYING ACTION, AND CHOREOGRAPHED FLIGHT PIECES. WSIKF IS THE LARGEST AND LONGEST RUNNING KITE FESTIVAL IN NORTH AMERICA LOCATED IN LONG BEACH, WA; ALSO KNOWN AS THE "KITE FLYING CAPITAL OF THE UNITED STATES." WSIKF DRAWS FAMOUS KITE FLYERS, DESIGNERS, BUILDERS, AND MANUFACTURERS FROM ALL AROUND THE WORLD. WITH A TOTAL DRAW OF AROUND 150,000 PEOPLE ANNUALLY, YOU ARE SURE TO BE AWED BY THE KITE FLYING ADVENTURES.

In addition to the flying adventures of the beach, WSIKF closes and takes over the Bolstad approach located at the center of town. On the approach you will find local and local-ish food and goods vendors, kite vendors, and the Music Festival on 3 separate stages starting on Tuesday and going through until Saturday. There is also the Beer Garden, and Activities tent that offers presentations from local artists & craftspeople, as well as free activities for the kids.

THE WASHINGTON STATE INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL HAS SUCCEEDED BECAUSE IT IS AN INCREDIBLE MARRIAGE BETWEEN THE WORLD KITE MUSEUM, A LARGE VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION AND THE CITY OF LONG BEACH. WSIKF IS A FREE EVENT FOR THE PUBLIC TO PARTICIPATE IN OR WATCH. WSIKF IS PRESENTED BY THE WORLD KITE MUSEUM LOCATED IN LONG BEACH, WA. PROCEEDS OF WSIKF GO TO BENEFIT CONTINUING WORKS AND EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS OF THE WORLD KITE MUSEUM AS WELL AS OTHER PARTNERING COMMUNITY GROUPS.

PLEASE KEEP THIS EVENT IN MIND WHEN YOU ARE PLANNING YOUR SUMMER FAMILY FUN. I KNOW WE WILL!. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!







FOSTER CARE RESOLUTION IN WASHINGTON STATE

In the United States, more than 400,000 children are in foster care on a given day. The most vulnerable children, those who are abused and neglected in society, are most typically the ones falling through the cracks of a broken foster care system. While the goal of the child welfare system should be clear-placing children in the most safe and nurturing environments possible, the pathways and policies in place to do just that are often ineffective, unsuccessful, or inconsistent.

LADONNA KIRKPATRICK, A FORMER FOSTER CHILD, PRESENTED A SPEECH AT THE WASHINGTON STATE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION ON JUNE 23, 2024 TO VOICE THE ISSUES WITH OUR FOSTER CARE SYSTEM IN HOPES TO GET LEGISLATION PASSED TO REFORM THE SYSTEM. HERE IS HER SPEECH:

MY NAME IS LADONNA KIRKPATRICK, WRITER OF THE FOSTER CARE RESOLUTION. I WAS IN AND OUT, MOSTLY IN FOSTER CARE FROM BIRTH UNTIL I AGED OUT AT 18 YEARS OLD.

FROM A YOUNG AGE I UNDERSTOOD THAT MY OUTCOME WAS GOING TO BE A STATISTIC. I MAY NOT HAV E REALIZED WHAT THAT EXACTLY MEANT FOR ME UNTIL I WAS ABOUT 15 YEARS OLD, BUT I WAS KEENLY AWARE THAT THE DECK WAS STACKED AGAINST ME SOLELY BECAUSE I WAS A FOSTER KID.

At the age of 15, I gained a deeper understanding of the significance of the situation and actively resisted it.

Unfortunately I have been forced to face the fact that I fell right into many of the statistics presented to you in this resolution. I gradually came to the realization that our government does not prioritize the well-being and outcomes of OUR foster children.

THROUGHOUT THE YEARS, I HAVE WITNESSED LEGISLATIVE BODIES ENACT SIGNIFICANT BILLS WITH THE INTENTION OF ACHIEVING POSITIVE OUTCOMES, ONLY TO OBSERVE THEIR SUBSEQUENT SHORTCOMINGS. IN NUMEROUS INSTANCES, THE LACK OF A ROBUST SYSTEM TO ENSURE THE EFFICACY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF THESE BILLS AND PROGRAMS HAS IMPEDED THEIR POTENTIAL IMPACT. CONSEQUENTLY, THESE EFFORTS ARE PERCEIVED AS MEANINGLESS AND MERELY SYMBOLIC GESTURES, WHEREIN POLITICIANS ACKNOWLEDGE ISSUES WITHOUT IMPLEMENTING TANGIBLE SOLUTIONS.

I AM HEREBY PROPOSING A RESOLUTION TO BE ADDED TO OUR PLATFORM, URGING ALL DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATURES
TO DILIGENTLY REVIEW AND ENACT NEW LEGISLATION THAT INCORPORATES EFFECTIVE SYSTEMS. SEVERAL STATES HAVE
SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTED PROGRAMS THAT HAVE YIELDED POSITIVE OUTCOMES. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE TAKE NOTE OF
THESE SUCCESSES AND INTRODUCE CHILDREN IN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM ARE REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES BY THE STATE DUE
TO SITUATIONS THAT POSE A RISK TO THEIR SAFETY AND WELL-BEING. WHEN THE STATE ASSUMES RESPONSIBILITY FOR THESE
CHILDREN, IT HAS AN OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE THEM WITH THE NECESSARY SUPPORT AND RESOURCES TO ENSURE THEIR SUCCESS
AND PREVENT NEGATIVE OUTCOMES. IT SHOULD NOT AUTOMATICALLY DOOM US TO FAILURE.

I AM OFTEN REFERRED TO AS A ONE-PERCENTER. FEW FOSTER KIDS NAVIGATE THE HAZARDS OF THEIR UNIQUE EXISTENCE WITHOUT FINDING THEMSELVES HOMELESS, INCARCERATED, ADDICTED. MOST ADULTS WHO'VE AGED OUT CAN'T ESCAPE POVERTY. ONLY ONE PERCENT FINISH COLLEGE, ACHIEVE ECONOMIC STABILITY, AND DON'T REPEAT THE CYCLE.

THIS ACHIEVEMENT IS THE RESULT OF MY UNWAVERING DETERMINATION AND RELENTLESS EFFORTS IN OVERCOMING NUMEROUS CHALLENGES. HOWEVER, THE FACT THAT I BELONG TO THIS EXCLUSIVE GROUP HIGHLIGHTS THE UNFORTUNATE REALITY THAT MANY OTHERS, THROUGH NO FAULT OF THEIR OWN, HAVE BEEN LET DOWN BY THE SYSTEM. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE ADDRESS THIS SYSTEMIC FAILURE.

HEAR THE VOICES OF CHILDREN SUBJECTED TO THE CURRENT FOSTER CARE SYSTEM. CLICK HOME (MOCKINGBIRDSOCIETY.ORG)

If you'd like to know about LaDonna and help support this good work in Vancouver or the State Legislature, contact Chuck Polacek at 11210 NE 68th Avenue here in Amberglen or reach out to LaDonna Kirkpatrick at her Email: Ldrk18dems@gmail.com

Resolution in support of codifying into law and fully funding high quality care and best practices for the youth in the Washington State Foster Care System.

WHEREAS: THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 8,000 CHILDREN LIVING IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE IN WASHINGTON STATE. (CITATION 1)

Whereas: Children and Youth in foster care, both in Washington and Nationwide, tend to have poorer outcomes than other children and youth, including: one-third of children or youth in foster care in Washington State who age out of foster care become homeless within three years; researchers have found that between 31% and 46% of youth exiting foster care experience homelessness by age 26. A study conducted in Washington State found that approximately one quarter of youth that exited foster care at age 17 or older became homeless within 12 months of exit. (citation 2)

Whereas: Young adults in Foster Care in Washington State graduate from high school at a rate of 53%, compared to 82% of the general student population. (citation 3)Studies have found that just 3-4% of former foster youth obtain a four-year college degree and between 2 and 6% receive a two-year degree. (citation 4)

WHEREAS: NATIONWIDE, ABOUT 80% OF YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE RECEIVE A PSYCHIATRIC OR MENTAL HEALTH DIAGNOSIS COMPARED TO THE FACT THAT ONLY 20% OF NON-FOSTER CHILDREN HAVE MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES WITHIN THE GENERAL POPULATION. (CITATION 5)

WASHINGTON STATE STATISTICS SHOW THAT NEARLY ONE IN FOUR YOUNG ADULTS WILL BE ARRESTED WITHIN ONE YEAR OF AGING OUT OF FOSTER CARE. (CITATION 6)

WHEREAS: THE NATIONAL FOSTER YOUTH INSTITUTE REPORTED THAT 7 OUT OF 10 GIRLS WHO AGE OUT OF FOSTER CARE BECOME PREGNANT BY 21 YEARS OLD. WHAT IS CLEAR IS THAT YOUNG WOMEN IN FOSTER CARE, AND THOSE WHO HAVE AGED OUT, ARE AT A MUCH GREATER RISK OF TEEN PREGNANCY THAN THOSE WITH STABLE FAMILY LIFE. THIS RATE IS 2.75 TIMES HIGHER THAN THE GENERAL POPULATION. (CITATION 7)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE WASHINGTON STATE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION ENDORSES AND URGES THE WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES (DCYF) TO IMPLEMENT, AND OUR LEGISLATORS TO PASS LEGISLATION TO CODIFY LAW AND FULLY FUND HIGH QUALITY CARE AND BEST PRACTICES FOR FOSTER YOUTH UNTIL AGE 26.

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AMBERGLEN FAMILIES' EXPERIENCE WITH FOSTER CARE

THE AMBERGLEN COMMUNITY IS NOT A STRANGER TO THE CURRENT FOSTER CARE SYSTEM. THERE ARE A FEW FAMILIES THAT HAVE HAD INVOLVEMENT WITH THE CURRENT SYSTEM AND SOME OF THEM WANTED TO SHARE THEIR STORIES.

KAREN WILLIAMS-

OUR FAMILY HAS BEEN BLESSED TWICE BY THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM.

Juliet is my daughter-in-law. She is the best wife ever to my son Landon. She has not had an easy life. She was taken away from her mother at grade school age due to her mother's drug use and placed into foster care. She was lucky. She got placed with a woman who later adopted her. Landon met Juliet at Magic Mountain, where they both worked. She became my daughter-in-law in 2013, and was diagnosed with MS in 2015. She is an Amazing, Strong woman that I feel lucky to have in our family.

Finn is our grandson. He was born with some complications, and needed shots each day as a newborn. His mother was not up to the task, and put him up for foster care right after birth. Our son-in-law, Don, was the pharmacist at the hospital at the time and would prepare finn's shots each day. He grew attached to finn and asked to foster him. Finn needed extra care, and with Don being a pharmacist and his wife, April, being a nurse - it was a perfect match. They were able to adopt him about a year later. He is 8 years old now and has been a wonderful addition to our family.

RON ROWE-

I AM A RESIDENT IN AMBERGLEN WHO HAD A HOUSE BUILT FROM THE GROUND UP, AND MOVED HERE WITH MY WIFE DEB. I HAVE A SON, JUSTIN, WHO I AND MY FIRST WIFE ADOPTED. I FEEL VERY STRONGLY THAT THERE ARE WAY TOO MANY KIDS OUT THERE WITHOUT SUPPORT THAT ALLOWS THEM TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN LIFE. THE SON WAS GIVEN UP FOR ADOPTION ON THE DAY OF HIS BIRTH BY HIS BIOLOGICAL MOTHER IN A WAY THAT DID NOT REVEAL EITHER HER OR THE FATHER'S IDENTITY. JUSTIN WAS PLACED WITH THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR ADOPTION, AND HE WAS FIRST PLACED IN A FOSTER HOME FOR THREE MONTHS SO THAT THE STATE COULD DO THE DILIGENCE NECESSARY BY LAW TO TRY TO FIND HIS PARENTS TO GAIN THEIR PERMISSION. THEIR PERMISSION WAS NEEDED TO ENSURE THERE WOULD NOT BE LAWSUITS FILED LATER BY EITHER OF THEM FOR CUSTODY, AND TO DETERMINE POSSIBLE VISITATION OPTIONS.

MY FORMER WIFE AND I WERE LIVING IN OLYMPIA, WA. WE CONTACTED THE STATE TO GET ON THE LIST OF PEOPLE WAITING FOR A CHILD TO ADOPT. WE SPECIFIED THAT WE WERE WILLING TO ADOPT ANY HEALTHY CHILD UNDER THE AGE OF FIVE. WE DID NOT CARE ABOUT THE SEX OR RACE OF THE CHILD. WE WANTED A YOUNG CHILD BECAUSE WE WANTED TO HAVE AS MUCH INFLUENCE AS EARLY IN LIFE AS POSSIBLE TO ENSURE THE MAXIMUM POSSIBILITY OF INFLUENCING THE CHILD TO BE HAPPY AND GROWING TOWARDS SELF WORTH AND INDEPENDENCE. WE GOT A CALL FROM STATE OFFICIALS WHO TOLD US THAT THEY HAD A THREE-MONTH-OLD BABY BOY WHO WAS IN A FOSTER HOME IN BELLINGHAM, WA. THEY SUGGESTED THAT WE COME UP ON FRIDAY TO MEET THE CHILD AND BE WITH HIM FOR THE WEEKEND TO SEE IF WE ALL WERE COMFORTABLE AND COMPATIBLE WITH THE SITUATION. WE AGREED TO DO THAT AND, AFTER A WEEKEND WITH LITTLE JOHNNY DOE AS HE WAS BEING CALLED, AND HE WAS SO DELIGHTFUL AND HAPPY THAT THERE WAS NO WAY WE WERE EVER GOING TO GIVE HIM BACK TO ANYONE. BUT, TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, IF HE WOULD HAVE BEEN GRUMPY AND SAD, IT WOULD NOT HAVE MATTERED.

JUSTIN WAS RAISED IN AN ENVIRONMENT OF LOVE AND SUPPORT THAT ENABLED HIM TO BECOME A VERY MATURE AND RESPONSIBLE ADULT. HE IS A GREAT FATHER TO HIS SONS, AND I AM VERY PROUD OF HIM. DEBBIE AND I TREASURE THE TIME WE HAVE WITH HIM. I BELIEVE THAT BEING WITH A VERY LOVING FOSTER HOME CONSISTING OF A GRANDMA, A MOM, AND A DAUGHTER WHO WERE ALL DEVOTED TO HELPING AND SUPPORTING HIM EARLY IN HIS LIFE HELPED IMMENSELY. OUR CASEWORKER TOLD US THAT HIS FOSTER FAMILY HAD EXPERIENCE WITH MANY YOUNG BABIES, AND HAD REQUESTED THAT THEY BE CONSIDERED ONLY FOR YOUNG BABIES. AS A RESULT, JUSTIN WAS VERY WELL ADJUSTED WHEN HE CAME TO US AND HAD A FOUNDATION IN YOUTH THAT HAS ALLOWED HIM TO BECOME A VERY MATURE, RESPONSIBLE AND SELF-SUPPORTING, SUCCESSFUL ADULT. DEBBIE AND I TREASURE THE TIME WE SPEND WITH HIM.

AGW SUMMER CALENDAR

JULY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	$\mathcal{F}ri$	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

JULY AGW EVENTS

- ♦ AGW PLANNING MEEETING
- ◆ ADOPT-A-ROAD
- AGW SUMMER POTLUCK

AUGUST 2024

Sun	$\mathcal{M}on$	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

AUGUST AGW EVENTS

- QUARTERLY FOOD DRIVE
- ♦ AGW PLANNING MEEETING
- ◆ AGW COMMUNITY SAFETY EVENT

SEPTEMBER 2024

Sun	Моп	Tue	Wed	Thu	Frí	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

SEPTEMBER AGW EVENTS

♦ AGW PLANNING MEEETING

AGW COMMUNITY SAFETY EVENT



IF YOU SEE A FIRE TRUCK SITTING IN OUR CUL-DE-SAC ON AUGUST 31ST, DON'T PANIC!

THE AGW IS SPONSORING A COMMUNITY SAFETY EVENT WITH OUR LOCAL VANCOUVER FIRE DISTRICT STATION 7.

COME AND JOIN US ON AUGUST 31, 2024 AT 1:00 PM IN OUR VERY OWN CUL-DE-SAC.

THE FIREMEN PLAN TO BRING THE "BIG RED TRUCK" INTO OUR CUL-DE-SAC TO ALLOW OUR CHILDREN (AND MAYBE EVEN SOME OF THE ADULT KIDS) SIT IN THE FRONT SEAT. PARENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE PICTURES OF THEIR CHILDREN EXPERIENCING WHAT IT IS LIKE TO SIT IN A TRUCK THAT SAVES SO MANY LIVES!

VANCOUVER FIRE IS ONE OF THE BUSIEST AND FASTEST-GROWING FIRE DEPARTMENTS IN THE REGION. THEY SERVE MORE THAN 294,000 RESIDENTS AND VISITORS ACROSS 90 SQUARE MILES. THEIR FRONTLINE FIRE CREWS RUN MORE THAN 38,500 CALLS PER YEAR AND PROTECT 22 MILES OF SHORELINE ALONG THE COLUMBIA RIVER.

THE PRESENTATION WILL CONSIST OF THE FIREMEN EXPLAINING HOW THEY USE THE TRUCK AND EQUIPMENT TO DO THEIR JOB. THEY WILL TALK ABOUT HOW TO PREPARE OURSELVES AND FAMILIES DURING EMERGENCIES SUCH AS:

- **♦** EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS
- ♦ HOW TO PREPARE FOR A HOME FIRE SUCH AS PLANNING AN ESCAPE ROUTE FOR FAMILY AND PETS
- ♦ HOW TO USE A FIRE EXTINGUISHER AND A HANDY PLACE TO STORE THEM WHEN NOT IN USE
- ♦ WHAT ITEMS TO HAVE IN YOUR HOME TO PREPARE FOR AN EMERGENCY

This is an event that warrants audience participation to help protect our community, families, and homes in the event of an emergency so please come prepared to participant and don't hesitate to ask questions. This is a learning experience opportunity that will benefit all of us!

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE VANCOUVER FIRE DEPARTMENT, VISIT THEIR WEBSITE AT: <u>VANCOUVER FIRE DEPARTMENT -THE CITY OF VANCOUVER, WA</u>

THANK YOU SUE NELSON FOR ARRANGING THIS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT SAFETY MEETING!

Additional AGW Summer Quarter Events



SUMMER POTLUCK

COME ONE, COME ALL TO THE SECOND ANNUAL AGW SUMMER POTLUCK ON JULY 27, 2024. IT IS BEING HELD IN OUR 68TH COURT CUL-DE-SAC BEGINNING AT 1PM UNTIL 3PM. COME TRY THE TASTY TIDBITS PREPARED BY NEIGHBORS IN OUR COMMUNITY. MAKE NEW FRIENDS AND MEET YOUR COMMUNITY FAMILY.

TO COORDINATE WHAT TO BRING, PLEASE CONTACT SUE NELSON AT 360-314-8191 NO LATER THAN THE END OF THE DAY SUNDAY, JULY 21ST.



ADOPT A ROAD

HELP KEEP AMBERGLEN AND OUR SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES BEAUTIFUL. ON JULY 21, 2024, VOLUNTEERS FROM OUR AMBERGLEN COMMUNITY WILL MEET TO CLEAN UP OUR ROADS AND THE ROADS AROUND OUR COMMUNITY. TO BE A PART OF FUTURE ADOPT A ROAD EVENTS, PLEASE CONTACT CHUCK POLACEK AT 253-905-9876.



FOOD DRIVE

THE NEXT AGW FOOD DRIVE IS QUICKLY APPROACHING. IT IS SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 3, 2024. AGW WILL BE DISTRIBUTING BAGS TO GATHER FOOD. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE, PLEASE FILL THE BAGS WITH NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS AND PLACE THE BAG ON YOUR FRONT PORCH FOR PICK-UP. THESE ITEMS WILL GO TO THE CLARK COUNTY FOOD DRIVE TO HELP THOSE WHO ARE NOT AS FORTUNATE AS WE ARE.



MONTHLY PLANNING MEETINGS

AGW holds monthly meetings to discuss upcoming events that involve our community. We would love more community involvement! There is so much building going on around our neighborhood that will impact us. We would love to hear how our community families feel about this growth! These meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month. We gather together, enjoy a great meal, and put our heads together, bringing ideas to the table for future community events and improvements. The next meeting will be held on August 13, 2024 at 6pm at Sheila and Paul Knipper's home. If you would like to attend and/or need more information about these meetings, please call Deb Rowe (Facilitator) at 360-909-4333.

AMBERGLEN COMMUNITY BENCHES PROPOSAL

THOSE OF YOU WHO GET ON TOWNSQ.IO MAY HAVE SEEN SOME INTERACTION BETWEEN THE HOA AND MEMBERS OF AGW CONCERNING COMMUNITY BENCHES FOR OUR AMBERGLEN NEIGHBORHOOD. THERE WAS A BIT OF CONFUSION ABOUT THE AREA WE WERE PROPOSING TO PLACE THE BENCHES.

IT WAS THOUGHT THAT THIS AREA WAS POSSIBLY A PROTECTED WETLAND/HABITAT. TO CLARIFY THE MATTER, THE AGW SPOKE WITH LANCE WATT - THE WETLAND/HABITAT REVIEW BIOLOGIST FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN CLARK COUNTY AND REFERRED TO THE PROPERTY WITH THE PROPERTY ACCOUNT #986049978, SO HE WOULD KNOW THE EXACT PIECE OF LAND IN QUESTION.

HE EXPLAINED THAT IT LOOKS LIKE THIS TRACT HAS PROTECTED OREGON WHITE OAK WOODLAND (PRIORITY NON-RIPARIAN HABITAT) BUT THAT HE DID NOT SEE A WETLAND PRESENT THERE. HE SAID THAT THE OAK WOULD STILL BE PROTECTED. HE ADDED THAT IT LOOKS LIKE THE OAK TREES ARE FURTHER BACK ON THE PROPERTY, SO HE DIDN'T FORESEE AN ISSUE WITH PLACING A COUPLE OF BENCHES NEAR THE SIDEWALK FROM A HABITAT PERSPECTIVE.

LANCE WATT SPOKE WITH THE HOA BOARD CONCERNING OUR FINDINGS AND THEY HAVE ASKED US TO SUBMIT AN ARC APPLICATION AND INCLUDE LANCE WATT'S COMMENTS.

AMBERGLEN GOOD WORKS WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM OUR NEIGHBORS CONCERNING THEIR THOUGHTS AND PLACEMENT OF THESE TWO BENCHES BEFORE WE SUBMIT AN ARC APPLICATION TO OUR HOA. HERE IS WHAT WE ARE PROPOSING:

ADDING TWO BENCHES TO THE AREA NORTH OF THE NATIVE PLANTINGS AREA, ACROSS FROM THE WATER RETENTION "DUCK" POND (SEE PICTURE BELOW). THE IDEA BEHIND THE BENCHES WOULD BE TO GIVE US ALL A PLACE TO REST AND TAKE IN THE BEAUTY OF OUR COMMUNITY. IT WOULD ALSO SERVE AS A NICE SPOT TO SIT AND HAVE A FRIENDLY CONVERSATION OR JUST REST AFTER A WALK WITH OUR FUR BABIES.

The benches would consist of a composite material which would be all weather and low maintenance. Each bench would be secured to prevent temptation from "outside admirers" removing them. All cost and maintenance would be paid by AGW and donations from those who would like to donate voluntarily. The benches would have **NO IMPACT** on anyone's HOA dues.

YOUR COMMENTS ARE IMPORTANT TO US AND WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR YOUR SUGGESTIONS AND IDEAS IN ORDER TO PRESENT THIS PROPOSAL TO OUR HOA FOR APPROVAL. PLEASE SUBMIT COMMENTS TO TOWNSQ.IO. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO COMMENT VIA TOWNSQ.IO, PLEASE SEND YOUR COMMENTS TO AMBERGLENGOODWORKS@GMAIL.COM. PLEASE ALSO INCLUDE" COMMUNITY BENCHES" IN THE SUBJECT LINE OF THE EMAIL. ALL COMMENTS **NOT** SUBMITTED ON TOWNSQ.IO WILL BE POSTED TO TOWNSQ.IO BY AMBERGLEN GOOD WORKS.

TO SEE AN EXAMPLE OF THE TYPE OF BENCH THE AGW IS CONSIDERING, PLEASE CLICK THE LINK BELOW.

Amazon.com: Psilvam Garden Bench, 2-Person Poly Lumber Patio Bench, All-Weather Outdoor Bench That Never Rot and

FADE, MEMORIAL BENCH, SUIT FOR GARDEN, PORCH AND PARK

(TEAK COLOR): PATIO, LAWN & GARDEN

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR COMMENTS.

RESPECTFULLY,

AMBERGLEN GOOD WORKS



AMBERGLEN NEW FURRY FAMILY MEMBERS MEET CHEWBACCA! ARTICLE BY KAREN WILLIAMS



HI EVERYONE! I AM CHEWBACCA, BUT MY FRIENDS CALL ME "CHEWIE" FOR SHORT. I AM A 7 MONTH OLD AUSSIEDOODLE.

I CAME FROM A GALAXY FAR, FAR AWAY WHERE I LIVED ON THE MILLENNIUM FALCON WITH MY FRIEND, HANS SOLO. NOW I HAVE BEEN REHOMED TO MY NEW DAD AND MOM, CRAIG & KAREN WILLIAMS.

I AM REALLY ENJOYING MY NEW HOME HERE IN AMBERGLEN. SINCE I WAS LIVING IN A
SPACESHIP BEFORE, I NEVER REALLY WENT OUTSIDE. I WAS AMAZED WHEN I EXPERIENCED THIS
GREEN SOFT STUFF ON THE GROUND CALLED GRASS THAT YOU COULD PRANCE AND ROLL
AROUND IN! I REALLY ENJOY MY WALKS WITH MY NEW MOM AND DAD. HOWEVER, I WAS NOT

SO HAPPY WHEN WATER
STARTED FALLING FROM THE SKY, BUT MOM SAID I NEEDED TO GET USED TO IT, SINCE I LIVE IN WASHINGTON.

THE OTHER THING I REALLY LOVE ABOUT AMBERGLEN IS THIS LITTLE HOUSE BY THE MAILBOXES CALLED THE AGW FREE LIBRARY. I'VE GOTTEN 3 OF MY FAVORITE THINGS FROM IT, A BLANKET, A BALL AND A CHEW TOY. BUT, MY VERY FAVORITE TOY WAS GIVEN TO ME BY OUR NEIGHBORS, PATTI, KARL & KATERA A FEW DAYS AFTER I ARRIVED. IT IS A PLUSH TOY OF ME AND THE MILLENNIUM FALCON. IT HELPS ME WHEN I FEEL A LITTLE HOMESICK.



I HAVE A BEST FRIEND NOW THAT I WALK WITH NAMED WOODY. HE IS THE CORGI THAT LIVES
ACROSS THE STREET. HE IS AN OLDER, WISER JEDI MASTER WHO TRIES TO LET ME KNOW IF I AM
GETTING A LITTLE TOO ROWDY. YOU KNOW, I AM STILL A REBEL AT HEART. WOODY HAS THIS SIDE EYE THING HE DOES, AND I
USUALLY GET THE HINT AND TRY TO CALM DOWN. I LOVE MAKING NEW FRIENDS, SO IF YOU EVER SEE ME OUT FOR A WALK
COME ON OVER AND SAY "HI". PLEASE DON'T LET MY SCRUFFY APPEARANCE PUT YOU OFF, I AM REALLY A SWEETHEART ONCE
YOU GET TO KNOW ME..

AMBERGLEN NEW FURRY FAMILY MEMBERS



MEET STEFANIA! ARTICLE BY DEB AND RON ROWE

HI EVERYONE! I AM STEFANIA, BUT MY FRIENDS CALL ME "STEVIE!" MY NEW MOM AND DAD, DEB AND RON ROWE TOLD ME THAT MY NAME IS ROMANIAN AND MEANS CROWNED OR THE WINNING. THEY CALLED ME THIS BECAUSE THEY SAID I WON THEIR HEARTS WHEN THEY FIRST SAW ME. I AM A 6 MONTH OLD MINI POMERANIAN.

I DID NOT COME FROM A COOL PLACE FROM ANOTHER GALAXY LIKE CHEWIE BUT MY MOM AND DAD DROVE 7 HOURS UP TO MY BIRTH PLACE IN COLVILLE, WASHINGTON TO BRING ME TO MY NEW HOME HERE IN AMBERGLEN. I WAS ONLY 8 WEEKS OLD AND WEIGHED ALL OF 1.4 POUNDS. MOM AND DAD SAID THEY BROUGHT ME HOME TO BE A COMPANION FOR MY HALF SISTER, NIKKI. WE HAVE THE SAME DOGGY DAD.

AT FIRST, I KINDA BULLIED NIKKI BECAUSE I WANTED ALL OF MOM AND DAD'S ATTENTION. I WOULD RUN AFTER HER AND JUMP ALL OVER HER. BUT NIKKI WOULD PUT ME IN MY PLACE, TELL ME OFF A BIT AND REMIND ME SHE WAS HERE FIRST. I RESPECT HER FOR THAT AND HAVE SINCE SETTLED DOWN A BIT. AFTERALL, NIKKI IS BIGGER, STRONGER, AND WISER THAN ME (LET'S FACE IT...SHE COULD KICK MY BUTT IF SHE WANTED TO).

NOW I PLAY WITH MY "LITTLE GIRLS" HANNAH AND SCARLETT. THEY PLAY CHASE WITH ME AND WE RUN ALL OVER THE HOUSE TOGETHER.

MOM AND DAD SOMETIMES TAKE ME OUT FOR WALKS AROUND AMBERGLEN WITH NIKKI AND I ENJOY MEETING ALL OF OUR WONDERFUL NEIGHBORS. THEY ARE SO NICE TO ME EVEN THOUGH I ACT LIKE A SPAZ WHEN I GREET THEM. I LOVE PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY OUR AMBERGLEN PEEPS!

ASIDE FROM OUR WALKS AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD, I LOVE FOOD! I GO CRAZY EVERY TIME I SMELL FOOD...DOESN'T MATTER WHAT IT IS, I WANT IT! MOM MAKES NIKKI AND ME THIS DELICIOUS STEW FILLED WITH BEEF, CHICKEN AND VEGETABLES, AND COVERED WITH THIS GREAT BONE BROTH. YUM!!

What a life! I have a wonderful family, great place to live, and am surrounded by beautiful people. What more could anyone ask for!

SUMMER RECIPES

VEGETARIAN CHIMICHANGAS

INGREDIENTS

- ◆ 2 TEASPOONS OLIVE OIL, PLUS MORE FOR GREASING AND BRUSHING OR SPRAYING
- ♦ 1 CUP SLICED BUTTON MUSHROOMS
- ♦ ONE 7-OUNCE CAN DICED GREEN CHILES, DRAINED
- ♦ ONE 15-OUNCE CAN DICED TOMATOES, DRAINED
- ♦ 1 CUP SALSA, PLUS MORE FOR SERVING
- ♦ 1 RIPE AVOCADO, SLICED

- ◆ 1 ONION, CHOPPED
- ♦ 2 TEASPOONS GROUND CUMIN
- ONE 15-OUNCE CAN BLACK BEANS, DRAINED AND RINSED
- ♦ 2 CUPS COOKED BROWN RICE
- ♦ 1/2 CUP CHOPPED CILANTRO, PLUS MORE FOR SERVING
- ♦ SOUR CREAM, FOR SERVING



- ♦ 4 CLOVES GARLIC, MINCED
- ♦ 1 TEASPOON KOSHER SALT
- ♦ ONE 15-OUNCE CAN VEGETARI-AN REFRIED BEANS
- ♦ 1 CUP SHREDDED CHEDDAR
- ♦ 8 BURRITO-SIZE FLOUR TORTILLAS
- ♦ 1 BLOCK IMPOSSIBLE MEAT

DIRECTIONS

- 1. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F. Oil a rimmed baking sheet.
- 2. HEAT THE 2 TEASPOONS OIL IN A LARGE SKILLET OVER MEDIUM HEAT AND COOK THE ONIONS AND GARLIC, AND IMPOSSIBLE MEAT STIRRING OFTEN, UNTIL THE ONIONS ARE SOFT, ABOUT 3 MINUTES. ADD THE MUSHROOMS, CUMIN, SALT AND GREEN CHILES. COOK, STIRRING OCCASIONALLY, UNTIL THE MUSHROOMS ARE SOFT, 3 TO 4 MINUTES.
- 3. Transfer the mushroom mixture to a large bowl and add both beans, tomatoes, brown rice, cheese, the 1 cup salsa and 1/2 cup cilantro. Stir to combine the filling.
- 4. Place 3/4 to 1 cup of the filling in the center of each tortilla and fold the sides in. Then fold the bottom up to cover the filling and fold the top down.
- 5. Place the chimichangas, seam-side down, on the prepared baking sheet and brush or spray them lightly with oil. Bake until the tortillas are golden brown, about 15 minutes. Serve with sliced avocado, sour cream, extra salsa and cilantro.

COOK'S NOTE

If the tortillas are too stiff to fold, microwave them for 30 seconds between 2 damp paper towels to soften.

SUMMER RECIPES

CHIMICHANGAS

INGREDIENTS

◆ 2 CUPS COOKED AND SHREDDED CHICKEN ◆ 1 TABLESPOON CHILI POWDER 1/2 TEASPOON CUMIN

◆ 2 CUPS COLBY JACK CHEESE SHREDDED ◆ 2 OUNCES CREAM CHEESE SOFTENED 2 TABLESPOONS GREEN

ONIONS CHOPPED

DIRECTIONS

1. PREHEAT OVEN TO 400 DEGREES.

- 2. IN A MEDIUM SIZED MIXING BOWL COMBINE CHICKEN, CHILI POWDER, CUMIN, PAPRIKA, SALT, SALSA. CHEESE, CREAM CHEESE, AND GREEN ONIONS.
- 3. ASSEMBLE CHIMICHANGAS
- 4. Spoon 2 tablespoons refried beans onto the tortilla 2 inches from the edge.
- 5. ADD ABOUT 1/2 CUP OF THE MEAT MIXTURE AND PUT INTO THE CENTER.
- 6. FOLD IN THE SIDES OF THE TORTILLAS AND THEN ROLL UP THE BOTTOM AND PLACE SEAM SIDE DOWN ON A BAKING SHEET.
- 7. Brush the tops with olive oil.

SUMMER RECIPES

NO-BAKE ORANGE-VANILLA CHEESECAKE BARS

INGREDIENTS

- ◆ 2 TBSP. GRANULATED SUGAR
- ◆ 1 STICK SALTED BUTTER, MELTED
- ♦ 3 8-OUNCE PACKAGES CREAM CHEESE, AT ♦ 1 1/2 C. POWDERED SUGAR ROOM TEMPERATURE
- ♦ 1 1/2 C. HEAVY CREAM

♦ 2 TSP. GRATED ORANGE ZEST

♦ 16 GRAHAM CRACKERS

- ◆ 1 TBSP. FRESH ORANGE JUICE
- ♦ 1/2 TSP. ORANGE EXTRACT

- ◆ 1 DROP EACH RED AND YELLOW FOOD COLORING
- ♦ 1/2 TSP. VANILLA EXTRACT

DIRECTIONS

- 1. Line a 9-by-13-inch baking dish with parchment paper, leaving an overhang.
- 2. PUT THE GRAHAM CRACKERS AND GRANULATED SUGAR IN A FOOD PROCESSOR AND PROCESS UNTIL FINELY GROUND.
- 3. WITH THE MOTOR RUNNING, SLOWLY POUR IN THE MELTED BUTTER AND PROCESS UNTIL THE MIXTURE IS THE TEXTURE OF COARSE SAND. TRANSFER TO THE BAKING DISH.
- 4. USING A MEASURING CUP, PRESS THE CRUMBS INTO THE BOTTOM OF THE PAN IN AN EVEN LAYER. PLACE IN THE FREEZER FOR 20 MINUTES.
- 5. BEAT THE CREAM CHEESE IN A STAND MIXER FITTED WITH THE PADDLE ATTACHMENT UNTIL SMOOTH. SCRAPE DOWN THE SIDES OF THE BOWL, THEN ADD THE POWDERED SUGAR AND BEAT UNTIL VERY SMOOTH, SCRAPING THE SIDES AND BOTTOM OF THE BOWL AS NEEDED. TRANSFER TO A LARGE BOWL.
- 6. ADD THE HEAVY CREAM TO THE EMPTY MIXER BOWL.
- 7. BEAT WITH THE WHISK ATTACHMENT ON MEDIUM-HIGH SPEED UNTIL STIFF PEAKS FORM, 3 TO 4 MINUTES.
- 8. ADD ONE-THIRD OF THE WHIPPED CREAM TO THE CREAM CHEESE MIXTURE AND GENTLY FOLD WITH A RUBBER SPATULA UNTIL COMPLETELY COMBINED.
- 9. ADD THE REMAINING WHIPPED CREAM AND CONTINUE TO GENTLY FOLD UNTIL COMPLETELY COMBINED.
- 10. TRANSFER HALF OF THE CHEESECAKE MIXTURE TO A SEPARATE BOWL.
- 11. ADD THE ORANGE ZEST, JUICE AND EXTRACT AND THE FOOD COLORING TO ONE BOWL.
- 12. STIR GENTLY UNTIL JUST COMBINED. ADD THE VANILLA EXTRACT TO THE OTHER BOWL AND STIR GENTLY TO COMBINE.
- 13. REMOVE THE CRUST FROM THE FREEZER AND ADD THE VANILLA CHEESECAKE BATTER.
- 14. TOP WITH THE ORANGE CHEESECAKE BATTER AND GENTLY SMOOTH INTO AN EVEN LAYER.
- 15. SWIRL WITH A TOOTHPICK OR SKEWER. COVER WITH PLASTIC WRAP AND REFRIGERATE UNTIL SET, AT LEAST 6 HOURS OR UP TO OVERNIGHT. LOOSEN THE CHEESECAKE FROM THE PAN AND CUT INTO SQUARES.

SUDOKU

SEE PAGE 18 FOR ANSWERS

2			3		1	4		
	5					2	6	
	3							9
7	6	9		8				
				5				
				1		6	9	8
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		3	5		8			6

REAL ESTATE



SALE PENDING

11629 NE 67TH AVE, VANCOUVER, WA, 98686

IT LOOKS LIKE AMBERGLEN WILL HAVE A NEW FAMILY IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD SHORTLY!

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9	5	1	8	4	7	2	6	3
8	3	4	2	6	5	1	7	9
7	6	9	4	8	3	5	1	2
1	2	8	6	5	9	7	3	4
3	4	5	7	1	2	6	9	8
6	8	7	9	2	4	3	5	1
5	9	2	1	3	6	8	4	7
4	1	3	5	7	8	9	2	6

WELCOME BASKETS





WHEN A NEW FAMILY GRACES OUR AMBERGLEN COMMUNITY, KAREN WILLIAMS PREPARES A WELCOME BASKET TO INTRODUCE THEM TO OUR NEIGHBORHOOD. THESE BASKETS CONSIST OF:

- ♦ DELICIOUS TREATS LIKE BLUEBERRY SCONES, JAM, AND CARAMELS
- ♦ A LIST OF RESTAURANT RECOMMENDATIONS
- ♦ THE LATEST ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER
 KAREN DOES THIS FROM THE KINDNESS OF HER
 BEAUTIFUL HEART. THANK YOU, KAREN FOR BEING
 THE HEART AND SOUL OF OUR COMMUNITY.

HEART-FELT NOTES



EACH TIME THERE IS A BIRTH,
HOSPITALIZATION, OR LOSS OF A LOVED ONE,
SUE NELSON SENDS OUT A CARD SIGNED BY THE
AGW MEMBERS AND PROVIDES A BEAUTIFUL
PLANT . THANK YOU, SUE FOR YOUR
THOUGHTFULNESS!