

FICRA & FICRA Building Trust

Review of 2015 Accomplishments

The FICRA Board, the FICRA Building Trust Board, and the volunteer team bring you this overview of accomplishments in improving facilities and strengthening the organizations.

LEADERSHIP - The FICRA and FICRA Building Trust boards look to the future of the organizations to ensure their viability and long-term existence.

- The Bylaws for FICRA and for the Trust were amended and voted into place in 2015. The FICRA Bylaws were changed to clarify FICRA'S Mission, member definition, and Standing Committees. The Trust Bylaws were changed to clarify the Trust Board makeup and the Standing Committees.
- FICRA and the Trust were separated into two separate organizations within the accounting software.
- Annual audits of FICRA's, and the Trust's, books both passed with minor recommendations. Accounting system changes are underway to comply with the audit recommendations.
- The new **Emergency Preparation Committee** furthered the plans preparing Fox Islanders to deal with a catastrophe. The portable generator, kept in the Old Fire Station garage next door to the NCC, was used during the power failure at the Christmas Concert. The Committee is working several facets of this objective including the very demanding development of neighborhood groups and neighborhood captains. Fox Island Alliance Church and the United Church of Christ are now certified as shelters. The Communications Center room in the NCC basement is under construction and scheduled to be operational in the spring of 2016.
- The Emergency Preparation team solidified the relationship with the County's Department of Emergency Management and the Red Cross resulting in emergency supplies being scheduled for storage on Fox Island.
- Our cadre of Citizen Patrol members has been increased to 11.
- Our hired off-duty sheriff was instructed to focus on speeding resulting in a significant improvement.
- Crime Watch expanded their house-check program.
- Both bays of the Old Fire Station garage were rented through 2015.
- An insurance review was completed, resulting in the addition of alcohol liability coverage.
- FICRA Membership increased to 358 from 319 as of 12-31-2015.
- The Trust awarded two \$500 prizes to two high school graduates from Fox Island who won the first Speaker Contest.

EVENTS - Events are the heart of an association serving the community. They bring us together and provide opportunities for recreation and learning.

- Traditional events continued in 2015, including the FICRA Fair & Auction, Christmas Tree Lighting & Musical, the Easter Egg Hunt, and the January 'Party with a Purpose' fundraiser.
- Regular activities were continued this year: Spring cleanup/social, Men's Coffee, Game Night, Little Foxes Playgroup, and Nature Center work parties. The NCC also accommodated community service meetings, rent free.

- Our Boy Scouts units, Pack 27, Troop 27 and Venture Crew 27, continued to excel with membership growth and Eagle Scout awards.
- The Girl Scouts organization used the Nichols Community Center (NCC) for meetings and conferences.
- Special events for 2015 included the Jeff Feagin Plant Sale, the Magical Strings Concert, and the Caspar Baby Pants Concert.
- Three Fox Island families made a presentation of their African safari adventure.
- The All Island Garage Sale that helps fund our Crime Watch program was conducted in September.
- In addition to the regular rentals (Artist Group, Alcoholics Anonymous) the facility was rented for weddings, family events and other purposes (e.g. Chinese language immersion) resulting in yet another record-setting rental revenue year.

FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS - The FICRA Building Trust benefits from volunteers who help maintain and preserve the Trust facilities. This effort is key to showing a home-grown labor/financing base for applying for grants.

- The Building Committee completed the restoration of the NCC kitchen. This very successful effort brought the kitchen up to standard for function, and hygiene as well as creating a beautiful period-looking appearance.
- The sumps and pumps installed to manage water intrusion in the basement continue to be fine-tuned. Another step has been engineered to help manage the issues.
- Clearing of invasive plants continued at the Nature Center.
- The edge of the ball field was mowed to keep invasive brush away. Mulch was installed on the ball field periphery to help control the invasive plants.
- The clearing of the dead trees (widow-makers) from the Nichols site peripheral woods continued to improve the safety of people walking/playing there.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS – FICRA, the FICRA Building Trust, and their volunteers provide information about community activities on the island.

- The Fox Island directory was published with support from sponsors.
- Updated "Welcome Packets" were provided to new Fox Island residents.
- Volunteers maintained the FICRA website (**FICRA.org**) and Crime Watch postings.
- Volunteers maintained the FICRA community Facebook Page (**FoxIslandFICRA**).
- An Island newsletter, "**The Fox Island Flash**", was published several times throughout the year and mailed to all Fox Island USPS addresses.
- The FICRA Email newsletter, "**The FICRA Flash**", was sent out monthly and in three special editions.
- News and events were posted on the outdoor bulletin board generously donated by, and located at, the Fox Island Grocery store.
- The Trust maintained and managed the messages on the Fox Island Bridge sign.
- Events and rentals of the NCC building for special events (**Rentals@FICRA.org**) were managed and updated to an online website calendar.

VOLUNTEERS AND DONATIONS - A great measure of the health of an organization is the manual effort put into maintenance and improvements. FICRA and the FICRA Building Trust have benefited greatly from the growing cadre of volunteers. The volunteer energy and generous gifting to the FICRA Building Trust has brought the Community Center building and facilities back to the level befitting a facility on the National Historic Register.

- The volunteer cadre continues to grow. New volunteers have come aboard with new ideas on managing FICRA and the Trust. We had over 100 volunteers put time in to helping FICRA and the Trust in 2015. That's not counting the Boy Scouts, the Fox Island Yacht Club, the Fox Island Garden Club, the Sand & Soil Garden Club, and our Citizen Patrol members!
- Funding was secured for the Crime Watch effort to match expenses.
- Major sponsorships were secured for FICRA's January 'Party with a Purpose' fundraising event (Tacoma Screw, Inc., Taylor/Thomason Insurance, Scott E. Silver Family Foundation). We were also blessed with a major donation from an anonymous donor at that event resulting in record-setting donations that covered the kitchen restoration.
- Peninsula Light was a major sponsor for the FICRA Fair in addition to the many services they provide.