

FICRA & The FICRA Building Trust Review Of 2016 Accomplishments and Significant Events

The FICRA Board, the FICRA Building Trust Board, and the volunteer team bring you this overview of significant events and accomplishments in preserving and improving facilities, and strengthening the organizations for the purpose of building the sense of community on Fox Island.

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

- Annual audits of FICRA and the Trust books passed with minor recommendations. Accounting system changes were completed to comply with audit recommendations.
- The Emergency Preparation Committee made further progress preparing Fox Island residents to deal with a catastrophe. The Committee continues the very demanding work of developing neighborhood groups and neighborhood captains (Block Captains). Fox Island Alliance Church and the United Church of Christ are now certified as shelters. The Communications Center room in the NCC basement became operational in spring of 2016. In June of 2016 Fox Island's Emergency Preparation Team participated with Pierce County in "Cascadia Rising", a multi-state emergency management drill based on a hypothetical 9.0 earthquake and resulting tsunami. Planned functions were performed successfully by our team and a report was provided to Pierce County identifying opportunities for improvement based on the exercise. We continue to be successful in securing government funding to help acquire some of the longer-term fixed assets needed for our planning effort.
- Crime Watch's Citizen Patrol expanded their house-check program and our cadre of Patrol members increased to 12.
- The crime rate on Fox Island reached an all-time low for 2016.
- Both bays of the Old Fire Station garage (adjacent to the NCC) were rented through 2016. Plans are in place to provide power to the garage to increase rents to competitive rates – a significant ongoing revenue source for the Trust.
- An insurance review was completed and coverage on NCC buildings was increased to full replacement value.
- FICRA Membership decreased from 358 to 296 as of 12-31-2016.

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 2016, including the FICRA Fair & Auction, Christmas Tree Lighting & Musical, the Easter Egg Hunt, and the January "Party with a Purpose" fundraiser.
- Regular recreational and community activities (Spring and Fall Cleanups, Men's Coffee, Game Night, Little Foxes Playgroup, and Nature Center work parties) continued this year. The NCC accommodated several community service meetings, including a standing room only presentation in August 2016 concerning the future of the Fox Island Bridge.
- The FICRA sponsored Boy Scout 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 their meetings.

- Special events for 2016 included the Jeff Feagin Plant Sale, the Magical Strings Concert, and the Caspar Baby Pants Concert.
- Our Crime Watch program raised funds through the All Island Garage Sale in September 2016.
- The NCC facility was rented for weddings, family events and other purposes (e.g. Chinese language immersion) in addition to the regular, on-going rentals (Artist Group, Alcoholics Anonymous).

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

- Improvements continued with the sumps and pumps installed to manage water intrusion in the basement. Clearing deteriorating materials, vacuuming the floor as it is exposed, along with continuous de-humidification, are slowly but surely improving the environment in the basement, helping to preserve stored items and Emergency Planning equipment.
- The Nature Center crew provided improved information at the site and work parties continued to clear invasive plants.
- The edge of the ball field was mowed to keep invasive brush away. Mulch was installed on the ball field periphery to help control invasive plants.
- Dead trees (widowmakers) were cleared from the Nichols site peripheral woods to improve the safety of individuals on the property.

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 eight 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 information 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.

- FICRA and the Trust continued to welcome (and thank) new and returning volunteers in 2016. More than 100 volunteers contributed their time and expertise. FICRA and the Trust also received valuable support from Boy Scouts, the Fox Island Yacht Club, the Fox Island Garden Club, the Sand & Soil Garden Club, and our Citizen Patrol members!
- The FICRA Building Trust gratefully acknowledges the major sponsorships provided by Tacoma Screw, Inc., Taylor/Thomason Insurance, and the Scott E. Silver Family Foundation for the January 2016 “Party with a Purpose” fundraiser.
- Peninsula Light was a major sponsor for the FICRA Fair and continued to provide many other services to support us.