Kick-off the Holidays

FICRA welcomes Fox Islanders of all ages to the annual Christmas tree lighting and community concert! This popular free FICRA event will be held at the Nichols Community Center on Sunday, December 6th from 6:00 to 10:00 pm. There will be a bonfire, caroling and of course, Santa will pay us a visit. Parents will have the opportunity to snap pictures of their child with Santa. Fox Island’s own Wicklines Family and Friends will once again perform a concert of Christmas favorites that’s sure to put you in the spirit of the season. Please bring a donation for the FISH Food Bank and make sure to dress warmly for indoor/outdoor activities.

If you are interested in helping to make this event a success, please send an email to foxislandficra@gmail.com or call Uwe Krohn at 206-504-9957.

Mark your calendars and don’t miss this special event!

Santa at the Fox Island Museum

Santa Claus will be at the Fox Island Historical Museum on Saturday, December 5, 2015 from 1:00pm to 4:00pm to visit with children and pose for pictures. Children are invited to come for a fun and memorable visit with Santa. This is a free event. A mailbox to Santa's North Pole address will be there for letters. A Children’s Art Project will also be in progress at the museum. After (or before) you visit Santa Claus you are invited to come into the museum board room and make a Christmas decoration with our dedicated crafts artists who supervise this art activity. The art project is free to members. A nominal charge of $5.00 for non-members covers the costs of supplies.

FICRA Fair 2015 Sweatshirts for Sale!

Order your exclusive Fox Island FICRA Hoody Sweatshirt in time for the holidays. This is the last chance to get the great design with the mountains/tree graphic.

- Adult Sweatshirts are $40. Adult sizes range from Adult Small to Adult 3X.
- Youth Sweatshirts are $30. Youth sizes are Medium, Large and XL.
- The last day to order is November 15th!
- Orders will be available for pick-up on Dec 6th at the Christmas Tree Lighting

Order online at www.ficra.org or you may place your order via US Mail: Send your check and details of your order to FICRA (Attention Sweatshirt Orders), PO Box 25. Questions: contact Gina Olson at 253-303-0310.
Nature Center News

The Fox Island Nature Center sponsored its first ever Exposition of Children's Nature Photography in July. Starting with a nature photography class taught by Dodi Skiffington, the kids, aged 6 to 12 were then led by Ed Burrough and Nan Feagin on an informative hike on the beautiful Nature Center trails. The kids could take as many photos as they wanted. Later each child selected two of their photos to be shown at the Fox Island Fair in August.

Those submitting photos were Ellie Skiffington, 12; Sydney Wright, 11; Ryan Farber, 10; and Ben Skiffington, 8. The results of their efforts were varied views of nature and beauty. Many people stopped at the Nature Center booth at the FICRA Fair to enjoy the excellent work of these children. A few of the photos are shown here.

The Nature Center Committee plans to host this event again next year for island children 6 to 12. Look for information coming up next summer. A few of the photos are shown here. You can see the color version by viewing the newsletter on www.ficra.org.

Neighborhood Captains

We appreciate your cooperation and support with the Fox Island Emergency Plan effort. There are now 55 CAPTAINS signed up! However, over 140 are necessary to reasonably coordinate island emergency efforts. The recent "really big one" article in the New Yorker and every power outage, reminds us of how vulnerable we are. In the event of an extended power outage, bridge failure, or other emergency, Pierce County has informed us that they could be of little or no help - we would be "on our own." CAPTAINS are the local contacts with 6-15 local neighbors and the Citizens Patrol, NCC Central Communications Center plus available shelter and medical facilities.

What’s the commitment? CAPTAINS need to do little until an emergency happens - they just need to know which neighbors to coordinate with when it does happen. We hope to have a practice day in 2016 but we need more CAPTAINS on board, especially in the central and north island areas.

Please consider volunteering to be a CAPTAIN. Contact Bob Bowser at 503-309-3097 or email FOXBOBBOWS@gmail.com for information.

Get Monthly News by email!
FICRA & island community news is sent out via email every month. Visit www.ficra.org and click on “Subscribe” in left column or send an email to ficranews@gmail.com.
Saturday, January 23

Mark your calendars for the FICRA 2016 fundraising event, *School House Rock!* The purpose of the party is to fund the ongoing upkeep of the NCC and grounds. The event will feature a live & silent auction and a live band! Our goal is to get donations and sponsors in advance of the party to underwrite many of the items necessary for a great party- food, music, drinks, auction items, printing and postage, just to name a few.

There are several ways that you can support this event:

- Sponsor/underwrite the event expenses (various levels available)
- Make a general donation to the cause (at any level)
- Donate a product or service to the silent or live auction
- Donate a $20-$50 item for our Gift Tree - sort of a grab bag of gift cards
- Donate a bottle of wine for our mystery wine store - a grab bag of wines
- Donate an awesome power tool (new) for our Tool Time raffle
- Donate a designer purse (new) for our Handbag Happy Hour raffle
- Attend the event and participate in one of the fun fundraising activities

The FICRA Building Trust is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Your donation is likely tax deductible. *Check with your tax accountant to be certain.* Contact us at ficranews@gmail.com if you have questions or want to commit to a donation. Invitations will be mailed to all Island residents in January.

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**Open House at the NCC**

Thanks to the generosity of the many Fox Islanders who participated in the ‘Mardi Gras Party with a Purpose’ in January and the sponsors of the event, we were able to complete the remodel of the Nichols Community Center kitchen!

Much thought went into this remodel to keep the aesthetics inline with the era of the building when it was used as a schoolhouse, and have it blend well with the rest of the building.

There will be an open house at NCC on Sunday, **November 15, from 2:00 to 4:00** for those who are interested in taking a look at what has been done while it isn’t busy and crowded with people. *Hope to see you there!*

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**Grant Writer Needed!**

Jean Peterson has been researching grants that are available to historic buildings and has found some promising programs. FICRA Building Trust is seeking an experienced grant writer to help us navigate through the requirements and paperwork. Receiving a grant would ease our need to fundraise from our community. If you can volunteer for this important task, please send an email to ficranews@gmail.com or contact Jim Braden at 253-459-5588.

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**2016 FICRA Fair T-shirt designs** are due to Gina Olson by Nov 15. Send to PO Box 652. Contact Gina at 253-303-0310.
This year through your FICRA dues and donations, we were able to provide many events such as the Christmas Tree Lighting & Community Concert, the Easter Egg Hunt, the FICRA Fair, Men’s Coffee, Team Trivia, the Magical Strings Concert, and the annual Jeff Feagin Memorial Plant Sale. In addition, donations to the FICRA Building Trust help maintain the Nichols Community Center, the Nature Center, and the Fox Island Playground. Your generous donations to Crime Watch support the Pierce County Sheriff Patrols and our Crime Watch Program. FICRA is managed entirely by volunteer residents of Fox Island. All dues and contributions are voluntary. Our membership is our most valuable resource and we thank you for your support! Please consider an additional tax deductible donation to Crime Watch and/or the FICRA Building Trust with your dues payment.

FICRA Membership Drive Continues!
If you are not sure if your dues are current, please email foxislandficra@gmail.org and we will let you know.

$25 per family per year. Membership year: August 1, 2015 to July 31, 2016

Name: ______________________________________________________________________________________
Address: _____________________________________________________________________________________
Phone: ( _____) ____________________________ Publish in the directory? ___ Yes ___ No
Email: _______________________________________________________________________________________
(To receive the monthly FICRA Flash Email we must have your email address)

2015 FICRA Dues Paid $ _________ Crime Watch Donation $ _________ FICRA Building Trust Donation $ _________
Community Events Sheriff/Citizen Patrol & Hotline Building, playground & nature center maintenance

Interested in volunteering? ___ Yes Area of interest? ________________________________________________

HOLIDAY NEWSLETTER
NCC Open House
Christmas Tree Lighting
Santa & Holiday Concert
Hoody Sweatshirts
School House Rock!