

31st District Democrats Newsletter

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MEETING NOTICE
Wed. OCTOBER 26th
FROM 7-9 PM
SUMNER PUBLIC
LIBRARY
1116 Fryer Ave.
Sumner, WA
Coffee hour 6-7 PM

DUE TO THE PROXIMITY
OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY
MEETING DATES TO THE
THANKSGIVING AND
CHRISTMAS
HOLIDAYS THE 31ST DISTRICT
DEMOCRATS
WILL NOT
MEET IN
NOVEMBER AND
DECEMBER

PCO Training for 31st **PCO's** **(Precinct Committee** **Officers)**

Sharon Hodgins and Karen Willard will be putting on two PCO training sessions for all 31st PCO's; one on Saturday, November 19th, from 1-3 PM; the other on Tuesday, November 29th, 6:30-8:30 PM. . We will be doing the following:
Learning how to ascertain the voter's party affiliation via a quick phone call, and then updating information on the State Party 's Voter file, as well as learning how to create our own lists for use with the 31st District. It is very important that you try to make one of these two sessions, because we hope to be prepared to do victorious battle

Precinct Committee **Officers**

(continued)

in 2006! Both sessions will be held at Karen Willard's house – she has 5 computers available.

Directions will be given via e-mail.

See the website

<http://31stdistrictdemocrats.org> for instructions

JANUARY MEETING
EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS

WHAT YOU NEED TO
KNOW TO SURVIVE UNTIL
HELP ARRIVES

Tell your friends and neighbors. Sumner Public Library, January 25th, 2006!

31st District Democrats Newsletter

Why I like the Critical Areas Ordinance and so should you.... or
Why the Critical Areas Ordinance is good for all living things... or
The truth about the Critical Areas Ordinance... or
The War by Selfish People Against Common Sense and The Common Good

The Critical Areas Ordinance of King County Washington is a complicated law easily misconstrued and that makes it tasty fodder for the whacko elements of the county's GOP. The massive resistance by well organized, wealthy hobby farmers/ranchers is on going. They hope to drive a wedge in the East-West divide that exists in county politics. *(That divide, by the way, is exploited so often by the GOP you'd think check points were set up on I- 90 and Hwy 520 to make sure no liberal ideas were smuggled across the lake to taint the minds of the rich and right-wing.)*

To understand the Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) you have to go back at least one hundred years and look at the politics of the Western U.S. There has always been plenty of land in this part of the world. Excluding land that might contain exploitable minerals, most of the West isn't really worth much to people or domesticated animals without water. Most of the big land grabs in the last century were accompanied by water grabs as well. That's what "Chinatown" was all about, after all. Well, partly about.

Western Washington has the exact opposite problem, but interestingly all of the same politics apply. Trapped between the Cascades

and Puget Sound we are running out of land on which to build housing developments, strip malls and Wal-Marts. But more important, there is no place for all the water that falls on roofs and parking lots to go except down hill though our neighbor's yard and eventually into the sound. And, all that water takes pollutants with it into streams and the aquifer.

It is the water that runs freely from mountains to sound, water, the essence of Western politics that the CAO is ultimately all about. The CAO is not so much about what you do with your land as your unwillingness to take responsibility for the river that runs through it. As usual making people responsible for what they do is what sticks in the craw of the Neo-cons and Libertarians. If Western Washingtonians share nothing else they have in common that water that falls from the sky.

Any idea of the 'Commons' is worse than the Black Plague for the selfish and the Neo-Conservative. Housing developments, unregulated business polluters and unchecked growth put a tremendous burden on all of us. Resources for roads, sewers, schools, water and waste treatment plants and superfund sites come from the Commons. And, it is never the people that took the profit from the sale or development of the land who end up picking up the check.

But, don't you have the right to pave your property? What if you bought several acres years ago with the idea of selling out to a developer before you join the Golf Set in Sun City Arizona? And, now King County is telling you your twenty-five acres can't have more than five houses built on it? Or even less, since you put in that nice

duck pond for the kiddies in the '70's? If you are sitting on a site like that, chances are you'll make a lot of money selling it whole. Other than that, I have to say all investment is speculation and as such is a gamble. If you don't want to sell it for less than would buy a lifetime membership in a country club and a house on the ninth tee ... Well, hell, you could always farm your land.

You can study the CAO in all its nooks and crannies, be for or against this or that minutiae, but whether or not you agree with the ordinance can be determined by your answer to the following hypothetical (don't worry there is no tree hugging involved)- You sell the trees on your land to a timber company. The timber company in order to make the most money, clear cuts the land down to and including the stream bank. The rains come, the stream muddies and the salmon fingerlings die. Four years later, the people in Ballard who depend on catching the salmon are out of job. Are you responsible? Is the timber company? Or are the people who fish for a living just hanging on to an antiquated lifestyle and need to learn how to pull an espresso?

Citizen's Alliance for Property Rights a right-wing group that doesn't reveal its funding source, who heavily supported Steve Hammond, who believes Global Warming is a myth, who says 'Radical Environmentalism' is a product of the United Nations - is against the Critical Areas Ordinance. Check them out, check out the CAO on the King County website and decide for yourself. *MJ McGalliard 31st District Democrats Newsletter Chair.*