



Cascade Highlands Herald

www.neighborhoodlink.com/vancouver/cascadehighlands

May 2005

May 9, 2005 Meeting Agenda/Topics

1. **Parkcrest Traffic Calming** - John Manix, City Transportation
2. **Treasurer's Report** - Nat Pinzone. Current balance: \$662.52.
3. **P.A.T. Report** - Dave Holler
4. **N.T.S.A. Report** - Dan West
5. **Topics of Interest/Concern** -
6. **Next meeting** - Monday, July 9, 2005 dessert meeting at Homestead Park, south picnic area



Thank you to all of our dedicated newsletter distributors! You help make Cascade Highlands a great place to live. Thank you to *Judy Bird, Eileen Blackman, Rosenna and Ken Cheng, Cecil Davies, Son Do, Susan Ecklund, Missy Elliot, Terry Frazier, Mark Harris, Edith Hartley, Jim Hoover and Shareefah Abdullah, Ann Horstman, Brandon Hutchens, Brenda Jensen, Erika and Mark Johnson, Jean Kent, Pearl Liang, Sheila*

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NEXT MEETING
Monday, May 9th 7PM AT
Mountain View HS Forum

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If Your Neighborhood Postal Box is Damaged

If your group postal box is ever damaged (by vehicular onslaught or vandalism) you need to report the damage Monday - Friday between 8:00-5:00 using the number 360-696-8100. Please provide your name, address, phone number, and any additional pertinent information. The post office then will assign a case number and either attach all the 'victims' to one case number or report each incident separately (depending on the time-line of each report). A copy of the report will be sent to the Postal Inspector. The mail carrier also needs to be notified (if s/he hasn't noticed the damage already).

160th Mill Plain Intersection

Has changing the signal length (for N.B. 160th traffic) improved the situation at this intersection any? Please call 896-7291, or email jeaken@pacifier.com, with your comments and suggestions. We need your input to achieve meaningful improvements.

A possible grant application idea for the future is to change the northern-most parking lot entry (by Red Robin) to a right-in/right-out only access, and install a concrete barrier in the center of 160th opposite that driveway to prevent south bound drivers from making a left into that first driveway. Thoughts? Please contact your chair as noted above. Thank you.

Vancouver Sparkles Nominations

If you have noticed an individual, family, or business who makes a special effort, or who takes extra time, to improve the quality of our life here in Cascade Highlands, please consider nominating him/her/them/it for the annual Vancouver Sparkles Award. Each neighborhood association can select two award winners annually. To make a nomination, please contact Adrienne De Dona, Office of Neighborhoods, City of Vancouver, P.O. Box

1995, Vancouver, 98668-1995, or your chair, call 896-7291.

Radon Gas and CHNA Dirt

From your chair, Jean Kent

Because of a couple recent articles in *The Columbian*, I was motivated to purchase a 'radon detection kit'. I set it up in a land-locked closet, closed the door, and waited 4 days, just like the directions said to do. (I put a sign on the door in BIG red ink just to remind myself: *STAY OUT until Friday at 5:00 p.m.*)

I mailed the vials (there were two), to the company for evaluation and a week or so later, I received the report back. According to the EPA, the radon gas in that closet was twice what is recommended as the maximum reading.

Then I had a thought... I had carefully installed styrofoam vent plugs this winter to help keep my house warmer. Would removing those plugs allow natural air currents to blow some of the radon gas out the vents, rather than allowing it to concentrate and thus seep into my house?

I am mid-stream on this idea. I removed the vents, but have not as yet purchased another Radon Kit, nor retested the air. I did, however, contact Bruce Carter, the Energy Advisor for Clark Public Utilities.

He recommended covering the existing plastic in the crawl space under my house with a continuous sheet of heavy polyethylene sheeting (8-mil minimum), and mechanically venting the crawlspace using a fan. The fan would do two things: it would vent any radon seeping around the sheeting into the crawlspace to the outside before it could get into the house, and it would establish a pressure boundary between the house and the crawlspace. To accomplish that, I should close all the foundation vents except one, and discharge the fan through the open vent. That

technique would slightly depressurize the crawlspace when compared to the outside and to the house above.

It's my guess that we all have the same amount of radon in the dirt under our houses since this soil was brought here from Montana by the Missoula floods 10,000 years ago.

The subject might be one you'd want to investigate. Good luck!

Grants - Chapter 2005, Vol. II

The pre-applications are in and accepted (step 1). Your chair has met with city transportation people as was required by step 2. We are awaiting the city's cost estimates, are gathering signatures on petitions, and accepting memos from involved individuals about promises to water foliage were we to be awarded the foliage grants. The final deadline for submitting completed grant applications is near the end of May. We are on target for meeting this date for all 6 applications. (1. Parkcrest Traffic Calming Phase II, 2. Mill Plain Streetlights, Phase II, 3. 160th Ave. Foliage restoration, 4. Parkcrest tree planting, 5. 160th Ave. speed humps and ADA ramps, 6. ADA ramps in front of Mtn. View H.S.)

CDBG representatives have requested that we combine the grant request for four ADA ramps on Parkcrest (two each at Meadowpark and Sunpark) with the grant request for the 13 on Blairmont. We will comply with that request.

Here's a big thank you to Merrie McKay for her time and effort in getting the 160th Ave. traffic calming petition signed by 23 of the 25 involved residences (one of those 'no signs' is a vacant home). The grant application requires 51%; we have 95.8% if we don't count the vacant house. Thank you all who are helping with this project!

Recycling 101

Sadly, most plastic can NOT be recycled. Freddies and WinCo will take clean plastic bags, but Waste Connections will ONLY take plastic bottles with a neck. Veggie trays, cake covers and trays, meat trays, cookie trays, can NOT be recycled. Please put these items in your garbage can, not your recycle bins.



C-Tran Bus Route Change

The neighborhood association received the following email message from Mr. Gordon, Manager of C-Tran passenger service (360-906-7305 waltg@c-tran.org). *In the future, sometime around September 25, 2005, C-TRAN will route a fixed route bus down SE Blairmont and SE Parkcrest between SE McGillivray and Mill Plain Blvd. There will be no change to McGillivray service.*

Neighborhood Garage Sale - 2005

Part of this newsletter has our Garage Sale Signup Sheet printed on it. If you wish to participate in the sale, the signup sheet is due July 11th. The sale will be Saturday, July 16th from 9 to 5 p.m. Please fill out the signup sheet and mail or bring it, along with your \$5.00 (cash or check made out to *Cascade Highlands N.A.*), to: 14902 SE Greenpark Cir., 98683.

This year we are offering the option of you holding your sale in the parking lot of Mtn. View H.S. rather than at your own home. This might be helpful to someone who only has a few items for sale. You will be assigned a parking slot.

On the signup sheet, you may also specify the type of items available in your sale. Please use just 3 codes as space on the map is limited.

If you are 'selling' in your own home, one or two days before the sale you will be

given 1) 3 balloons to post out front, 2) 5 sale location maps to give to 'sale-ers', 3) a large number corresponding to your location on the map, and 4) a few stickers to use for pricing.

If you want, you may post direction signs to your specific location, as the N.A. is responsible only for 8 big ones at the main entrance streets (Blairmont, Briarwood, Parkcrest, Village Loop, and 160th). Please remember to put your signs on stand-alone structures (i.e. not stop signs, street signs, or light poles), and to remove them promptly when the sale is over (at 5:00 p.m.).

If you have any sandwich boards which we could borrow for our big signs, please call 892-7291. We need 8! The N.A. will put an ad in *The Columbian*.

Public Meeting Notice Park Crest Avenue Traffic Calming Project

From City of Vancouver, Transportation Dept.;

City of Vancouver Transportation Services' staff will present a proposed traffic calming plan for Park Crest Avenue, from Mill Plain to McGillivray Boulevard, at the upcoming Cascade Highlands Neighborhood Association Meeting. City staff will discuss preliminary striping plans for this project which are intended to slow traffic and enhance safety for pedestrians and bicyclists along Park Crest, but will require some parking restrictions.

The project will include restriping to:

- < Narrow travel lanes
- < Add additional curvature
- < Add bike lanes
- < Provide buffer between traffic and parked cars

Discussion held at the May CHNA meeting:

When: Monday, May 9, 2005 7:00 PM

Where: Mountain View High School
Forum Room (NE corner of school, near parking lot) 1500 SE Blairmont Drive.

"Topping" hurts trees



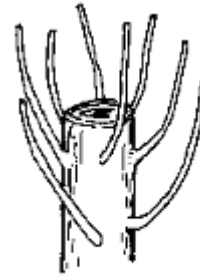
Trees that have been topped may become hazardous and are unsightly.

What is tree topping?

Topping is the indiscriminate cutting back of tree branches to stubs or lateral branches that are not large enough to assume the terminal role. In short, it is what you see when it looks like someone has given the tree a haircut.

The most common reason given for topping is to reduce the size of a tree.

Often homeowners feel that their trees have become too large for their property. People fear that tall trees may pose a hazard. Topping, however, is not a viable method for height reduction, and certainly does not reduce the hazard. In fact, topping will make a tree more hazardous in the long run.



New shoots develop profusely below a topping cut.

Topping stresses trees by removing much of the leaf-bearing crown. Since the leaves are "food factories" of a tree, this can temporarily "starve" a tree. The severity of the pruning triggers a sort of survival mechanism. The

tree activates latent buds, forcing the growth of multiple shoots below each cut. These "water sprouts" not only look messy and ugly, but are attached weakly, exposing the tree to ice damage, insect and disease infestations.

A properly cared for tree can add considerable value to your home, save on energy bills, and beautify your yard. Trees are a worthwhile investment. Pruning, if done by a professional, need only be done about every ten years to keep trees in good health. Consider hiring an ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) certified arborist to care for your trees. For more information visit the International

Society of Arboriculture website at
www.treesaregood.com

Minutes of the March, 2005 CHNA Meeting

1. Restorative Justice: Arlan McMullen, Restorative Community Services Coordinator

The three main goals of restorative justice are accountability, integration, and achieving change. First, there's a chance for the victim of a crime to talk directly with the offender, so that both parties can understand the behavior and really look at the impact of a crime on the individual. Next, the offender participates in community service in the victim's community, which provides the offender with the opportunity to be integrated into the community as someone capable of making a positive contribution. This integration has the potential to create positive change in both the offender and in the community.

The program requires two things: community involvement, and projects of value. 1100 youth (under age 18) participated in restorative community justice last year, in a total of 247 projects. Last year, a few youth from the Restorative Justice program participated in a Cascade Highlands tree planting.

If you have an idea for a project, or would like to learn more about this program, please contact Arlan directly at (360) 397-2201, Ext. 4057 or at arlan.mcmullen@clark.wa.gov.

2. Treasurer's Report - Current balance: \$662.52.

3. P.A.T. Report - Dave Holler (not present)

4. N.T.S.A. Report - Dan West. Community Block Grant Programs (CDBG) have been cut severely as part of President Bush's budget. Additionally, the Bush administration is requesting that the CDBG program be transferred from HUD (Housing and Urban Development Dept.) to the Commerce Department. Restoration of these funds and keeping CDBG in the HUD budget is imperative to the City of Vancouver having funds available to pay for grant awards such as our ADA ramps in front of the H.S.

5. Airport Redevelopment Report.

- a) Interview for The Landing at Evergreen: the land that is currently Evergreen Airport is being converted into a large shopping area (complete with parking garage), and varied housing. The sidewalk on the north side of Mill Plain will be moved away from the street somewhat, and foliage will be planted in the parking strip.
- b) Pre-application paperwork for Police Precinct building is available.

6. Topics of Interests/Concern

- a) Intersection of McGillivray and Village Loop since its recent change is still a concern for drivers, less for pedestrians
- b) feedback on signal and intersection of 160th and Mill

Plain (the timing has been changed, but it's not clear that any positive impact has occurred as a result).

c) feedback about grant application for speed bumps on 160th (location)

d) Jean (Chair) made a request for crosswalk ADA ramps on Parkcrest. We must have ADA ramps before we can get the crosswalk paint

e) Re-take a look at the fence on west side of 164th, south of 15th. Owned by whom? The city, or 'end' residents.

7. Next meeting - Monday, July 9, 2005 at Homestead Park, south end. Please bring a dessert to share. minutes taken by Mark Johnson

Answers to questions which arose in the meeting.

The fence along the west side of 164th between Village Loop and 15th St. belongs to the two owners on each end of it. The city does not own that property. The city maintains the shrubbery on the east side of the fence, but responsibility for the upkeep of the fence itself is that of the two adjacent owners.

Upcoming Events:

Tuesdays in May (large appliance pickup)
call **696-8186** to arrange

May 21 (Saturday), 9 a.m. -3 p.m. -
Community Share Fair at Clark Public
Utilities

July 11 (Monday), 7:00-8:30 pm - CHNA
Meeting at Homestead Park (south end -
we'll share desserts!), deadline for garage
sale participation forms

July 16 (Saturday), 9:00 am - 5:00 pm -
CHNA 2nd Bi-Annual Garage Sale

July 23 (Saturday), 8:00 am - 1:00 pm -
CHNA Annual Neighborhood Cleanup

Notes:

1. **More information** on all of these events can be found on the CHNA website.

2. **Yard Debris** pickup dates in upcoming months: **May 3rd, 17th & 31st, June 14th and 28th**. Please put out your garbage, recycle bins, and yard waste containers either the evening before, or the morning of, and put them back the evening of pickup. Thanks!

GARAGE SALE SIGNUP SHEET - July 16, 2005

_____ print name

_____ address

_____ phone(s)

_____ optional: select categories (max. of 3)

Categories: **A** appliances; **B/C** babies, children; **B** books; **C** clothing (adult);
D dish ware; **E** electronics; **F** furniture/antiques; **H** holiday; **L** linens/towels; **J** jewelry

The cost for participating in the sale is \$5.00. Please check all that apply:

_____ check for \$5.00 enclosed (made out to *Cascade Highlands N.A.*)

_____ \$5.00 in cash enclosed

_____ I wish to use a 'stall' at the Mtn. View parking lot, rather than my own home, for the site of my sale

Please fill out the signup sheet and mail or bring it, along with your \$5.00 (cash or check made out to *Cascade Highlands N.A.*), to: 14902 SE Greenpark Cir., 98683.

Registration deadline: **July 11**, 2005.