



Cascade Highlands Herald

www.neighborhoodlink.com/vancouver/cascadehighlands

September 2006

A little time, a little effort, makes for a better neighborhood!



Grant Report

We were awarded 2 of the 3 grant applications which have been decided so far: the crosswalk and ADA ramps on Parkcrest at Sunpark, and the lighting for the 15th St. passthrough! The

Passthrough lighting is a matching grant, and work has already started - we met with the electrician, and trenching for the conduit will be achieved the first or second week of September.

There were two errors made transferring the initial decisions about which side of the street the parking should be for the Phase II Parkcrest Traffic Calming Project to the final map used by the line painters. Parkcrest Commons Apartments and The Fountains Apartments do not have the parking painted on their respective sides of the street.

We are sorry for the mistake, but know that most traffic will be driving slower and more carefully through the area and so we're all safer, even if the parking is not where we all wanted it to be. We hope that residents will be accepting and supportive of this project.



Thank you to all of our dedicated newsletter distributors - you help make Cascade Highlands a great place to live! Thank you to *Judy and Dick Bird, Eileen Blackman, Joe Byrne, Jennifer Chariarse, April and Scott Charleton, Rosenna and Ken Cheng, Cecil Davies, Son Do, Terry*

Fraser, Mark Harris, Bill, Brandon, and Cheri Hutchens, Lisa Homestead, Ann Horstman, Jim Hoover and Shareefah Abdullah, Brenda Jensen, Erika and Mark Johnson, Jean Kent, Peggy Liang, John and May McCaul, Elise Miller, Doug Mineau, Leanne Olmstead, Holly Orr, Nathalie Pinzone, Ann Rangos, Ron and Shirley Royer, Marianne Stein, Jim Strouse, Anne Vitort, and Bill Wilton for helping with the July newsletter.

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Did you know that one mature front yard tree can add 1% to the value of your home?

And a yard with several trees can add up to 20% to the value of your home?

Join us for the 5th Annual Cascade Highlands Neighborhood Tree Planting!

Note: The first 50 trees ordered will cost \$45 each!

When, Where: Saturday, January 20th, 2007, from 8:30 a.m to approximately noon. Meeting location: TBA

Cost: You will be able to purchase a city-approved tree for your yard or parking strip for \$45. This includes hole-digging, assistance on Planting Day, stakes and ties, follow-up monitoring, and a 1.5" to 2" diameter (6 to 14 foot tall) tree. *The value of this package is estimated at \$150 to \$450!*

How: If you are interested in getting a tree or if you would like to volunteer to help out, please return the form below. We need this information by **October 9th** so we can arrange for a free inspection of your property (for parking strip trees only.) Do not send money for trees now – Order forms will be delivered to you in mid October, after all Interest forms are in.

Questions? Call Erika at (360) 260-9140

Visit the Friends of Trees website at www.friendsoftrees.org

Please mail this form to Erika Johnson at 15010 SE Sun Park Dr, Vancouver, WA 98683 no later than October 9, 2006.



Name _____ Ph: Day _____ Eve _____

Address _____ Zip _____

____ Yes, I'd love to get tree(s) for my yard parking strip (circle one or both)

____ Yes, I'd like a tree but I have questions or concerns. Please call me.

____ I have a pickup truck I could use to help move trees on Planting Day.

____ I don't need trees, but would like to donate money to assist the neighborhood tree planting. Make checks out to "Friend of Trees."



Neighborhood Cleanup Recap

Saturday, July 29th was our annual neighborhood cleanup. 129 neighbors made use of the dumpster coupons, and 69 brought chipper 'contributions.' We ended up having the entrance and exit to the cleanup be backwards from what is our common practice, because Mtn. View's parking lot was being resurfaced, the new asphalt was still a bit tacky. If yard debris was flitting about, it would stick on the not-yet-completely-dry surface and nobody would have been happy with us! So the chipper and yard waste area remained in the driveway portion of the lot, and we turned around the packer trucks. Thankfully, nobody contributed to a fender-bender, so it all came out OK.

The following people donated 2 or more hours of their precious Saturday time to help either greet or unload the neighbors and their 'stuff': Don Laack, Nat Pinzone, Erika Johnson, Mark Johnson, Joan Sisson (she stayed all day!), Joseph Liang, Shareefah Abdullah, Jim Hoover, Rob Orr, Gary Bohman, and Claire Cano, and Jean Kent.

Thank you, thank you, dear volunteers!
Without you we'd have no cleanup!!

Additionally, the employees from Waste Connections - Casey, Mike, Bob and Tim - were cheerful, strong, funny, and hard-working.

Do you know that the City of Vancouver pays for the disposal of all that yard waste and garbage?

The Bella Vista N.A. also contributed 'stuff' to the dumpsters and some workers to help the day go smoothly. We appreciate their participation.

We donated 882 pounds of food and personal care products, as well as \$63.00 in cash, to F.I.S.H. (Friends in Service to Humanity) of Orchards. Goodwill provided a truck for our reusable goods.

We collected 19 bicycles (donated to the Community Cycling Center) and 18 small engines (donated to Mtn. View for their Small Engine Repair Class).

We produced three truckloads of bulky items totaling 19.03 tons (disposal cost for the bulky items was \$1455.73) and four drop boxes plus 15 cubic yards of yard debris, totaling 5.46 tons (disposal cost for the yard debris was \$362.56). Thank you City of Vancouver for paying almost \$2000 in disposal costs for our cleanup!

Thanks go to all participants for making the day a success and a positive neighborly event.

Left-Turn Etiquette (and Legalities)

On a whim I (Jean Kent) contacted the police information line to check about making left turns onto multi-laned streets (like northbound Parkcrest turning left on westbound Mill Plain) and was surprised to discover that you're supposed to end up in the left-most lane. Maybe you knew that, but I didn't!

Since learning that information, I've been noticing both my own and others' driving, and most of us do not end up in the left (center) lane! We end up in any old lane, generally thinking about where we're heading next.

So, here's a heads-up. Do your best to complete your left turn in the left-most lane (and good luck - it's a hard habit to ingrain)!

West Side of 164th Fence Painting a Success!

Here's a big thank you to all of you who helped de-moss, pressure wash, and paint the inside of the four I-o-n-g blocks of formerly tired-looking fence on the east side of 163rd Place.

The guys at Miller Paint on 164th north of 1st GAVE us nice big stir sticks for our 5 gallon paint buckets, even though we purchased the paint through Metro Recycled Paint. (By the way, anyone can purchase paint through

Metro.)

We had 5 non-fence-resident volunteers help paint: Ron #1, Mary, Kelly, and Ron (#2) and Virginia Royer! We also had 10 neighbors working: Cheryl and Loren Lester, Wes and Melissa Hayden, Matt Ludwick, Jay Altenhofen, Melissa Haney and Tamera Haney, and Robert and Kathy Ford. It took about 45 minutes to paint one of those panels of incredibly dried out wood which just DRANK in the paint - slurp. A full, drippy roller full of paint would cover only about 2 square feet of wood. Thanks again to all who worked, or who cheered us workers on!

Utility Poles and Signs

We are fortunate in our neighborhood to not have to deal with power poles, but did you know it's illegal to post signs for a lost pet, a garage sale, or a house-for-sale on utility poles? Still, people do post signs, and even if they do remove the sign (which we know doesn't always happen) the fastener (a nail, tape, or staple, etc.) is often left in the pole. These often sharp objects can damage or obstruct the climbing gear of utility workers climbing the pole. Even the tiniest puncture in a line worker's rubber gloves can expose him/her to severe shock from power lines.

Signs can be posted on stand-alone structures... sandwich boards, cardboard boxes with rocks in them, or other creative measures.



Fertilizing your Lawn?

Please be sure that none of the fertilizer pellets end up in the street, because then the pellets get washed directly into the Columbia River. There the pellets fertilize little plants (phytoplankton) which then grow enthusiastically and die, falling to the bottom of the river.

Their 'bodies' are eaten by bacteria which use up all the oxygen in the water and then the fish and other growing things which need oxygen to survive have none to 'breathe', and they die. The result is a 'dead' river - nothing is able to grow in it.

The Columbia is OUR river and we each need to take care of our little part of it. Please take care with your lawn fertilizing, car washing, or any other chemical usage which might end up in the water stream. THANKS!

Recyclingest Neighborhood Reward Arrived!

Our participation in the Recyclingest Neighborhood Program was rewarded with a check for our bank account from the City and from Waste Management for \$119.00. We jumped through the easy hoops... we attended the training in June, we had a recycling presentation at our meeting in July, and we published a recycling article in our newsletter (the July edition). Now comes the part which **everybody** can do - RECYCLE RESPONSIBLY!

Plastic? - does it have a neck (like a water bottle)? recycle. NO neck, NO recycle! Please remove the lids from everything you do recycle like water bottles, milk jugs and jars of mayo, and then SQUISH them so they'll take up less space in the collection truck.

Here's a big THANK YOU to City of Vancouver Solid Waste and to Waste Connections for their support of this important program (and our treasury)!

Graffiti!?

Lately we've had some of our fences and utility boxes 'decorated' with graffiti. Anthony took the initiative to call us to get the paint, and paint out 3 of the five incidents. Thanks, Anthony! You're a neighbor who cares and who takes action.

The very best way of handling graffiti 'art' is to do what Anthony did: Paint it out immediately. Just imagine you're the artist. You're pleased with your 'work'. You did it to show off to your friends and communicate with others your age. You gather your friends together to show off your efforts. You arrive at the site of your efforts. WHAT?!?!? It's been painted over???? You'd be so mad, and so embarrassed. Maybe you'd try again in that area, but more likely, you'd pick a spot which would be less likely to have your



efforts destroyed.

Bus Route on 136th Ave.

During our last meeting, a neighbor mentioned that there's no C-Tran bus route up 136th Ave., specifically to get to the Firstenburg Center. We called C-Tran to see what was up, and here's the situation.

Due to various pressures, both the downtown transit station, and the Van Mall transit station are going to be moved or eliminated. Thus the entire service plan needs to be changed. This sounds pretty complicated and it is, requiring the development of an initial draft, a final draft, and then public meetings to get feedback from the users of the bus system.

The public meetings are tentatively scheduled for September of this year.

C-Tran has received 'tons' of calls requesting a bus route to the Firstenburg, and the company has every intention of initiating such a route. The new service plan will be enacted in a three-stage process beginning in January of '07, continuing in May, and concluding in September of '07.

In conclusion, we WILL get a bus route up 136th, but it's possible it may not be implemented until September of 2007. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please call or email C-Tran employee Tom Klinkel 906-7431 (TomK@c-tran.org). Thanks.



Green Paint on Street Sewer Covers

The city is checking the health of our sewer pipes by running a remote-controlled camera through the pipes. A 'TV' screen in the truck shows the city crew what the camera is 'seeing' and thus breaks, weaknesses, tree roots, and other 'no-no's' can be detected and fixed before problems occur. If you see bright green paint on a sewer hole cover, you know that the City maintenance crews have been performing collection system maintenance which might

mean flushing the pipes, or it could be the closed-circuit TV viewing.

Clean Out Your Closets and Donate to the Community Share Fair

The Community Share Fair event once again offers Clark County residents the opportunity to bring all our clean and reusable items to one location for use by local charities. The fair will be held at Clark Public Utilities at 8600 NE 117th Ave. on Sunday **September 17** from 1 to 4 pm.

The Community Share Fair gives residents the chance to get rid of unneeded items, learn about community charities, and receive a tax deductible receipt. Donations sought by participating charities include appliances, baby supplies, bedding, bath and linens, books, cell phones, clothes, construction material, eyeglasses, computers, canned food, furniture, musical instruments, personal items (diapers, toiletry items, etc.), sports equipment, supplies for schools, tools, and toys.

The fair will also include recycling collection stations for electronic waste, athletic shoes, and block foam. Last year over 250 participants donated literally "tons" of items to help their neighbors in need.

For more information about the Community Share Fair including participating charities, acceptable donations, and collection events, contact Clark County Solid Waste and Recycling at (360) 397-6118 ext. 4352 or visit

<<http://www.sharefair.clark.wa.gov>> www.sharefair.clark.wa.gov. The fair is sponsored by Clark County, the City of Vancouver, Clark Public Utilities, the Nonprofit Network, Starbucks, and Waste Connections.

Minutes from July 24, 2006 Meeting

160th Avenue Traffic Calming - Bill Whitcomb, Vancouver City Transportation Engineer
First, we discussed the 164th and McGillivray project. The city will build out the corners to include the islands (this will increase safety for pedestrians, though it will take away the intersection's two free right hand turn lanes). Next, they'll re-pave the intersection and re-do

the drainage so rain will drain to the outside, like a traditional intersection (currently rain pools into the middle). They're planning to do some maintenance work on 164th medians in that area, which should decrease maintenance needs in the future. The current schedule is to build out the corners later this fall, with paving starting early next year. Neighbors commented on the recent changes in the intersection at McGillivray and Village Loop. Neighbors seemed to think it was better for pedestrians, but confusing for drivers. Bill took all of the comments back to the City to be considered.

2. Grant Update - Grants written for this year

- a) 15th St. pass through lighting – Matching Grant type. If we're awarded this grant, we need people to dig a trench, install a 16' 4 x 4 wooden pole, and extend a 12' wooden pole.
- b) Parkcrest crosswalk at Sunpark and ADA ramps
- c) Blairmont ADA ramps (4th year) (not awarded)
- d) 160th Traffic calming (2nd year), but not exactly the same grant request.

Grants awarded last year

- a) Parkcrest Traffic Calming Phase II - slurry street first, left turn lane at 7th
- b) Pedestrian refuge and crosswalk at 17th and Blairmont.
- c) Foliage replacement on 160th
- d) Streetlights on Mill Plain between 155th and 160th (State Grant)
- e) Trees planted on Parkcrest

3. Trees - Erika Johnson

We will be organizing our 5th annual neighborhood tree planting for Jan. 20th, 2007. Interest forms will be available in the September newsletter. Homestead Park will be getting 47 new trees as a part of the City's Canopy Restoration Program. The goal is to increase the tree cover in all parks to 60%. In addition, McGillivray, Mill Plain, and 164th will all be getting more trees in their medians. Watch for the new trees over the next couple of years. In general, the group expressed satisfaction about Homestead Park - its upkeep, the way trees are pruned, etc.

4. N.T.S.A. Report - Dan West. No news reported.

5. Recycling - Jean Kent. Jean had a volunteer (Dominic Pinzone), come up to a pile of 'trash' and determine whether each piece could be reused, recycled, or needed to be put in the garbage.

6. Treasurer's Report - Nat Pinzone, treasurer. Current bank balance: \$497.91.
+ \$236.00 earned by painting curb numbers.
+ \$325.00 income for purchase of paint for 164th fence.
- \$315.00 paid to Metro Paint for purchase of paint.
Balance: \$642.91

7. P.A.T. Report - Dave Holler. No report given, though it was noted that the new police precinct has opened.

8. Library Campaign - Kathy McDonald. Kathy discussed a Bond measure that is up for vote in September's primary.

The bond will be for \$43 million (17.5 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value). There are three main goals as part of the measure:

- a) Build a new main library across from the Academy (90,000 sq. ft)
- b) Build new Eastside library in Cascade Park (25,000 sq. ft), next to the Firstenberg Center. This will provide twice as much space as the main library and 10 times the space as the current Cascade Park library.
- c) Add technology improvements at the Vancouver Mall library.

For more information on this measure, you can call 360-606-2177 or go to www.thelibrarycampaign.com.

9. Upcoming Projects

- a) Annual Cleanup - July 29
- b) Spreading bark dust (Canceled)
- c) Painting inside of 164th St. fence is completed!

10. National Night Out - Yearly neighborhood crime and drug prevention event will be observed nationwide on August 1.

11. Pre-Application - 'Redwood Creek' 6-building commercial office/retail development on 15606 and 15617 Mill Plain

12. Neighborhood and Family Preparedness Manual - this is available to share. Call Jean Kent at 896-7291.

13. Topics of Interest/Concern

- a) Need for a few more neighborhood newsletter distributors.
- b) People can post trades on the website.
- c) It was brought up that there's no C-Tran bus on 136th. As they're re-doing the routes right now, several neighbors agreed to call C-Tran requesting a bus on 136th.
- d) It was brought up that litter on 160th (especially near the theater and gym) has gotten really bad. There was discussion of a litter pick-up campaign in the area, with several neighbors agreeing to take a bag when they walk in the area, and pick up a bag of trash. It was also noted that the Red Robin on 164th has spearheaded a litter pick-up in the area as well.

14. Sharing of desserts and neighborly camaraderie.

15. There is no 'next' meeting scheduled at this time.

Notes:

1. **Yard Debris** pickup dates in upcoming months: Sept. 5, 19, Oct. 3, 17, 31, Nov. 14, 28 (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!)

The City of Vancouver supports the Neighborhood Associations in their effort to share vital information with residents to create a more informed public. However, the information provided and the opinions and views expressed in Neighborhood Association newsletters or other documents, do not necessarily represent the position of the City of Vancouver, nor does the City determine whether the information published is accurate or appropriate.