



# Cascade Highlands Herald

[www.neighborhoodlink.com/vancouver/cascadehighlands](http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/vancouver/cascadehighlands)

November 2006

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

## Jan. 22nd, 2007 CHNA Meeting Agenda

We will be meeting to nominate and vote to fill the executive board of the neighborhood association.

## Grant Report

We were awarded 3 of the 4 grant applications which we submitted this grant-year. AWARDED: 1) the crosswalk and ADA ramps on Parkcrest at Sunpark, 2) the matching grant lighting for the 15th St. passthrough, and 3) ADA ramps for Blairmont (this grant was originally not funded, but CDBG had some funds left over from other completed projects which they awarded to the transportation portion of CDBG and since our grant was the next one on the prioritized list, we got funded! (This was our fourth try for this grant!) NOT AWARDED: 160th Ave. Traffic Calming, ADA Ramps, and fine tuning at Red Robin entry to the parking lot. We will try again next year with this grant.

## New Move-Ins to the Neighborhood

If you just moved in, or have a newly moved-in neighbor, please contact Jean Kent 896-7291, and we'll deliver our welcoming newcomer 'packet' to you (or them). THANKS!



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, 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, Bob McDaniel, Sheila McKay, Elise Miller, Doug Mineau, Leanne Olmstead, Holly Orr, Nathalie Pinzone, Pat Poe, Diane Pudans, Ron and Shirley Royer, Marianne Stein, Jim Strouse, Anne Vitort, and Bill Wilton* for helping with the September newsletter.

**January MEETING**  
**Monday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7PM**  
**AT Eastern Police Precinct**  
**Meeting Room (on Mill Plain,**  
**just west of 155<sup>th</sup>)**

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## **Our Next Tree-Planting is Coming**

Our 2007 *Friends of Trees* tree planting is scheduled for January 20th.

Call Erika Johnson, our tree specialist, at 260-9140, or

Jean Kent 896-7291 for more information.

Why do we make such a big deal about planting trees? Unfortunately, when measuring tree canopy (the amount of ground covered by trees) in Vancouver, Cascade Highlands is near the bottom (42nd out of the 60 recognized neighborhoods) with but 17.37% coverage (the Vancouver goal is 28%, American Forests' goal is 40%!). First Place N.A. is first in the city with 51.33%. Additionally, trees increase the value of your home, slow rain runoff, clean the air, reduce fights between people, provide a haven for other creatures, and make the world look prettier.

We need volunteers to help plant trees. If you don't want a tree in your yard, you could donate money so we could purchase a tree for somebody who wants a tree but who can't afford it. Please call Erika Johnson, our tree specialist at 260-9140, or Jean Kent 896-7291, for more information, to sign up to help, or to donate to the program.

## **Dirt or Rocks or Mulch Around Tree Trunks**

Is it OK to pile up inches to feet of dirt (or rocks/gravel, mulch) around tree trunks? No, it's not, because tree roots need oxygen, and when there's a lot of weight bearing down on roots, the oxygen gets squished out and sometimes the tree will die, plus oxygen from the air can't pass through the dirt to get to the roots. Additionally, if there's dirt around a tree trunk, it can cause the bark to rot away and decompose. Also, mice can take up residence in the mulch and hide there and gnaw away at the bark.

Drainage around a tree needs to be adequate so the roots don't drown. If mulch or dirt is piled against the stems or tree trunks, we recommend that you pull it back several inches so that the base of the trunk and the root crown are exposed. Mulch can be placed out to the tree's drip line or beyond if you want. It's just not good right next to the trunk.

A new term, "mulch volcanoes," has emerged to describe mulch that has been piled up around the base of trees. Let's leave the volcanoes to Mt. St. Helens, and have healthier trees!

## **Curb House Number Painting Project Continues**

If you'd like to have your house number painted on your curb and also make a donation to the neighborhood association, please call Jean Kent 896-7291. We're asking for a donation of \$5.00, but if you'd like to donate more, we'd be happy to accept your money. We'll use the funds for purchasing trees, lighting the pass through, and other neighborly projects.

So far we've painted curb numbers on 46 curbs. Four people have yet to pay, but we've raised \$427.00 for our 'kitty'. That was a good thing, because we had to use some of that money to pay for additional expenses incurred in the carrying out of the 15th St. Passthrough lighting project.

Thanks to all of you who've participated in the curb painting venture! It does make it easy for people to find your location as all numbers are painted in the basic same location relative to your house.



## **Please Keep Our Sidewalks Clear!**

Please be sure your portion of the sidewalk (if you have one) is clear for walkers (6.5 feet tall) and for wheelchair users (the width of the sidewalk). Thanks!

## Did you Feel an Earthquake?

If you do, please don't call 9-1-1! John Talbot, Assistant Director of CRESA, is thankful that most of those who were jolted awake by the earthquake we experienced in July didn't call 9-1-1! If you feel the quake, so do the people at 9-1-1.

## General Cleanup Stats

The City Solid Waste department reports that there was a nice increase in participation in yearly clean ups by neighborhood associations this year. Forty three neighborhoods had clean ups versus only 38 in 2005; 23 neighborhoods had a chipper day versus 17 last year. Cascade Highlands has had a chipper and a cleanup for each year of its existence. Thanks to all to volunteer to make this very worthwhile effort come to life each summer!

## They Fall. Please Haul. Free Leaf Drop-off Helps Residents and Roads

For streets, fallen leaves can mean trouble. Please do NOT rake your leaves into the street.

When mixed with rain, leaves in the streets clog the drains, causing pools of standing water, and flooding. Street sweepers are no match for piles of leaves as they only push most of the leaves around; they cannot pick a lot of them up.

The best way to keep our streets free of flooding this fall and winter is prevention. Instead of raking or blowing leaves into the street, Vancouver and Clark County residents are asked to take advantage of a coupon (included with our previous newsletter and with your water utility bill) that allows you to drop off leaves, free, from **October 1 through Dec. 20**, at a variety of locations around the area. Please note: The coupon program is for residents only, and for leaves only - other types of yard debris or mixed loads of leaves and yard debris will be charged the regular yard debris price at all facilities.

The following locations offer free leaf recycling with the coupons:

\* H & H Wood Recyclers, 8401 NE 117th Ave. Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mondays through Saturdays, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sundays, except Thanksgiving Day

\* McFarlane's Bark, 8806 NE 117th Ave. Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, except Thanksgiving Day, and Sundays in December

\* West Van Materials Recovery Center, 6601 NW Old Lower River Rd. Hours: 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., Mondays through Fridays, and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays. Closed Sundays and Thanksgiving Day.



## 15th St.

### Passthrough is LIT!

On the weekend of October 7th and 8th, Ron from *Reliant Electric* installed three double headed, halogen bulbed, motion-detected lights on top of the three poles strategically

placed along the passthrough. Neighbors Carol Carlson and Marv Rapp have given tremendous support to this project, as did Scott and Lillian Nelson and friend Corbin Bingham. Bryan Yates was instrumental in installing a light shield to keep the light from shining where it shouldn't.

The overhanging trees and bushes are trimmed, the duff from the firs, pines and arbor vitae has been swept up, and the litter removed. Hopefully, people will feel comfortable using the pass through, at night or during the day, and those who indulge in negative behavior will now be discouraged from doing so in that area. This work was achieved through a matching grant with the city, meaning that we put in 'sweat equity' and some of our own money, and the city put in some additional money to pay for the permits, the conduit, the lights, and the installation expertise. Here's a big thank you to all who participated!

## **LED Lights Replace Incandescent Bulbs in Traffic Lights**

Brighter lights and energy savings are two outcomes of the Operations Center's Traffic Signal Light Replacement Project. By replacing all red and green light bulbs (yellow ones rarely burn out) on traffic signal with energy saving, light emitting diode modules (LED), the City saves an approximate 83-88 percent in energy consumption.

Incandescent light bulbs have a 1 to 2 year life span and LED's have an estimated 5 to 7 year life. The increased life of the LED's will mean a reduction in maintenance and off-hour call-out costs. The improved brightness will make the signals easier to see and help reduce vehicular accidents.

In 2004, a test area with regular light bulbs had an electrical bill of \$18,196. In 2005, the same area with LED lights cost the City \$7,278 -- a savings of \$10,918. The City pays approximately \$23,000-\$25,000 a month to Clark Public Utilities for the signal electrical bill. The estimated savings could be around \$50,000 to \$60,000 a year once the entire city has changed traffic signal light bulbs. This savings could help fund additional signals and soften the blow of increasing electrical costs.

## **Streetlight at Briarwood and McGillivray**

Sometime during the week of October 16th, somebody clobbered the streetlight pole on McGillivray just east of Briarwood, damaging the electronics in it so badly that the city can't replace the equipment itself. Thus, the project has been put out for bid. It will take a while to repair this damage. This is a good reminder to please drive safely on our neighborhood streets. If you have questions, please contact [kevin.battan@ci.vancouver.wa.us](mailto:kevin.battan@ci.vancouver.wa.us).

## **Dogwood Tree?**

Do you have a young dogwood tree? It

looks like these trees suffer greatly when it's hot and they don't get enough to drink. Their leaves curl and either partially or completely die when the tree hasn't been watered sufficiently. Please plan on watering a minimum of twice a week if you have a dogwood youngster. 'Watering' means leaving the hose flowing with a stream of water the size of your little finger for 30 minutes.

## **Election of the Next 2-Year Term of Officers**

The current slate of Neighborhood Association officers is willing to continue serving in their association positions. If any of you would like to nominate yourself or another for one of the offices, please attend the January meeting where we will nominate and elect our officers for the next two-year term.

## **Notes:**

1. **Yard Debris** pickup dates in upcoming months: Nov. 14, 28, Dec. 12, 27 (one day late due to Christmas) Please put out your garbage, recycle bins, and yard waste containers either the evening before, or the morning of, and bring them back into your yard the evening of pickup. Thanks! (No caps on plastic bottles, please)

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.

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