



Cascade Highlands Herald

www.neighborhoodlink.com/vancouver/cascadehighlands

Sept 2007

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

If you send us an email...

Please identify yourself as a neighbor in the subject line, or it's quite possible your email will be regarded as spam and summarily deleted before being read.

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 'information sheets' to you (or them). THANKS!

Treasurer's Report

Current balance is \$294.94. + 15.00 for curb address painting, 33 garage sale participants @ \$5.00 = \$165.00, minus \$88.21 for garage sale expenses, - \$105.75 for garbage cans and hold-down hardware for Homestead Park and the 15th St. passthrough.

Have Your Car or Marine Batteries to Recycle?

You can take them to Les Schwab (on Mill Plain near Dairy Queen) and leave them there for free.



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, Gary Bohman, Jennifer Chariarse, April and Scott Charleton, Rosenna and Ken Cheng, Cecil

Davies, Terry Fraser, Edith Hartley, Lisa Holmstead, Ann Horstman, Jim Hoover and Shareefah Abdullah, Brenda Jensen, Erika and Mark Johnson, Jean Kent, Peggy Liang, Bob McDaniel, Sheila McKay, Elise Miller, Doug Mineau, Leanne Olmstead, Holly Orr, Nathalie Pinzone, Pat Poe, Diane Pudans, Ron and Shirley Royer, Barbara Scherr, Steve Schmidkofer, Annie Sheng, Marianne Stein, Jim Strouse, Anne Vitort, and Bill Wilton for helping with the July newsletter.

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Join your neighbors for our 6th Annual
Cascade Highlands Neighborhood Tree Planting
January 19th from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.



220 trees planted since 2003, and counting....

Have you seen the hundreds of beautiful, young trees your neighbors have planted in yards and parking strips, all over Cascade Highlands the last 5 years? You too can plant your very own trees, which provide the following benefits to you as a homeowner and to the community-at-large:

- Increase your property value by 1-20%
- Reduce heating and cooling costs
- Planted along streets, trees slow traffic, muffle noise, and reduce sun glare
- Provide shade and reduce stress
- Hide unsightly views or provide privacy screens in back or side yards
- Reduce crime rates
- Clean our air and water (absorb pollutants, reduce storm water runoff)

You will be able to order trees for your yard and/or parking strip at just \$45 each – an incredible value for a 6 to 14 foot tall nursery-stock tree!

Friends of Trees will assist us throughout the project; providing trained crew leaders at the planting, digging the holes beforehand, and providing stakes and ties. They also have a one-year replacement guarantee if your tree dies in the first year (unless it is due to your lack of adequate watering.)

The City of Vancouver Urban Forestry will provide free inspections and planting permits (for parking strips only), and assistance in the proper location and planting of trees.

You order and pay for your trees and show up on January 19th to spend a few hours planting dozens of trees, meeting and working alongside your neighbors, and making our community a better place. It's fun! Bring the whole family!

Order now for best selection: This process is all on-line this year, so visit www.friendsoftrees.org to start the easy-to-use ordering process. Parking strip trees will require an inspection by Urban Forestry, and may take a few weeks, so please start this process soon!

* Note: All trees are approved by the City of Vancouver Urban Forester and trees on the *Parking Strip Tree Selection List* will not crack or raise sidewalks, if watered properly.

Don't want a tree this year, but like to help support this project? Your donation can help a neighbor buy a tree, assist in the purchase of mulch, or help pay for the rental truck. Consider making a donation on-line, today at www.friendsoftrees.org.

Contact Erika at erikalovesnature@hotmail.com or 260-9140 with any questions.



We Now Have a 12' Ladder

Here's a big thank you to Annikki Fink for donating a 12 foot wooden ladder for our efforts to maintain the 15th St. passthrough. Now we'll no longer have to rent a ladder each time the lights need work. Thanks again! For most of the summer, only one of the lights was working correctly. This project has required more energy, more follow-through, and more money than any project in our neighborhood association's history. However, just recently neighbor Jim Knight and an electrician friend of his were able to figure out why the newly-installed replacement lights weren't working properly. So now, when you walk through the pass through after dark, your way should be lit. THANK YOU, Jim!!!

Mercury Thermostats

If all your thermostats are digital, then there's no need to read this article. If you have mercury thermostats (the older-style dial or lever operated) please consider disposing of them (for no charge) at one of the following locations: Central Transfer and Recycling Center (Sat/Sun 8 to 4, NE 117th Ave.), West Van Materials Recovery Center (Fri./Sat. 8 to 4, Old Lower River Rd), or Philip Services (first Tues. 10:30 to 3:30, 32nd Washougal). This effort is to help keep toxic mercury out of the environment.

Food for Thought

When a person plants a tree under which s/he will never sit, then you know that civilization has come to that land. (Greek philosopher)

Bi-Annual Garage Sale Rehash

Thirty three people signed up to participate in our bi-annual N.A. Garage Sale which took place on both July 20 and 21 - our first year trying a two day sale. Most people needed more maps to give to 'sellers', so next time we'll distribute 25 (instead of 6) per participant. People also asked for more signs within the neighborhood. Several neighbors said that one day was enough, although some preferred Saturday and Sunday (rather than Fri. and Sat.), so perhaps we can repeat the 2-day optional, but just use the weekend days, and a many suggested shorter hours (how about 9 to 3 next time?) And almost everybody thought

two things: 1) it was organized well, and 2) the weather was not very cooperative as it kind of drizzled on and off both days.

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 assoc., 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. Thanks to all 68 of you who've participated in the curb painting venture so far! If your curb number is painted and you haven't paid for this service yet, please consider doing so.

It seems that some of the white paint has flecked off, perhaps because it was too cold or too wet when we painted it on the curb to begin with. If your number or the background needs sprucing up, please call 896-7291.



Water those Baby Plants/Trees

Let the hose run for 30 minutes each week on each 3-year or younger tree. 10 minutes on a 3-year or younger bush. Turn the faucet handle so that the water flow is the size of your little finger. If you have a dogwood, please water that species in this manner twice a week.

Grant Report 2007

This year we applied for four grants and have completed all four steps of the procedure: Submitting the pre-application forms by the deadline; meeting with city personnel to assess the applications; writing and gathering supporting data and statements for the grants, and lastly, getting the applications (with full documentation) mailed and received by the city before May 31st.

The four grant proposals are (in prioritized order):

- 1) 160th Traffic Calming and ADA ramps (R.E.E.T. funds - Real Estate Excise Tax)
- 2) Fire hydrant management on Blairmont - three hydrants are in the middle of the sidewalk (NAP - Neighborhood Action Plan - grant).
- 3) Crosswalk/ADA ramps at Stevenson on Parkcrest, (N.A.P. grant)

4) Trees Matching N.A.P. Grant - \$560.00 to offset the purchase of 14 trees

The city is in the process of comparing all the grants received in each category. Top-assessed projects will be funded until the money runs out. REET-funded projects will be evaluated by both the city transportation department and the N.T.S.A. (Neighborhood Traffic Safety Alliance) evaluation team members, and the decision about which projects will be funded will be made in September or October, 2007. We placed 5th (out of 13) last year, but only 3 projects were funded. We hope for the best for this year! This is our 3rd application for this same project. Alas, funding for the submitted NAP grants is 30% of what's needed for all grant requests to be fully funded.



The Annual Cleanup Report

Our annual neighborhood cleanup, sponsored by the City of Vancouver and Waste Connections occurred, as has been our usual custom, on the last Saturday of July. According to the transfer station and H & H tickets, we had 2 truckloads of bulky items, totaling 14.83 tons, and 4 drop boxes of yard debris, in addition to that which was processed by the chipper. Fifty-five yards went to H & H and 4.28 tons of yard debris went to West Van. The disposal cost, paid for by your taxes, for the bulky items was \$1168.71 and the disposal cost for the yard debris was \$598.66.

We had 57 chipper coupons turned in, 130 dumpster, and Bella Vista had 27 total.

We had about 15 bikes and scooters which we donated to the Community Cycling Center in Portland, and even a few of those were worth something! There were about a dozen lawn mowers we donated to Mtn. View (thank you to the gentleman who transferred all those mowers to the west side of the school!).

We had a LOT of food and other products for FISH of Orchards as well as \$64.00 in cash, and a few good items for a thrift store. Unfortunately, the volunteers at FISH got mixed up and sent their thank you letter, listing the poundage of food donated, to Mtn. View and we haven't received the letter yet.

Here's a big thank you to all who donated time, energy, muscles, and a cheerful attitude for our cleanup: Pam Wolff, Tom Jurhs, Erika Johnson, Jessica Yates (and almost 1 year old Jamysen), Joe Blackman, Dodili Rogoway, Joseph Liang and Dan West. Bryan Yates and Annikki Fink brought treats to us workers, Pam Wolff, Gary Bohman, and Nat Pinzone brought us boxes (for the food), and Pam Wolff graciously took all the 'good' stuff to the recycle store for us.

Thank you to ALL who participated, especially the volunteers!

New Police Chief Cliff Cook

At the July leadership meeting, we learned more about our new police chief's direction and goals. Instead of 2 or 3 precincts with a top-down command structure, as of July 9, Chief Cook has divided Vancouver into 2 Precincts (we belong to the East Precinct), 4 Districts (we're in the 42nd) and 8 patrol Beats.

Our East Precinct Commander is Nannette Kistler. (487-7500)

Other neighborhoods in Beat 42 with us are: Bella Vista, Cascade Southeast, Mountain View, Riveridge, and Wildwood. Our Lieutenant is John Chapman (487-7510) and our Neighborhood Policing Officer (NPO) is Corporal Charlie Ford (487-7540). Feel free to call either of these officers with your concerns.

Chief Cook believes that cities are safer when the people are involved. The following are opportunities for your involvement: Neighborhood Watch, Citizens on Patrol, Volunteer Positions, Community Education and Crime Prevention Outreach, Special Events and Safety Fairs, Police Activities League for Youth, and Advisory Teams. For further information on those opportunities, please call Marion Swendsen at 487-7505, or email www.vanpolice.org.



Two New Garbage Cans

Due to repeated popular request, we've installed two new garbage cans (we will be responsible for emptying them). One is near the children's play area in Homestead Park. The other is at the west end of the 15th St. passthrough. Hopefully, having these receptacles available

will decrease the litter which 'graces' our streets, bushes, and sidewalks. Eddie has volunteered to coordinate the emptying of the park garbage can. Others helping with this effort are Bob, Rick, and Pat. Two citizens have volunteered to keep track of the 15th St. can, Annie and Don. Thank you Eddie, Bob, Rick, Pat, Annie, and Don!

The Columbia River's Health is Everybody's Job

If somebody pressure washes his or her driveway, ultimately where do the little pieces of concrete and dirt go? The Columbia River. If somebody dumps a pile of gravel, sand, or barkdust in the street perhaps in preparation for a home project and if there's a bit of sand or dirt left on the street, where does that sand or dirt go? Yes, the Columbia River. If somebody fertilizes the lawn and a few fertilizer pellets shower onto the street, where does that fertilizer go? Yes again, the Columbia River. If somebody's vehicle leaks oil or fuel, where does that petroleum end up? The Columbia! Please keep in mind that everything which can wash into the street drains goes into the river untreated in any way. Our streets are the Columbia's tributaries. Let's help keep the river clean.



Coyote Sightings

We've received several reports of neighbors seeing coyotes passing through our neighborhood. To discourage the animals' loitering, please keep pet food inside, and keep your pets inside, especially at night.

Holiday Bazaar at Mtn. View

By Julie Wickman

Homemade gifts and goodies are fun to share during the holidays. Finding the time to make them is another matter. That's where area artists, craftspeople, and bakers come in. Their handiwork will be available for sale at Mt. View High School's 27th Annual Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, November 3rd, 9am-4pm. Featuring over 150 tables it's one of the largest bazaars in the area. As you shop for gifts and decorations, you can also pick up something to satisfy your hunger as there will be concessions and baked goods for sale as well. This sale benefits the Mt. View High Band Program. For table rental information, call Kristie Neshyba at

256-9483 or email kneshyba@comcast.net. Mt. View High School is located at 1500 SE Blairmont.

Water Water Water

Here's a big thank you to those who have volunteered to allow us to use their water when we fill our buckets to water the baby trees and the baby bushes - we go out 4 times each week, 3 for the bushes since they're so vulnerable to the heat, and once for the trees. Brian, Gail, Joan, Shareefah, Ray, Jess, Pam, Bob, and Eileen and Joe have all given us permission. THANKS! (There was a gentleman who left a message on the voice machine and all we could hear was "Meadowpark", so at this point we don't know who that is.)

National Night Out

Two areas of our neighborhood held National Night Out (NNO) get-togethers (also sometimes known as Block Parties). The nationwide effort for people to get to know their neighbors better occurred on the first Tuesday in August, the 7th this year. Both parties were visited by our new NPO (Neighborhood Police Officer) Charlie Ford, and our new District Lieutenant, John Chapman. At one, the neighbors brought food to share, and sat in their chairs in the middle of the street, talking about their work. Later they discussed helping each other in an emergency.

The other Block Party included about 20 neighbors, who shared food and conversation. Some played basketball and bocce ball.

If you're interested in organizing a NNO party on your street next year, please feel free to call Jean 896-7291 if you'd like to.

Report Crime Online 24 Hours A Day

The following is excerpted from another information source.

The Vancouver Police Department has an easy and convenient way for citizens to report low level crimes 24 hours a day. Go to www.vanpolice.org and file a report online. The online reporting system allows citizens the opportunity to file a low level crime report at a time and place that is convenient for the citizen. Completing a low level crime report online gets the information into the electronic police reporting system in a timely manner and

provides the Vancouver Police Department an automated way to inform citizens of the status of their report as soon as information becomes available.

The following crimes can be reported online: Theft or malicious mischief involving loss or damage of \$1500 or less, vehicle prowls, or lost property.

Do not file an online police report if there is suspect information, if physical evidence is available (fingerprints, items left behind), if firearms were involved (whether used by a suspect or taken in a theft), or if a motor vehicle was stolen. For those crimes, or if the crime is of a serious nature, please call 9-1-1.

In an effort to improve timely access to Vancouver Police services we offer this online reporting option as one more tool for citizens to report crime. If you do not feel comfortable using this service and would rather speak to a Vancouver Police Department staff member please call the east precinct which is open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., except holidays). The East Precinct phone number is 487-7500

New Bicycling Clark County Map Available Now

Do you know the best routes for bicycling in Clark County? Do you know about Washington bicycle laws and the rules of the road? All of this information is included in the long-awaited second edition of the Cycling Clark County Washington map from Public Works and the Clark County Bicycle Advisory Committee.

A free paper edition of the map is now available at the GIS Map Store, which is located in Suite 232, second floor of the county's Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin St., Vancouver. A waterproof map may be purchased at the Public Service Center for \$4. The map can also be viewed on the internet at www.clark.wa.gov/bikemap.

One side of the map shows routes throughout Clark County and how to bike across the Columbia River bridges. On the other side are detailed maps of the Ridgefield/La Center, Salmon Creek, Battle Ground, and Camas/Washougal areas. Other features include how to Bike & Bus with C-Tran, Washington

bicycle laws, and a list of cycling clubs and bicycle repair shops. Diagrams of cycling safety tips show such things as how to use hand signals, choose the best way to turn left, cross driveways and intersections, and a reminder to bike WITH the traffic, not against it.

"One Touch of Nature Makes the Whole World Kin"

Wm. Shakespeare said that. And it was sweet indeed to see so many neighbors sitting or standing out front, watching mother nature's lightening show on the evening of July 12th.



Exciting Recycling News

The following is excerpted from various sources.

A six-month pilot program to test new household recycling procedures began for about 5,000 Clark County households starting August 20. The program will use roll carts for collecting all recyclable materials -- except glass, which will be placed in a bin to the side, batteries, and motor oil -- instead of the current separate, three-bin system. The study will determine if this new approach will make recycling more convenient and thus increase the county's recycling rate.

Selected residential areas within unincorporated Clark County, and the cities of Vancouver, Camas and Washougal will be receiving the new carts along with instructions for use. These residents have already been informed of the pilot by mail through the County's recycling collection contractor Waste Connections Inc. The blue carts will have either a 64 or 96-gallon capacity depending on the collection area.

The county has also identified a "control" area that will retain the current collection system, but will receive more information about recycling benefits. This will test whether increased recycling promotion can also lift recycling rates.

This pilot effort, approved by the Board of Clark County Commissioners in April, follows an intensive feasibility study conducted last year to gather information on current recycling activities and resident opinions about alternative methods. More than half the residents surveyed preferred moving to the

cart-based collection system over the current three-bin approach in place since curbside recycling began here in 1992.

Other communities and counties have successfully used the "dual-stream" collection approach using a roll cart for paper, cans, plastic necked-containers, etc., and a separate, existing bin for glass, according to Mike Davis of the Clark County Solid Waste Management Program.

"We believe this collection method will show positive results, but we want to make sure the system actually works before we move ahead with a large investment in new procedures and equipment," Davis said.

People who have not already received advance notice of the program are not in the pilot areas.

Below are questions and answers from several calls or emails to the city Solid Waste department regarding the recycling pilot.

Q. "If I am participating in the pilot, what do I do with my 3 stacking bins? Are you going to collect them?"

A. We won't be collecting the bins, since we may go back to using them after the pilot is over. You can store the two extra bins in the garage, or use them for temporary storage.

Q. Is all of Cascade Highlands participating in the pilot?

A. Not all of Cascade Highlands is in the pilot area. The boundaries are Olympia Drive from Mill Plain to McGillivray, east to Briarwood, north to 15th Street, west to Parkcrest and north on Parkcrest to Mill Plain. That would include residents on the west side of Briarwood and the south side of 15th Street.

Q. Where are the other pilot areas?

A. Portions of Mt. View neighborhood and a west Vancouver neighborhood are participating now, and a portion of another eastside neighborhood will be added later when a new recycling truck arrives. Borrowed trucks will be used for the remaining pilot areas that start cart-based recycling collection later. Two county neighborhoods are also participating (north of Vancouver Mall and in Hazel Dell) and parts of Camas and Washougal. Waste Connections

tried to choose a mix of homes that included alley and street collection, full sized and narrow lots, high wind and more sheltered areas.

Q. Why are the city and the county participating in this pilot?

A. Although our area recycles more than many areas of the country, we could do better. To increase the amount of recycling collected, Clark County and local cities are considering switching to roll carts. Many residents find it easier to move carts to the curb and it will give residents more capacity than the current stacking bins. Litter is a concern in many neighborhoods, so we are hoping that litter will be reduced when recycling is collected in a closed cart rather than open stacking bins. It might also cut down on scavengers pawing through our recyclables for aluminum cans.

Q. Where will these recycled goods go?

A. The contents of the blue bins will continue to go to West Van for processing. It will be processed separately from the bin-sorted material that will continue to come in from the residents not in the pilot area. They plan to run the material over the belt separately so they can analyze the content.



Fire Extinguisher Shake Down

Do you know that you're supposed to shake your fire extinguisher twice a year? Perhaps you could give it a shake when you change the batteries in your smoke alarm in October and April.

Young Tree Killed on Blairmont – Needs Replacement Sponsor

One of the trees planted by neighbors that line the fence running along the west side of Blairmont, from McGillivray was recently snapped off. We'd like to replace it and are looking for a sponsor – someone to pay the \$45 cost. If you would like to sponsor this tree or another tree for areas in our neighborhood for which there is no homeowner to pay, please contact Erika at 260-9140 or you may donate on-line at www.friendsoftrees.org and click on "Order Street Trees". Make sure to select

"Cascade Highlands" on the neighborhood menu to designate the money for our neighborhood.

July 16, 2007 Meeting Minutes

C.H.N.A. Meeting Notes, July 2007

1. Introduction of C.H.N.A. Executive Board (Jean Kent, Gary Bohman, Mark and Erika Johnson, Nat Pinzone, and Dan West)

2. Speaker - Nancy Pionk, City of Vancouver Community Mediation. Focus on neighbor to neighbor mediation, 90% of issues end in settlement. For more information, call 619-1140.

3. N.A. News

a) C.H.N.A. is trying for four types of grants this year. First, Jean has applied for three NAP grants, which are very competitive (three times more grants than money to fund them). We hope to hear if we received any of these grants near the end of August. A fourth REET grant is for traffic calming on 160th. We hope to hear about this last grant in October.

b) Grants for last year - no work in evidence so far.

1) Crosswalk/ADA at Sunpark/Parkcrest

2) Blairmont ADA

3) Crosswalk at 17th/Blairmont

c) Two neighborhood blocks will be having events for National Night Out on August 7th.

d) The Pacific skateboard/BMX park will be opening early. There will be a meeting July 18 at Fisher's Grange Hall on 162nd to discuss it.

e) International Festival on July 29 at Esther Short Park

f) Note: Homestead Park is one of the top four parks for receiving maintenance care. Lately kids have kicked off the sprinkler heads, which are \$35.00 each.

4. Treasurer Report - current balance is \$304.94.

5. Police Advisory Team (PAT) Report - Goals for future are community policing, revitalize downtown, growth in citizens assisting to make city safe. There is a desire to set up citizens' police academy that goes beyond Neighborhood Watch. School resource officers will be reinstated in the fall. The district is paying for most all of the resource officers.

6. NTSA Report - Dan West. There is a change in leadership: the current vice-chair will become chair and Dan is becoming vice-chair. The floor is closed for new grant project applications. An evaluation panel was selected and projects will be scored in mid-October (C.H.N.A. has one project up for consideration - the 160th Traffic).

7. Tree Report - Erika Johnson. Our neighborhood will be having our sixth annual tree planting on January 19th. We've planted about 220 in the last five years. These trees will provide hundreds of thousands of benefits to our community in their lifetime. Visit www.friendsoftrees.org to order on-line this year. Order now for best selection! Each tree will cost \$45.00 this year.

8. The C.H.N.A. Clean-up is in need of volunteers (greeters and unloaders) for two shifts: 10 am to noon and noon to clean up.

9. Topics of Interest/Concern

a) Recommendation by neighbor of 160th and Village Loop crosswalk.

b) One family agreed to donate water to help with watering of neighborhood trees.

c) A neighbor encouraged people to clean up litter and suggested an annual litter clean-up event. It was suggested that we could just choose a day and put it in the newsletter.

d) A neighbor thanked Jean for the painting over of graffiti in the neighborhood.

e) It was suggested that we could put garbage receptacles in high traffic areas (like on 160th near the theater, and the playground in the park).

10. Sharing of Desserts/Animal Stories

11. Next meeting: none scheduled at this time.

Notes:

1. **Yard Debris** pickup dates in upcoming months are: Sept. 4, 18, Oct. 2, 16, 30. Please put out your garbage, recycle bins or recycle roll cart, and yard waste containers either Monday evening or Tuesday morning, and bring them back into your yard by Tuesday evening. Thanks!

2. **Plastics Roundup** - Saturday, September 29, 2007, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at: **Floyd Light Middle School** 10800 SE Washington and **Kaiser Permanente** 3550 N Interstate (at Fremont) and,

Saturday, October 6, 2007, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at: **PCC Sylvania** 12000 SW 49th lot 10 and **Westview High School** 4200 NW 185th North Parking lot. These are all Portland locations.

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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