



# Cascade Highlands Herald

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

Nov 2007

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

## 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 \$356.94 but we will be paying for some tree purchase offsets, as well as two neighborhood trees (from donated money specifically for that purpose) in the immediate future.

## Are you Part of the Recycling Pilot Project?

If you were recently given a large roll cart for your recycling as part of a new pilot project from waste management, please remember: NO GLASS can go in the roll cart. Glass needs to go in a separate recycling bin. 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, Gary Bohman, Jennifer Chariarse, April and Scott Charleton, Rosenna and Ken Cheng, Cecil

Davies, Son Do, 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, Leanore Olmstead, Holly Orr, Nathalie Pinzone, Pat Poe, Diane Pudans, Dodili Rogoway, Ron and Shirley Royer, Barbara Scherr, Steve Schmidkofer, Marianne Stein, Jim Strouse, Anne Vitort, Bill Wilton and Jessica Yates for helping with the September newsletter.

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## Grant Report 2007

CHNA received two of 3 NAP grant requests: the tree matching grant, and the Crosswalk/ADA ramps at Stevenson on Parkcrest. Thank you, city of Vancouver, for recognizing our needs and efforts to help our neighborhood be safe and to increase our tree canopy.

We will be contacting the individuals who agreed to participate in the tree matching grant project in the very near future.

While our goal is to have ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) ramps at all intersections, this is a long-term project. Each corner of an intersection costs up to \$4,000.00 depending on factors such as the presence (or not) of a catch basin (runoff water drain), foliage or trees, number of curb cuts required, or terrain. On our intersections with sidewalks on only one side of the street, we need four such corner designs, not eight, however, the maximum amount of money given to NAP (Neighborhood Action Plan) grant requests is \$5,000.00, which doesn't cover the up to \$12,000.00 per intersection. Five thousand dollars is the amount the city has given us for our two ADA ramp grant awards (last year's, at Parkcrest and Sunpark, and this year's Parkcrest at Stevenson). The additional money to complete the project must come from somewhere and is sometimes found in unused contingency funds from other projects. We are looking in to obtaining funding from other sources for future intersection improvements which include all of the intersections on Parkcrest, McGillivray (within our boundaries), and Briarwood.

The fourth grant application, the REET (Real Estate Excise Tax) grant proposal came in first in its category (of 2nd tier streets), but placed third when compared to the first place winners in the other two categories. As a result, the REET money left after the other two projects were fully funded is less than we need to complete our 160th Avenue Traffic Calming and ADA Ramp grant request. We are in the process of paring down the extent of the project. If you have an opinion to express on this paring, please call 896-7291 immediately, as decisions will be made soon as to what portions of the project will be carried out and which will not be funded at this time. Thank you.

## Recycling 'Plastic' Mail

Do you wonder if mail you receive which feels like plastic can be recycled in with your 'paper' recycling? Try to tear the corner off. If it tears easily, it's paper and is coated with a layer of clay so it CAN be recycled. If it doesn't tear easily, it's plastic, and must be thrown in the garbage.



## Street Sweeping & Fall Leaves, Burnt out Street Lights

Please remember to NOT rake, sweep, or pile up leaves in the street. The sweepers are not equipped to sweep up piles or large amounts of leaves. Please use the free fall leaf coupons for disposal of leaves (these were included with our last newsletter and are also available in your utility bill, and through solid waste, 735-8808).

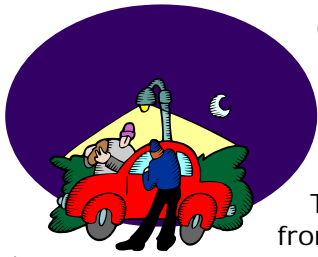
If you notice a street light is burned out, please report it by calling 696-8177. If your call is after hours, press 0 and leave your name, contact number, description of the problem, and its location.

## Revisiting Vent Plugs and Radon Contamination

A couple of years ago we printed two articles about elevated radon levels in the crawl space under our home caused by the usual practice of inserting vent plugs to cut under-house air exchange during the winter.

The results were as follows: with vent plugs inserted (meaning almost no air circulation), the radon gas level was 8.0 and 8.1 pCi/L (we set out two recording vials) which is above the EPA recommended maximum. Radon gas level tests conducted after the removal of the vent plugs showed 0.6 pCi/L which is well within the recommended minimum level.

The choice appears to be; lower heating bills vs. an assault on your lungs by radon. We have high radon readings in our immediate area because of the Montana dirt and rocks brought here 10,000+ years ago by the Missoula floods.



## Car Prowls and Thefts Continue in Our Area

The following is an article from our NPO

(Neighborhood Police Officer), Officer Ford 360-696-8282 ext. 3217

### YOU CAN PREVENT CAR THEFT!

Most cars are taken by amateurs who can be stopped fairly easily. Protect your car against this type of crime by taking the following sensible precautions:

#### Lock up

- \* An unlocked car is an open invitation to a car thief. *Lock up when you leave your car, and take the keys with you.*
- \* Lock the trunk or tailgate.
- \* Close all windows - professional thieves have tools that unlock cars through the smallest of openings.
- \* Be sure vent or wind-wing windows are shut tight and locked.
- \* When you park your car, remove cellular phones, stereos, and other valuable possessions. Do not leave gift-wrapped packages or cameras lying on the seat. Lock all valuables in your trunk or take them with you.
- \* Lock your car even if you are making a quick stop at the gas station, convenience store or mini-mall.

#### Park carefully

- \* Don't leave an auto in unattended public parking lots for an extended period. A car is five times more likely to be stolen from an unattended lot than from the street or attended lot.
- \* If possible, park your car in a lot where you don't have to leave your keys.
- \* Never attach a tag with your name and address to your key ring. If the keys are lost or stolen, the tag will lead the thief directly to your car and your home. If you have to leave your keys with a parking attendant, leave only the ignition key.
- \* At night, park in well-lit areas with lots of people around.
- \* Turn wheels sharply toward the curb when parking, this makes it extra difficult for thieves to tow your car.

#### Operation I.D.

- \* With an electric engraver, etch your driver's license number (preceded by the letters "WA") on stereo equipment and other valuable items. *(if you need to borrow an etcher, call 896-7291)*
- \* Record your vehicle identification number (located on a small metal plate on the dashboard of newer cars) and store it in a safe place.
- \* Keep the vehicle registration in your wallet or purse, not in your car.

#### Use anti-theft devices

- \* When buying a car, check the manufacturer's list of anti-theft options, such as interior hood and trunk releases, locking steering columns and others.
- \* Consider the purchase and installation of security devices, such as:
  - Interior hood lock release.
  - Second ignition switch or "kill switch" to prevent electrical current from reaching the coil distributor.
  - Fuel switch to prevent fuel from reaching the carburetor.

#### Vehicle Security

- Locking gas cap.
- Locking devices for batteries, wheels, decks, etc.
- Alarm device to activate a siren, horn or lights
- or all three - to frighten the thief away.
- Device that attaches to the steering wheel or brake pedal.

### A Thank You to our 2007 Tree Waterers

The following people have faithfully watered our baby public trees all season and we thank them for contributing to the betterment of our community: Rosie, Lisa, Larry, Erika, Jean, and Rosie's neighbor.



### C-Tran is Coming to Western CHNA

November 18th is the proposed route-change date for the # 80 bus route. Starting on that date, the bus will travel on Parkcrest and Blairmont on its way from the Vancouver Mall Transit Center to the Fishers Landing Transit Center.

Bus # 80's specific route will be: from Vanc. Mall, east on 41st St., south on 112th Ave., east on 28th St., south on 136th Ave. (past the Firstenburg), east on Mill Plain, south on Parkcrest, southwest on Blairmont, east on McGillivray, and south on Village Loop and 162nd Ave. to the Fishers Landing Transit Center.

Finally, you'll be able to take the bus to Firstenburg!

## CHNA Tree Planting – Still Time to Order

If you would like to order trees for your parking strip, front or back yard, you may do so until mid December. For parking strip trees, you will need to create an on-line account right away, though, to allow for time for the urban forestry inspection which must occur before you can order. This is our 6<sup>th</sup> annual event in partnership with the City of Vancouver Urban Forestry and Friends of Trees. Trees are only \$45 each – a deal for a nursery stock 6'to 14' tree! Ordering is on-line this year, at [www.friendsoftrees.org](http://www.friendsoftrees.org), or you may call Erika at 260-9140 if you do not have internet access.

## To Aid the Street Sweeper

(Reprinted from Jan. 06 newsletter)

Please consider removing your basketball goal from the vicinity of the street every once in a while (when the street sweeper is due) so that the sweeper can clean up the leaves and other refuse which accumulates around the goal's base.

Also, please trim branches and bushes, and move parked vehicles so that the street sweeper can clean all areas of the curb. This will help keep weeds from growing in the gutter. Thanks!

## How Your Newsletter Gets to You

(Reprinted from Jan. 05 newsletter)

Many people are involved in getting these newsletters to you. Here's the procedure:

1. Most all articles are written by your chair, although some have been written by other board members, or city personnel at times.
2. The newsletter articles are emailed to the newsletter editor who does all the work of laying out the format of the articles.

3. Your chair and editor give the first draft a final going-over and any corrections, additions or subtractions are made.

4. The editor emails the completed newsletter to the Office of Neighborhoods staff members who arrange for the printing of over 1,000 copies of our newsletter by the City of Vancouver Print shop. We are allowed 48 pages per year (there are 62 neighborhood associations whose newsletters the city prints, which is a big commitment to supporting the associations!).

5. The head newsletter distributor drives to City Hall and picks up the boxes of newsletters. She calls all distributors (to make certain each will be able to deliver his/her route this cycle), counts out the correct number of newsletters (to match the number of residences for each distributor's route), marks a map to remind each distributor of his/her route, and hand delivers a baggie with the newsletters and the map in it to each distributor.

6. Each distributor distributes his/her newsletters to individual residents.

You can see there are many people who make this process work. Here's a BIG THANK YOU to each of you! We couldn't do it without you. If you have any comments about or recommendations for the newsletter, please send an email or call 896-7291. Thanks!

### Notes:

1. **Yard Debris** pickup dates in upcoming months are: Nov. 13, 27, Dec 11, 26. 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. It is illegal to have your bins out longer than that (you can be ticketed). 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.

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