



# Cascade Highlands Herald

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

March 2008

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 \$226.94. There has been no fiduciary 'activity' since January, 2008.

## Are our Sidewalks Usable?

Please trim the bushes and trees away from your portion of the sidewalk so people can use it easily. No head bonks, or clothes snag for us!



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, Jo Byrne, Jennifer Chariarse, April and Scott Charleton, Rosenna and Ken Cheng, Cecil Davies, Edith Hartley, Ann Horstman, Jim Hoover and Shareefah Abdullah, Brenda Jensen, Erika and Mark Johnson, Jean Kent, Peggy Liang, Sheila McKay, Elise Miller, Doug Mineau, Leanore Olmstead, Holly Orr, Pat Poe, Diane Pudans, Ron and Shirley Royer, Barbara Scherr, Steve Schmidkofer, Annie Sheng, Marianne Stein, Jim Strouse, Anne Vitort, Bill Wilton and Jessica Yates* for helping with the January newsletter.

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## Pacific Community Park construction will be finished this summer

Dog lovers who enjoy exercising their pets off-leash are familiar with this 56-acre park which is located on the south side of NE 18th Street between NE 164th and 172nd Avenues.

Phase 1 of the development of this park began last spring and is scheduled to be complete in June 2008. After the construction is complete, Pacific park will feature walking and biking trails, a playground, a basketball court, an extreme sports park, a fenced off-leash dog park, open lawn, forested natural areas, parking lots, and two restrooms.

During construction involving the dog-park area a temporary off-leash dog park known as Vandervort Park (or Fisher-Mill Plain Neighborhood Park) will be available for off-leash dogs and their families. Vandervort Park is an undeveloped county park site on NE 172nd Ave. between NE 3rd and 5th streets.

Laurelwood Baptist Church will allow dog park visitors to park in the church parking lots except on Sundays during church meeting time. Clark County DOGPAW and the Vancouver Fire Dept. will handle maintenance of the dog park.

The dog park will return to Pacific Park from Vandervort this summer after construction of Pacific Park is complete.

The old dog park area (on the southwest corner of Pacific Park) will become a new fire station.

## Cleanup Opportunities

We have four city-sponsored cleanup activities this year (as usual).

1. You will receive the yard debris & tire coupons attached to this March newsletter. The coupons are good from April 1-June 30. There are two yard debris coupons and one Tire Disposal (good for up to 4 tires) coupon.
2. Free curbside pick up of non-working major appliances from single family homes in recognized neighborhood associations (that's our CHNA!!) are eligible to schedule this service

by calling 696-8186 after Feb. 18 (i.e. NOW). This free service is available only during April and will be scheduled until the pickup spaces are filled.

3. Our annual cleanup is scheduled for the last Saturday of July, July 26th, from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at Mtn. View H.S. (1500 SE Blairmont). Volunteers are needed for each of four shifts. At this cleanup, we collect food and personal care products to donate to FISH of Orchards. We accept yard debris and junk. No hazardous waste, please.

4. Leaf disposal coupons - in the fall, dump your leaves at H&H or West Van Materials Recovery Center - for free, courtesy of our City.



## Please Work to Keep This Resolution for 2008!

As part of an ongoing, regional solid waste and recycling effort, Clark County and the cities of Vancouver, Camas, Washougal, Battle Ground, Ridgefield, La Center, and Yacolt, are asking all local residents to make a firm resolution to keep solvents, paints, pesticides, herbicides, fertilizer, batteries, and other chemicals **out** of their trash containers during the coming year.

Here's why: Placing hazardous products or waste in your garbage container could harm the garbage hauler or parts of the environment. Many household wastes contain hazardous chemicals that, if not handled properly, can harm plants and wildlife, and pollute ground, surface, and drinking water. That's also why hazardous waste should never be disposed of in a ditch, on the ground, down a storm drain, or in a septic tank.

To identify hazardous waste, look on the label for signal words such as: poison, corrosive, combustible, caustic, volatile, flammable, danger, caution, or warning.

The collection of household hazardous wastes, a service offered by Clark County, its cities, and Washington State Department of Ecology, provides a number of convenient disposal options to help you keep your resolution and make proper disposal easy. If you live in Clark County or its cities, you can safely dispose of your household hazardous waste for free at any

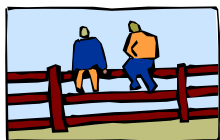
of the Household Hazardous Collection Facilities or events listed below:

Central Transfer and Recycling Center:  
11034 NE 117th Avenue, Vancouver  
(360) 256-8482  
Saturdays and Sundays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

West Van Materials Recovery Center:  
6601 NW Old Lower River Road, Vancouver  
(360) 737-1727  
Fridays and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Burlington Environmental Services:  
625 S. 32nd, Washougal  
(360) 835-8594  
First Tuesday of every month from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

For information about the county's mobile household hazardous waste collection events, and computer and block foam recycling, or for answers to any hazardous waste, recycling, or waste reduction questions, call Clark County Solid Waste at (360) 397-6118 ext. 4352, or the City of Vancouver's Solid Waste Services at (360) 696-8186.



## Replacing Tired, Worn-Out 'Public' Fences

Residing in and maintaining a residence is hard enough, but when your fence divides your property from a major street such as McGillivray (or 164th Ave.), it can sometimes make for a difficult challenge to manage such a fence. Residents of the south portion of 158th Loop have struggled with the difficulty of an individually-owned-yet-neighborhood-perimeter fence which needs to be replaced. Plus they are living next to a street which has experienced a steep increase in traffic and noise since the houses were built.

After studying the situation, the city concluded that it would not pay for a sound wall. Speed cushions (like on Blairmont and Parkcrest) cannot be installed because McGillivray is a main fire truck route and the fire department is mandated to reach a fire within a certain period of time and cushions and humps slow that response time.

Individuals can build a taller fence than the 8' allowed, (a building permit is required) but it

must be placed 10 feet within that individual's property line, which pretty much eliminates most of those 158th Loops residence's back yards.

Modern life brings us difficult choices.



## 2008 CHNA/FOT Tree Planting Report

It snowed (admittedly, just a little). It sleeted (not much). It even rained (no surprise) during our January 19th Saturday morning tree planting adventure. Crew Leaders (the trained volunteers who direct each team to plant their trees), Vancouver Urban Forestry staff, volunteer tree planters, our own tree planting coordinator (Erika Johnson), community service members, and several pickup trucks all converged on the Mtn. View H.S. parking lot as we organized ourselves, loaded the trucks, and munched on/drank donated goodies from Albertsons and Starbucks.

Together we planted 20 trees within our CHNA boundaries, and 29 more trees in Mountain View, Cascade SE, and Bennington Neighborhood Association boundaries. We are now standing at two hundred seventy (that's 270) trees planted through this program in CHNA!

One exciting area we planted is on Parkcrest, just south of 7th St., by the apartments. When these trees (4 Frontier elms, and 4 Pyramidal Hornbeams) get older, think of how beautiful it will be to enter our neighborhood from the Hearthwood area! A combination of funding paid for those 8 trees: private donations, money earned from neighbors participating in the Portland downspout disconnection program, City of Vancouver grant money, and some neighborhood association funds.

Blairmont is sporting 5 new trees - two from the 17th St. safe crossing grant, one to replace the broken tree on the west side down near McGillivray (paid for by private donation), and two on the west side paid for through the NAP tree-planting grant we won.

These baby trees (although they're quite tall and very healthy looking) will suck up CO<sub>2</sub>, slow the rain water, enrich the soil, add value to our properties, slow traffic, and reduce violence - a

heavy responsibility for such quiet and cooperative genius.

If you planted a tree last year, now's the time to pull the stakes (and remove the twine or any other items restricting growth - like those plastic I.D. tags or other markings). Please be certain to water - 1 baby-finger's width of water out of your hose for 30 minutes per tree, or 10 gallons all at once, once a week, whenever there's not substantial rain.

## Grants for 2008

R.E.E.T. - ADA ramps for Parkcrest (and maybe Blairmont) Each 4-corner 8-ramp intersection costs \$24,000. (Parkcrest has 3-corner, either 3 or 4 ramp intersections, so is slightly cheaper. The limit for this grant is recommended to be between 60K and 120K.)

N.A.P. Matching - tree planting

N.A.P. - fire hydrant management

We will not apply for any C.D.B.G. money for ADA ramps this grant cycle.

(This article has been non-nutritious vegetable soup: REET = Real Estate Excise Tax, ADA = Americans with Disability Act, NAP - Neighborhood Action Plan, K = thousand.)

## Graffiti is not art. It's a crime.

Here's what you can do help reduce the chances of your property, or other property within our N.A. boundaries, being targeted by graffiti. Make every effort to keep the appearance of your home clean and neat. Remove litter and trash, fix broken fences, trim the landscaping and be sure all the lighting is working properly. Keep your eyes open for graffiti - and if you see it, REPORT IT.

Private Property - Call the Vancouver Police Department at 487-7355

Public Property - Call the City of Vancouver Operations at 696-8177

Highways and Overpasses - Call the Washington State DOT at 759-1300

Electrical Boxes - Call CPU at 992-3000

Bus Stops - Call C-Tran at 695-0123

If graffiti happens to you - remember the three R's of graffiti: RECORD, REPORT, and REMOVE.

Some graffiti is "tagging" and is not necessarily related to gang activity. Taggers may be part of a group of people all of whom tag. A common tag will be a name, generally only a few letters, or letters and numbers in some combination, with which the writer identifies him/her self. It may or may not be the common spelling of the word. It may not even be a recognizable word. It's often written in some kind of fancy writing which you may not be able to read.



## Recyclingest Neighborhood Program Needs YOU!

It's time for us to recruit a volunteer or two to represent CHNA at the annual Recyclingest Neighborhood workshops. This year, one workshop will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 16, at the West Van Materials Recovery Center, 6601 NW Old Lower River Road. It includes a walking tour of the processing facility. For safety reasons, participants must be at least eight years old.

The evening workshop is scheduled for Thursday April 17th, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. It will be held in the community room at the Water Center, 4600 SE Columbia Way.

City neighborhoods (like US!) who send a representative to the one of the training classes and publish an approved recycling article in their neighborhood newsletter will receive a check for \$120. You don't even have to write the article! There are 10 pre-written articles that you can choose from. This is a primary source of our CHNA funds each year, so we could really use your help with this program. Besides, the trainings/workshops are interesting!



## Washington Vehicle Registration

The DMV asks that you update your vehicle registration for an out-of-state vehicle within 30 days of its purchase. If you know of an out-of-state registered vehicle which has been used by a Washington resident for longer than 30 days, you may choose to call (360) 260-6333, option 5, then option 3. It's estimated that if all Clark County registered their vehicles in Washington (rather than

Oregon, the dominant out-of-state registration) we would have enough money to solve the city's financial woes.

## Electrician's Advice Needed

The darn pass through lights aren't working again (well, the westerly one is, the two easterly ones aren't). We need some advice! If you are an experienced electrician and are willing to give experienced electrical advice (you don't have to do the work), please call 896-7291. Thank you.



## N.A. Garbage Can Update

The road has been bumpy for our N.A. requested-purchased-and-placed garbage cans. Everything worked ok for a little while, and then the park garbage can didn't get emptied. (This is OUR responsibility, not the City's.) As this newsletter went to press, Mike Story called and said that he would take care of the park NA garbage can. Thank you, Mike!

As for the pass through garbage can, some selfish person (or people) is using that can for their personal garbage and for yard debris. This is NOT ok! If this behavior continues, we'll be removing that can. :(

## Garbage/Recycling Day Hint

Please be sure there is a distance of 4 feet between your roll carts (or recycle bins) on garbage day. The trucks have extendable arms which spring out and snag your roll cart. If something is too close to the side or sides of the can (or something too low overhead also can be a problem) then it's difficult for the driver to grab the can. Let's be helpful, and put a decent space between our roll carts and recycling containers. THANKS!

Please remember - NO plastic veggie trays. NO plastic cartons. No pizza boxes can be recycled.

Also, the Recycling BIG Roll Cart Pilot project will be continued until December. Please remember NO GLASS goes in the roll cart!

## What to Put Directly Under Trees?

NOT plastic, please. Tree roots need oxygen

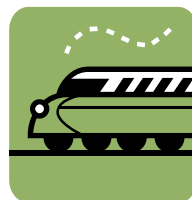
and a plastic barrier creates an anaerobic environment, causing all kinds of problems for the tree. Plastic also keeps essential water from reaching the roots and bugs can thrive under the plastic and eat away at the roots. Consider placing several sheets of newspaper or planting cloth with small holes under the tree and covering with 2 inches of bark or compost.

## Concrete or Flowers With a Few Weeds?

The city voted for concrete to infill the narrow center dividers on McGillivray, just east of Briarwood and west of Village Loop. Removing the dirt meant that daffodil bulbs and golden poppy seeds can no longer thrive there. It might be easier to maintain, but it sure isn't as interesting, as rain friendly, or as pretty as what soil offers the eyes.

## Rock Removal Project

High noon on Feb. 23rd, found several volunteers removing some troublesome rock from a back residence on 15th St. and replacing it with less throwable (we hope) lava rock. Two cubic yards of very nice river rock were removed, rock by rock, and replaced with the red rock. Here's a big thank you to Michael, Susan, Patrick, Erika, Nat, Jon, Emalie's truck, and Jean. We worked hard and got the job done quickly, with some energy derived from Michael and Susan's brownies and juice!



## Light Rail and CRC (Columbia River Crossing)

by Mark Johnson  
A Columbia River Crossing  
Portland-Vancouver

Roundtable on Light Rail was held on February 23, 2008 at Kaiser Permanente Town Hall in Portland. About 30 people attended the meeting, many representing different Vancouver neighborhoods.

The meeting provided an opportunity to introduce Vancouver residents to North Portland community members that have been through the planning and construction of light rail. The purpose of the meeting was to encourage dialogue, help dispel common misconceptions and fears, and answer questions. Residents in North Portland shared many of the same concerns as the project hears now from



Vancouver residents, such as safety and security, the disruptive nature of construction on business and neighborhoods, and the public involvement process.

Vancouver residents met at the Portland Expo Center transit station. Tom Markgraf and Ann Becklund, TriMet's Director of Community Affairs, led a tour and provided an overview of Portland's Interstate MAX project. They described some of the safety and security features that have been designed with the system. Once the group arrived at the meeting location, Vancouver residents met with North Portland residents and business owners for a round table discussion. Portland residents spoke about their experiences and Vancouver residents had the chance to ask questions.

Portland residents generally found the process to be very worthwhile. They said that Tri-Met had worked with neighborhoods to look at their concerns and address issues. The project as created would not directly affect the Cascade Highlands Neighborhood; however, it may indirectly affect it as a result of construction and how it affects transportation in the Vancouver area.

For more information about the Columbia River Crossing project, check out:  
[www.columbiarivercrossing.org](http://www.columbiarivercrossing.org)

## Newsletter Distributors Needed

Do you enjoy reading this publication? If so, please consider becoming a distributor. This pleasant task is done just 6 times per year, routes are relatively small, and you get to get some exercise and meet your neighbors! If at any time you are unable to distribute, you are able to opt out as needed (no questions asked). We especially need someone on SE 12<sup>th</sup> St and subs who are willing to take a different route each time. Please call 260-9140 if you are interested. Thanks!

Note: Your editor did 5 routes last time.

### Notes:

1. **Yard Debris** pickup dates in upcoming months are: Mar. 4, 18, April 1, 15, and 29, and May 13 and 27. Please put out your garbage, recycle bins or recycle roll cart, and yard waste containers either Monday evening or

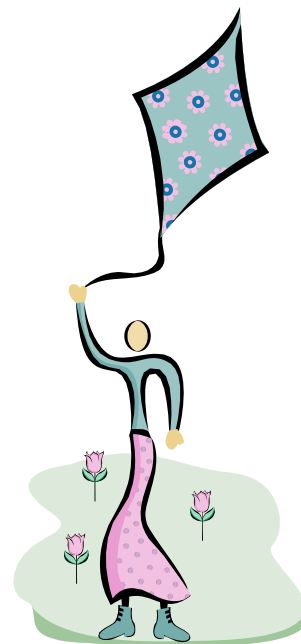
Tuesday morning, and bring them back into your yard by Tuesday evening. Please leave 4' between roll carts.

It is illegal to have your bins out longer than that. You can be ticketed. Thanks!

2. **Annual Cleanup** - Saturday, July 26, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Mtn. View parking lot (1500 SE Blairmont Ave.)

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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# Happy Spring!