



Cascade Highlands Herald

www.neighborhoodlink.com/vancouver/cascadehighlands

November 2008

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

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be January 15, 2009 at Mtn. View H.S. (1500 Blairmont) at 7:00 p.m. in the forum room. The primary goal of the meeting is to elect our Neighborhood Association officers. We will also present information on the switch to digital television and the budget situation of the City of Vancouver.

New Move-Ins to the Neighborhood

If you just moved in (or have a newly moved-in neighbor) and would like to receive our welcoming newcomer 'information sheets', please contact Jean Kent 896-7291. THANKS, and *welcome to the neighborhood!*

Treasurer's Report

Balance is \$1,015,34 which does not include the money for our tree grant; however, some of these funds will be used to replace neighborhood trees planted in previous plantings that have died.

Thank you to all of our dedicated newsletter distributors - you help make Cascade Highlands a great place to live!



live! Thank you to *Judy and Dick Bird, Eileen and Joe Blackman, Gary Bohman, Joe Byrne, Jennifer Chariarse, April and Scott Charleton, Rosenna and Ken Cheng, Cecil Davies, Marion Dittman, Son Do, Terry Fraser, Edith Hartley, Ann Horstman, Jim Hoover and Shareefah Abdullah, Brenda Jensen, Erika and Mark Johnson, Jean Kent, Peggy Liang, Elise Miller, Doug Mineau, Leane 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, Chelinda Weber, Bill Wilton and Jessica Yates* for helping with the July newsletter.

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Election of Officers

The terms for our slate of officers is up in January. Our current officers are willing to serve again. If you are interested in being an officer,

please contact chair Jean Kent (896-7291). Elections will occur during our January 15th meeting.

We are recommending that we change the term of the offices to terminate in July, which is when we hold our summer meeting in the park. That meeting is always well attended. Meetings held at other times of the year are not as well attended. If you have an opinion about changing the terms of our officers to run from July to July (two years later) instead of January to January (also two years later), please email or phone an officer of CHNA.

CHNA Awarded Two of Three Grants

The City of Vancouver has approved funding for eight Neighborhood Action Plan (NAP) Grant projects totaling \$34,532.72, and six neighborhood matching grant projects totaling \$4,284.53. The City Council made grant funds available to recognized neighborhood associations to help implement projects included in neighborhood action plans. The matching grants required that the association provide funds or volunteer labor toward the project to match the amount granted by the City. Grants have been awarded annually.

CHNA's NAP grant for moving the fire hydrants blocking the sidewalk on McGillivray was 'awarded' but carried out by Operations, so the cost was internalized by the city.

Neighborhood Matching Grants awarded are as follows:

- **Cascade Highlands Neighborhood Association - \$1,000 for neighborhood tree planting project**
- Fruit Valley Neighborhood Association - \$425.04 for K-9 Poo Patrol Stations
- Lincoln Neighborhood Association - \$750 for neighborhood tree planting project
- Shumway Neighborhood Association - \$1,000 for neighborhood tree planting project

Our Parkcrest ADA and Crosswalk grant was not awarded. There were ten other grant requests in the running, several of which were of critical importance and three of which were funded. We are sorry we did not receive funding, but appreciate the work both the city and the NTSA (Neighborhood Traffic Safety Alliance) evaluation committee put in to rank the various grants.

Vancouver City Budgets and CHNA

Due to the severe cutting of city programs which will happen because of our city's budget shortfall, services to the neighborhoods will most likely be severely curtailed starting in the next budget year. It's our guess that the era of neighborhood-initiated grants will be changing in the near future. Fortunately, we in CHNA were able to 'make hay while the sun shone' and have been the beneficiaries of many grants during the past few years: two tree plantings, three traffic calming, a street light, four pedestrian amenities (such as ADA ramps and sidewalks), fire hydrant moving, shrubbery renewal, lighting of the pass-through, speed humps, bike lanes, all have been funded by city grant funds. Thank you, Vancouver, for supporting us in our efforts to improve our neighborhood.

Meeting with Mtn. View H.S. Principal

In October, chair Jean Kent and newsletter distributor Erika Johnson met with Mtn. View H.S. principal Mike Meloy to discuss a few neighborhood topics.

1. There's been a request to have resident-permitted no-parking signs installed on the east side of Blairmont between SE 17th St. and SE 152nd Ct.
2. The neighborhood thanks the various service groups from Mtn. View who pick up area litter.
3. We wish to promote the planting of trees on the Mtn. View campus, particularly along Parkcrest by the soccer fields and on the east side of the main parking lot. Mr. Meloy will check with the Evergreen S.D. facilities director to see the feasibility of planting trees in those two spots.
4. Mr. Meloy asked if we could contact some owners of residences on Blairmont whose front yards need maintenance to see if crews from

the high school could do some yard work to improve the 'curb appeal.'



Block Foam Recycling Moves Close to CHNA!

Jan. 3 (9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.) in the Fisher's Landing transit Center the city will be sponsoring a Block Foam Recycling event. Save up that packaging white stuff, and recycle it conveniently, close to home. If you can't wait that long, Clark College is having a Block Foam Recycling event Nov. 15th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Computer Cords, Printer Cables, Remotes, AC Adapters

Are these items taking over your 'I don't know what to do with this stuff!' box? Help is near! Recycle them at the CREAM location, which is 5197 NW Lower River Road. CREAM is open 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday. This no longer needed equipment will also be accepted at the Nov. 15 block foam and electronics collection event in the Purple 1 lot at Clark Community College. That event's hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Garage Sale Coming Next Year

There is No **Garage Sale** this year, although it's coming - July, 2009 is our next date.

CRESA 911 Open House

We attended the CRESA (Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency) open house and police dog demonstration early in October. The open house included a tour of the 911 facility. Each 911 worker is cross-trained to work all radio calls. The training is intense and requires fast decision-making skills. The worker has 4 monitors to use and refer to such as phone enhanced 911, and a CAD - computer aided dispatch monitor. These people work 4 days on (in shifts of 10.25 hours) and 4 days off. In a traffic stop, the police officer makes voice contact with the 911 worker every 5 minutes.

Tips for making 911 calls:

Is a person hurt or in danger?

Do you need the police, the fire fighters, or an ambulance?

If you call 911, even by mistake, do NOT hang up the phone

Do your best to stay calm and answer all questions as best you can.

Know the location of the emergency (look for land marks, cross streets, signs, and buildings).

Teach your children to know their name, their parent(s)' name, their phone, and their address.

Post your address at your driveway entrance.

Trainings Available if You're Interested

Citizen Corps has several trainings for you:

1. CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)
2. VIPS (Volunteers in Police Service)
3. Medical Reserve Corp
4. Fire Corps
5. Neighborhood Watch



Mill Plain Streetlights FINALLY Coming?

We received notification from John Manix, City Transportation engineer, that our long-awaited streetlights on Mill Plain between 155th and 160th Avenues will be installed sometime this fall, once the poles arrive. This has been a several-year project, initiated by us getting a local grant to put up a few lights, which was used as leverage to get a state grant to install more and better quality lights, which was put on hold for a couple years. At any rate, hopefully, by January 2009 we should have 12 new street lights, providing some adequate lighting on our northern boundary. Estimated cost for the project is \$100,000.

Leaves Raked into the Street or Over Fences?

Residents are being asked not to rake your leaves into the street. The sweeper is not set up to pick up a large quantity of leaves which residents rake into the street. Additionally, please do not dump your leaves over your side or back fence for other people to clean up.

Please use your yard waste bins for leaves as Waste Connections will recycle the contents of those, or you can use the coupons provided in your utility bill and our last newsletter for free disposal at various recycling places, or of course you can compost your leaves in your own yards.

Rich compost can form from decomposed fall leaves!

Mortgage Payment Problems?

If you are falling behind on your mortgage payment feel free to contact one of the following local non-profit organizations. They may be able to help you.

Columbia Non-Profit Housing (360) 993-9555
www.columbianonprofithousing.org

Community Housing Resource Center
(360) 690-4496 ext. 102 or www.homecen.org

Consumer Counseling Northwest
1-800-244-1183 ext. 170 or www.CCNW.org

Washington State Homeownership Information Hotline
1-877-894-4663 or
www.homeownership.wa.gov.



Final Tree Planting Signups Almost Ended

You must sign up by Nov. 17 to plant trees in our final *Friends of Trees* planting. We think that after 7 years and 7 plantings, that CHNA has purchased all the trees it's going to purchase through our annual tree plantings. (We have planted 270 trees!) Furthermore, there will be no more tree-cost-offset grants available from the city in the foreseeable future. So this is your last year to participate in this program. Contact Erika Johnson at erikalovesnature@hotmail.com or 260-9140 immediately if you want to be included in this year's planting.

Idle Your Vehicle's Engine?

With colder weather settling in for the fall and winter season, it's a good time to review an old practice--idling your vehicle's engine to warm up your vehicle.

Ten seconds of idling can use up more fuel than restarting the engine. In addition, idling produces major amounts of vehicle exhaust, the leading source of toxic air pollution in the state of Washington, as well as needless greenhouse gas emissions. Here are some additional facts to consider:

In the case of computer-controlled, fuel-injected gas engines, you need no more than 30 seconds of idling before driving. In fact, the best and

fastest way to warm up a vehicle is to drive it. Driving a vehicle cuts warm up time in half.

Three minutes is generally considered sufficient time to warm up many diesel vehicles.

In winter conditions, emissions from an idling vehicle are more than double the normal level after a cold start. In a cold-start situation, drive off as soon as safely possible, avoiding rapid acceleration for the first five miles.

Restarting a vehicle has little impact on the engine components such as the battery and starter motor.

Remember Washington laws: No vehicle operator in charge of a motor vehicle shall permit it to stand unattended without first stopping the engine, locking the ignition, removing the key, and setting the parking brake.

For more on this topic, check out www.epa.gov.

Notes

1) Please put out your full or almost full 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 feet between roll carts.

Leaving your carts out longer than that can be cause for the Code Enforcement (newly named *Code Compliance*) personnel to pay you a visit. Also, putting out nearly empty containers is a waste of the garbage hauler's time and effort, which ends up costing you more so please put out only full or almost full bins.

2) Please be safe when on the roads: bike with the traffic and walk (or jog/run) against the traffic. Wishing all CHNA residents an accident-free winter this year!

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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