



Cascade Highlands Herald

www.neighborhoodlink.com/vancouver/cascadehighlands

March 2009

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

Next Meeting

There is no 'next' meeting scheduled at this time.

Upcoming Dates

- 1) Garage Sale - Saturday, July 18th, 8:00 am – 3:00 pm
- 2) Cleanup - Saturday, July 25th, 8:00 am - 12:30 pm

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

Current Balance is \$944.89. This is the prior balance of \$2,105.34, minus \$1,124.75 to Friends of Trees (\$1,000.00 of that is 2008 Matching NAP grant money), minus \$35.70 check to Gary Bohman for repair of bus bench broken slat.

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 and Joe Blackman, Gary Bohman, Joe Byrne, Jennifer Chariarse, April and Scott Charleton, Rosenna and Ken Cheng, Cecil Davies, Marion Dittman, Son Do, Julie Dunn, Terry Fraser, Edith Hartley, Jim Hoover and Shareefah Abdullah, Ann Horstman, Brenda Jensen, Erika and Mark Johnson, Jean Kent, Annette Leone, Peggy Liang, Doug Mineau, Leanore Olmstead, Holly Orr, Nathalie Pinzone, Pat Poe, Diane Pudans, Ron and Shirley Royer, Barbara Scherr, Steve Schmidtkofer, Marianne Stein, Jim Strouse, Anne Vitort, Chelinda Weber, Bill Wilton and Jessica Yates* for helping with the last newsletter.



C.H.N.A. LEADERSHIP

Chair

Jean Kent 896-7291

jeaken@pacifier.com

Vice-Chair

Gary Bohman 254-2009

pegarma@aol.com

Treasurer

Nathalie Pinzone

Secretary

Mark Johnson 260-9140

City Liaison

Antoinette Gasbarre 619-1008

antoinettegasbarre@ci.vancouver.wa.us

Newsletter Editor

Mark Johnson 260-9140

Newsletter Distributor

Erika Johnson 260-9140

Website Coordinator

Dan West

dan@westofnorthwest.org

Neighborhood Policing

Officer: Corporal Charlie Ford
696-8292 X 3217, or
487-7540,

charlie.ford@ci.vancouver.wa.us



Grants - Somewhat Past, Present, and Future

We have resubmitted last year's unfunded grant proposal to complete the ADA (American's with Disabilities Act) Ramps on Parkcrest this year. Due to changes in funding (much less money allotted to the program, and the cutting back of city staff in support of researching and the engineering of the grants) the timing of this evaluation is much different than it has been in the past. We should know by the end of April if this project is selected for funding.

Otherwise, we're not submitting any grant proposals this year. If you have a neighborhood idea which could be carried out using funds obtained through the Vancouver grant allocation process, please call chair Jean Kent, 896-7291. Please let us know your thoughts!

Next year we plan to submit either a REET (Real Estate Excise Tax) grant or a CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) to get ADA ramps on all of Briarwood and its cross streets. If you would like to help get signatures in support of this project, please contact Jean Kent, 896-7291.

VPD East Precinct Will Accept Unwanted Meds

Clark County's Medications Take Back Program is partnering with the Vancouver Police Department to add a new collection site for no-longer wanted 'controlled substances'. Controlled substances are prescription medications such as painkillers and tranquilizers.

You can learn if a substance is "controlled" by:

- 1) asking a pharmacist
- 2) asking a physician
- 3) calling the national poison hot line (1-800-222-1222)

Please leave these products in their original container and remove or black out all patient information. Qualifying medications are collected **Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.** at the following locations:

Clark County Sheriff Headquarters-707 W. 13th St., Vancouver

Vancouver Police Department-East Precinct-520 S.E. 155th Ave., Vancouver

Washougal Police Department-1320 "A" St., Washougal

Pharmacies at SW Washington Medical Center and Legacy Salmon Creek Hospital

There are several other collection sites which can be found by contacting Clark County Solid Waste at (360) 397-6118 ext. 4352.

Recycling Electronics

Where can you recycle electronics? Call 1-800-RECYCLE or visit 1800recycle.wa.gov to learn about electronic product recycling services.

What can you recycle for free?

- televisions
- computers
- computer monitors
- portable or laptop computers

Please note that computer peripherals such as keyboards, mice, and printers are not included in this program.

Why recycle electronics? Many electronics, especially TVs and computers, contain toxic materials such as lead, cadmium and mercury. Reusing and recycling electronics keeps these toxic materials out of our landfills and incinerators and also recovers valuable resources. The electronic equipment this program collects will be taken apart and separated into materials such as glass, plastic, metal and toxic chemicals. All recycling will follow performance standards set up by the Department of Ecology.

What if your electronic equipment still works? Many groups and businesses focus on making used electronics available for reuse. Go to the State Department of Ecology website for additional information, or, consider donating your computer to CREAM (Computer Re-use and Marketing). Watch for information about the new CREAM, now a non-profit organization, coming this Spring.



Recycling Block Foam Dates

Saturday, April 4: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Clark College Yellow 1 Parking Lot, Fort Vancouver Way

Saturday, May 2: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Fishers Landing Transit Center, 3510 SE 164th Ave.

Saturday, June 6: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Clark College Yellow 1 Parking Lot, Fort Vancouver Way

Dead Appliance Pickup

Free curbside appliance pick up will occur on Mondays and Tuesdays during the month of April; to get on the schedule for pickup please call now to the City's Solid Waste line at 619-4120.

The Mill Plain Streetlights are IN!

Have you driven on Mill Plain after dark lately? We now have 17 center double-armed poles, and 16 lateral single lights installed and working between SE 148th and 160th Avenues. Some of these lights were installed by the developers of property on the north side of Mill Plain, but the lights installed in the areas not yet developed, or in the areas developed by the county, were paid for by a state grant. This grant was awarded to the city because of the little local grant we received several years ago. Sometimes good things take a while to come to fruition!

Urban Forestry Survey

Please help efforts to enhance and protect our urban forest by taking a few minutes to fill out a brief survey on tree awareness throughout Vancouver. To participate, visit www.cityofvancouver.us/urbanforestry or call 360-319-1108. Watch for a tree care awareness campaign in the next few months.

Want to get involved or help spread the word? Please call 360-619-1108 or email urbanforestry@ci.vancouver.wa.us.

Oh Snap!

The city now has its performance program, called "Oh Snap!" on the web. All of the indicators, reports, business plans, and internal initiatives are now available for you to see at www.cityofvancouver.us/performance.

Additionally, a weekly performance highlight will focus on a specific organization, area, program, or problem area within the city.

An example is the Department of Public Works Operations street division. In 2007, Operations had 878 calls to replace traffic signals and lights. Obviously lights and signals can fail at any time of day or night: replacement costs about \$225 for a long life bulb and replacing those lights can involve overtime depending upon the timing of when the light burns out and the importance of the intersection. The city is reducing these costs by converting to LED lights.

LED lights save in replacement costs, lasting 6 to 8 years vs. 1.5 years for a standard bulb and they save energy (nearly \$19 per light per year). The city will replace all red and green lights with LEDs by the end of 2009.

Yellow lights are not replaced; they last as long as many LEDs because they are on for such a short time.

What does "Operations" have to do with you?

"Operations" is the name of the city agency which has many tasks which affect the quality of your life. For us in Cascade Highlands, operations maintains the R.O.W. (Right of Way) areas (i.e. trims the bushes and cleans up debris) of properties along side of McGillivray, Parkcrest, Village Loop, and 160th. Operations paints lines on the road to separate the lanes, and to mark the bike lanes and cross walks. Operations fixes pot holes, replaces signs which get clobbered, runs the street sweepers, and cleans catch basins (drains) which get clogged. The Operations' budget has taken a huge hit from the economic down turn. What does this mean to you? If you own one of the fences along 160th, Village Loop, Parkcrest, or McGillivray, please consider stepping up and maintaining the foliage behind or alongside your back or side fence: thanks!

CHNA Meeting Notes – January 15, 2009

1. Nomination and election of CHNA officers, changing of terms of office – Jean Kent
No nominations beyond the current officers were made and all the current officers were re-elected without dissent.

- a) Chair – Jean Kent
- b) Vice-Chair – Gary Bohman
- c) Secretary/Treasurer – Secretary Mark Johnson, Treasurer Nat Pinzone
- d) Newsletter Editor/Distributor – Editor Mark Johnson, Distributor Erika Johnson

Other items voted on:

- Co-chair position was changed in title to Vice Chair.
- Term of office changed from January – January 2 years hence, to July - July 2 years hence.
- Interim positions from January to July 2009 filled by the current executive board.
- Appointment; NTSA representative – Dan West
- Appointment; Webmaster – Dan West

2. City of Vancouver budget situation – Natasha Ramras. Since 2001, there have been budget cuts. The 09-10 budget has a \$9 million deficit. This results in continued decreases in service levels, especially in Public Safety and related areas, as well as other long-unaddressed issues (ex: future funding of Parks and Rec). To get additional information, you can contact Natasha Ramras at 619-1091, or you can go to the City of Vancouver website (www.cityofvancouver.us) and click on “City Government” and then “2009-2010 Budget”.

3. Tree Report – Erika Johnson
Saturday, January 17 will be the 7th Annual neighborhood tree planting. Thirty seven trees will be planted this year, for a total of over 300 since our tree plantings began seven years ago. This will be the final tree planting for the foreseeable future, due to decreased interest.

4. Presentation on Code Compliance (previously Code Enforcement) – Doug Ross
Code Compliance focuses on education and resources. Both civil citations and criminal citations are possible. Over 5,000 complaints were made last year. Code compliance includes a focus on blight, abandoned vehicles, and

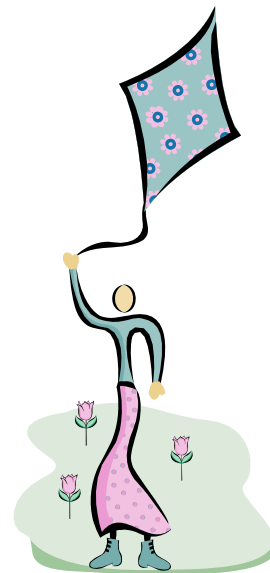
hazardous situations. During June-August, fire hazards become a bigger focus. It was noted that this service could be affected by budget cuts. For more information, you can go to the City of Vancouver website (www.cityofvancouver.us), click on “City Departments”, then “Code Compliance”.

5. Neighborhood Traffic Safety Alliance (NTSA) Report – Dan West. Last year, NTSA gave \$850,000 in grants to neighborhoods. This will be cut to \$125,000 for the current year.

6. Notes. The date for the CHNA garage sale has been set for July 18. The date for the CHNA clean-up has been set for July 25. The CHNA account balance is currently \$980.59

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!