



Cascade Highlands Herald

www.neighborhoodlink.com/vancouver/cascadehighlands

March 2010

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

Coupons, Coupons

Attached to this newsletter is your annual *Yard Debris* and *Tired-Tire* coupons. These are valid between April 1 and June 30. The yard debris coupon is for plant material only - no rocks or concrete please. The tired-tire coupon can be used to dispose of up to 4 tires for free. Thank you City of Vancouver for donating these coupons to us! Come next September, the city will give us another coupon - this one will be for free leaf disposal.

Current CHNA Bank Balance

Current Balance - is \$997.60; \$715.60 + 3 payments (2 @ \$95.00, one @ \$93.00) for the Homestead Acres fence painting project. One additional payment of \$105.00 remains to be paid.

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!*

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, Rosenna and Ken Cheng, Cecil

Davies, Marion Dittman, Son Do, Julie Dunn, Edith Hartley, Jim Hoover and Shareefah Abdullah, Ann Horstman, Brenda Jensen, Erika and Mark Johnson, Jean Kent, Annette Leone, Peggy Liang, Yu-Ying Liu, Sheila McKay, Elise Miller, Doug Mineau, Leanne Olmstead, Holly Orr, Pat Poe, Diane Pudans, Ron and Shirley Royer, Barbara Scherr, Steve Schmidkofer, Marianne Stein, Jim Strouse, Mike Story, Anne Vitort and Bill Wilton for helping with the last newsletter.

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Save the Date for Three Events

Here are three upcoming neighborhood events you'll want to be aware of:

1) Annual Summer-Meeting-in-the Park
Monday, July 19th at 7:00 p.m. we will have our annual summer dessert meeting in Homestead Park, south end.

2) Annual Cleanup
Saturday, July 31st, 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 at Mtn. View H.S. parking lot (1500 SE Blairmont). We'll have the chipper and the dumpster trucks. We'll need volunteers for each shift.

3) 27th Annual National Night Out
The 27th Annual National Night Out will be **Tuesday, August 3rd**. All 2009 registered coordinators should have received official registration information in mid-February 2010. Not registered in 2009? Those not on this year's list can add their address to the NNO 2010 mailing list by calling 1-800-NITE-OUT or by visiting the website at www.nationalnightout.org.

National Night Out is a unique crime/drug prevention event designed to:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness;
- Generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs;
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and
- Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and aware.

Earth Day 2010 is Sprouting

The theme this year's Earth Day activities is *gardening*: plant, tend, harvest and preserve! Next season? Repeat!

Enjoy a free day of family fun with the Vancouver Watersheds Council and friends. Lots of great information and a ton of great door prizes provided by exhibitors.

Event: Earth Day 2010, Saturday, April 17
Time: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Where: Marshall Community Center, 1009 E. McLoughlin.

Non-Working Appliance Disposal

Free curbside pickup of non-working major appliances is available during the month of April. You need to call 619-4120 after March 1st to schedule your appliance to be picked up. If you miss this free pickup, yet still have an appliance to discard, you'll need to call Waste Connections and they'll take the unit for a fee.

Recyclingest Neighborhood Program

CHNA is eligible to participate in the Recyclingest Neighborhood Training and then share in funds provided by Waste Connections. To be eligible for the funds, participants must attend a two-hour training session and then publish a recycling article in our newsletter. Articles are provided at the training.

The trainings will be offered four times this year. Three morning sessions that include a tour of the newly updated processing facility will be offered Wednesday, March 24, Thursday, March 25, and Saturday, March 27, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at West Van Materials Recovery Center. An evening session will be offered Thursday evening, March 25, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Water Center. If you are interested in attending this interesting training, please contact Jean Kent, 896-7291. Thanks!



15th St. Passthrough Light Gone

Sometime around the weekend of February 20th, someone stole the western most light we installed in the passthrough. This is extremely disheartening. Those lights require frequent monitoring and bulb replacement, that is, when they work correctly. Since we installed our first lights, we've replaced individual fixtures a total of 10 times. If someone owns a 12' freestanding ladder and would like to assume the responsibility for maintaining these lights, please contact me, Jean Kent 896-7291. I'm quite ready, anxious even, to turn this ongoing responsibility and effort over to someone else. Everyone who uses the passthrough when it's dark benefits from these lights. You would be helping many people by taking on this task. If you know the whereabouts of the stolen fixture, or have any information about it, please contact Jean Kent at 896-7291. Thank you.



Fire Escape Drills - Do You Have a Plan?

On the average, a home fire in the U.S. breaks out once every 52 seconds.

Unfortunately, many families are not prepared to take calm, appropriate action if a fire does strike in their home. That's why it is necessary for everyone to design and practice a fire escape plan with their family. Making a plan and holding regular fire drills will give each household member the confidence and knowledge to act quickly in an emergency. This month's safety tip will help your family develop your plan.

- Draw a floor plan or a map of your home. Show all doors and windows.
- Mark two ways out of each room.
- Mark all of the smoke alarms. Smoke alarms should be in each sleeping room, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home.
- Pick a family meeting place outside where everyone can meet. Remember, practice your plan at least twice a year!

Survival Tips during an Earthquake

from the Office of Neighborhoods

- If you are inside: Take cover under a sturdy desk, table, or bench or against an inside wall, and hold on. If there isn't a table or desk near you, cover your face and head with your arms and crouch in an inside corner of the building.
- Stay away from glass, windows, outside doors and walls, and anything that could fall, such as lighting fixtures or furniture.
- Stay in bed if you are there when the earthquake strikes. Hold on and protect your head with a pillow, unless you are under a heavy light fixture that could fall. In that case, move to the nearest safe place.
- Use a doorway for shelter only if it is in close proximity to you and if you know it is a strongly supported, load-bearing doorway.
- Stay inside until shaking stops and it is safe to go outside. Most injuries during earthquakes occur when people are hit by falling objects when entering into or exiting from buildings.

- Be aware that the electricity may go out. Sprinkler systems or fire alarms may turn on. DO NOT use the elevators.

- If you are driving during the quake, stop as quickly as possible and stay in your vehicle.

- Do not stop your vehicle near or under buildings, trees, overpasses or utility wires. Proceed cautiously, watching for road damage after the shaking stops.

- If you are outside, STAY THERE and move away from buildings, street lights and utility wires.

- If you are trapped under debris, do NOT light a match or kick up dust. Cover your mouth to minimize inhaled dust. Tap on a pipe or use a whistle to call for help. Shout, only as a last resort, to preserve your energy and to avoid inhaling a dangerous amount of dust.

BEFORE the earthquake, put your hiking boots under your bed. Add a flashlight and a hard hat. These three items is what you need if your windows shatter the area with glass, the electricity goes out and/or things fall from above. Save your feet. Store hiking or other sturdy boots under your bed, not in the closet.



Honorary Tree Planted in Homestead Park

Vancouver Urban Forestry has planted a new tree in Homestead Park through the

city's witness tree program in honor of our CHNA neighbor Gordon MacWilliams. Gordon MacWilliams was a long-time Urban Forestry Commissioner and fervent supporter of trees throughout the city.

A memorial fund was created to honor Gordon, and the Commission chose a *Witness Tree* as an appropriate tribute; funds are still being raised to have a bench placed in his honor as well. Gordon and his wife Sylvia lived near Homestead Park and they would often walk through the park. The planting location has been determined by Urban Forestry staff, and the species is White Oak.

CHNA Newsletters Online

Our newsletters can be viewed online if you prefer that method. Go to the link:

www.neighborhoodlink.com/vancouver/cascadehighlands.



A Message from Police Chief Cook

As you probably have heard, the City's budget situation for 2009/2010 is at a critical stage. One of the hardest things to do as a manager is to let staff go and it is with sadness that I inform you that as part of the City's efforts to address the \$6 million budget deficit 2010 steps, a total of 66 (22 vacant) positions have been eliminated citywide. Of these 66, 14 positions have been eliminated from the Vancouver Police Department.

What these reductions mean to the public is that, for the time being, the Vancouver Police Department East Precinct will lack civilian staffing. Temporary transfers of civilian staff and the use of light-duty sworn staff at the East Precinct will occur as a temporary measure. However, limited civilian staffing department-wide and the eventual return of light-duty sworn personnel to field duties will result in the elimination of walk-in services at the East Precinct.

Citizens who need to complete an in-person or phone-generated low-level crime report (crimes such as theft or malicious mischief involving a loss or damage of \$1,500 or less, vehicle prowls, and lost property) or have general questions, will need to contact the Vancouver Police Department West Precinct for all in-person service or phone-generated services. The VPD West Precinct is located at 2800 N.E. Stapleton Road and services can be reached by calling (360) 487-7355.

The Vancouver Police Department has an online reporting system which allows citizens to report low-level crimes 24/7 at www.vanpolice.org. Using this option may expedite your information being reported.

As always, for crimes in progress or those with suspect information, citizens should call 911.

Citizens who plan to conduct in-person business are encouraged to call West Precinct in advance to ensure that the precinct is open for service, as our hours of operation may be reduced in the coming weeks and months as we realign our work force.

These staffing reductions also mean remaining workloads for Police Service Technicians stationed at the West Precinct will increase. Consequently, waiting periods for in-coming

phone calls and follow-up contacts also will increase.

With the elimination of the department's two precinct Community Policing Specialists, programs related to multi-family housing crime prevention efforts, CPTED, Neighborhood Watch, and public and personal safety presentations have been eliminated. Child safety programs, such as the bike helmet and child car seat programs will either be eliminated or outsourced to non-profit organizations.

Neighborhoods groups or other individuals that have meetings scheduled with the department's Community Policing Specialists will need to call their district Neighborhood Police Officer (NPO) to reschedule a VPD staff member if possible.

- West NPO (360) 487-7359
- East NPO (360) 487-7540

Traffic Hotline Info

by Sgt. Patrick Johns

The city has modified the traffic hotline number to include options for citizens to have their complaints handled.

Now a person can call the hotline (487-7402) and press 1 for parking issues, 2 for code enforcement, 3 for Citizens complaints/suggestions for the city in general, 4 for road repair or signal repair issues, and 0 to leave a message as you could before.

The number 487-7402 will no longer hold messages so please do not transfer messages to that number. The new voice mail box for messages (when you dial 0) is ext. 3330. If you receive a call that needs to leave a message for traffic complaints please use the 3330 voice mail number.

As always, any traffic issues occurring right NOW or issues involving reckless driving, should be sent to 9-1-1, not to the traffic complaint line.

Sergeant Patrick Johns
Vancouver Police Department,
Traffic Motorcycle Unit. 487-7477

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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